

Annual Report 2025-26



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Nourishing a Field for Youth Leadership

Some of the most important changes that youth leadership creates are also the hardest to see.

A young person begins making choices with greater agency, learns to build relationships across differences, takes responsibility for something beyond themselves, and begins to see their own wellbeing as connected to that of their community, society and the planet.

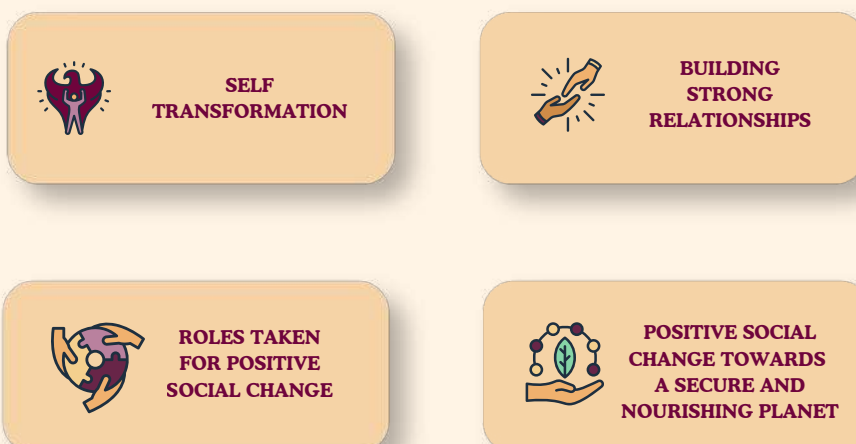
These shifts can change the course of a young person's life. But they rarely unfold neatly within a programme cycle. Youth leadership develops over time, through relationships, experiences, opportunities and the realities surrounding a young person. Much of this work involves deep psycho-social and cultural change that conventional project timelines struggle to capture.

At the same time, organisations working with young people continue to navigate persistent challenges: limited spaces for young people to exercise leadership, economic pressures that compete with aspirations for social change, hierarchical structures that resist young people's agency, identity-based exclusions, and scarce resources for youth-led action. Running through these challenges is another persistent question: **how do we recognise and make visible what youth leadership actually changes?**

For ComMutiny - The Youth Collective, **this is a field-building challenge.**

Across India, organisations are creating powerful experiences with young people. Each carries knowledge about how young people grow, what holds them back and what helps their leadership flourish. But when these changes are understood and described in very different ways, much of that learning remains within individual programmes and organisations.

Before a field can learn together, it needs some shared ways of seeing what it is learning about. That became an important focus for us this year. Drawing from our inquiry with the vartaLeap coalition and our experience of youth leadership practice, we articulated four interconnected outcomes:



These outcomes invite us to look beyond participation in a programme or completion of an activity, towards the deeper journey of leadership.

Is a young person becoming more able to make independent, values-based choices? Are they learning to build relationships and collaborate across differences? Are they taking meaningful roles in creating positive social change? Are they developing a deeper sense of responsibility towards people and the planet?

The value of these outcomes is not in creating another reporting format. **It is in giving us a shared way of seeing.** An organisation working on climate may create very different experiences from one working on gender, active citizenship, wellbeing, education or livelihoods. Yet the leadership journeys emerging through them may have important things in common. A shared outcomes lens can help us recognise those connections without asking every organisation to work in the same way.

Because **a field becomes stronger when experience can travel.**

When what one organisation is learning can provoke a question in another. When experiences across contexts can begin to reveal common patterns. When knowledge does not remain confined to individual projects, but contributes to a deeper understanding of youth leadership. Articulating and sharing the outcomes is an important first step. It is not the finished work. We are now working to translate them into a framework with indicators that can help us recognise change more consistently, bringing together what can be observed and measured with what young people themselves tell us is changing in their lives.

The framework is still being developed. Over the coming year, we will continue to question, test and refine it, share it more widely across the vartaLeap coalition, and invite the wider youth leadership sector to engage with and strengthen it. Our aspiration is not that every organisation should measure youth leadership in exactly the same way. It is that, across our diversity, we become better able to recognise what matters together.

This is also where our three roles as a field builder meet: **Accelerating** stronger youth leadership practice, **Aggregating** learning across organisations, and **Amplifying** what the field is learning so that more people and institutions can recognise the value of investing in young people.

But the larger possibility goes beyond any framework. The question we are ultimately asking is: **How can the experience of many become the learning of a field?**

A field that asks better questions of its own practice. That understands more deeply what helps young people thrive and lead, and how this differs across identities, geographies and realities. That listens to what young people are telling us, including what our programmes and institutions need to do differently. And that can, over time, build a stronger body of knowledge to shape how funders, institutions and society understand and invest in youth leadership.

This is what **nourishing the sector** means to us. Not creating one answer for everyone to follow, but strengthening the conditions in which organisations can learn from one another, different forms of knowledge can come together, and many more young people can experience the spaces, relationships and opportunities that allow their leadership to flourish.

That is the field we are working to nourish.

About Us

ComMutiny stands for the **first 'mutiny'** within a young person, symbolic of the fact that social and systemic transformation cannot happen without personal transformation. Founded in 2008, ComMutiny - The Youth Collective is a community of practice of youth work organisations across the country, engaging in **Aggregating, Accelerating and Amplifying empowering youth spaces, co-led with self awakened, proactive citizens, i.e. Jagriks.**

In 2019, recognizing the need to mainstream youth-centric development across all sectors, we incubated The vartaLeap Coalition. It is a cross-sectoral grouping of youth engaging organizations, working towards the vision **'Every Youth a Jagrik, Every Space Nurturing Jagriks'.**

Together, we are co-creating vibrant ecosystems that enable responsible youth leadership, shifting inequitable social norms, which is at the heart of nation building.



JAGRIK PIPELINE

THEMES WE WORK ON



Constitutional Literacy



Wellbeing



Climate Action



Gender

JAGRIK JAHAN

Collectives,
national and
state, vartaLeap
Coalition,

**Collective of Jagrik
Entrepreneurs ++ - Jagrik
Jahan**

**Lifelong Youth
Leaders - Jeevan Jagriks**

**Early Stage Youth
Leaders Jabardast Jagrik**

**Potential Youth and
adolescent Leaders
in & out of education
Just Jagriks**

Become Schools of Active Citizenship

Jeevan Jagrik (Youth led and Youth Designed social enterprises)

- Youth Development | Constitution Values, Fundamental Rights and Duties | Design and Facilitation Skills for active Citizenship Journeys| Systems Thinking | Conflict Transformation |Self, Relationships, Community, Organisation
- Capacity Building -> facilitation of active citizenship journeys -> mentoring -> monthly peer learning

Believe & Own

Samvidhan LIVE! Be a Jagrik (Adult curated and youth led social action) & Active citizenship curriculum for schools (100 hr modular curriculum for class 6-9)

- Constitution Values | Rights and Duties | Self to Society| 21st Century Skills
- Orientation on Constitution -> Weekly Peer Learning -> Self and Social Action Tasks (based on fundamental rights and duties) ->Public engagement initiatives

Act & Learn

Jabardast Jagrik (Social Action Projects Co-designed and Co-led by young leaders)

- Self, Relationships, Society | Themes - Gender Equality, Wellbeing, Climate Change, Constitutional Literacy | Intergenerational solidarities | Story-telling capacities
- Capacity Building workshops -> Envisioning Social Change ideas -> duty bearer engagement -> community wide dialogue circles and mohalla sabhas -> hyper local narrative shifts



Building a collective ecosystem of youth-engaging organisations and practitioners to strengthen youth leadership and Youth-Centric Development.

vartaLeap and its extended network form a **260+ member** ecosystem (active vartaLeap members, State Collective members, friends of vartaLeap) of youth-engaging organisations, practitioners and allies who believe in the potential of young people to lead social change. The coalition brings together diverse experiences, practices and perspectives to strengthen Youth-Centric Development (YCD) and build a larger ecosystem that enables youth leadership.

Three new State Collectives in Odisha, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh created spaces for members to come together around shared realities, build stronger relationships and shape collective action rooted in their own contexts. 30+ organisations also participated in collective programming across active citizenship, climate action, wellbeing and gender.

vartaLeap creates opportunities for members to learn from one another, build relationships, collaborate and contribute their knowledge and practice towards mainstreaming youth leadership. Members engage through Working Groups, vartaLabs, State Collectives, collective programming, mentoring, field visits and convenings - creating different pathways to learn, contribute, co-create and take ownership of the collective.

Working Groups and vartaLabs: Spaces for Member Engagement

Bonding group and Learning group

Across **6 Burst Events**, coalition-wide spaces open to all members, members came together through learning sessions and masterclasses where organisations shared their best practices, resources and expertise with the coalition. Learning panels, bonding spaces and the YCD Mela also created opportunities to explore Youth-Centric Development across education, gender, climate action, wellbeing, livelihoods and active citizenship

Through **4 vartaLeap Yatras**, members visited one another's organisations, understood their contexts first-hand and exchanged practices beyond formal convenings.





Three regional events in Lucknow, Indore and Delhi created space for people connected to the coalition in different ways to come together, build relationships and reflect on their shared work and connection to vartaLeap.

vartaKarta (vartaLeap Board) met three times during the year, bringing member suggestions and priorities into coalition-level decision-making and action.

The **vartaLeap Studio** explored youth-centric arts practices and co-created resources including Forum Theatre on the 5th Space and an SOP for youth-centric arts-based festivals.

The **Narrative vartaLab** brought 60+ members together to shape a shared narrative around youth leadership and Youth-Centric Development. Members worked in groups focused on stakeholders including educators, parents and donors, identifying how collective stories, evidence and practice could influence the way youth leadership is understood and supported.

During the year, **9 editions of VartaVaani**, vartaLeap's newsletter, were published to keep the coalition connected and informed. Each edition brought together updates, opportunities and stories from across the ecosystem, while making different pathways for participation and contribution more visible to members.

Co-ownership

Members contributed **more than 3,500 voluntary engagement hours** through these Working Groups, vartaLabs and other coalition spaces through co-curation and facilitation, one-on-one conversations and strategy spaces. In addition, members took on roles as mentors to youth leaders across various programmes, participated in programme engagement and field visits, and offered learning opportunities, resources and expertise to other members across the coalition.

More than 30 members took on key roles as co-anchors, facilitators, mentors and co-curators across coalition spaces and programmes.

Aggregate in Data -

as per April 2026



260+ ecosystem members



121- vartaLeap members



100- Member organisations



19- States represented



21- New members inducted



6- Burst events



3500+- Voluntary engagement hours



4- vartaLeap Yatras organised



30+ organisations in collective programming

Moving forward

As vartaLeap grows, one form of participation cannot work for every member. Members bring different interests, capacities and aspirations, and therefore need different ways to find value in and contribute to the collective.

This year, one-on-one and small-group conversations with members helped identify different value propositions, which began informing the strategies of Working Groups and vartaLabs. Going forward, the focus will be on making these pathways more visible and tangible, enabling members to move more easily from learning and connecting to contributing, co-anchoring and leading



Global recognition: vartaLeap was featured as one of 10 global case studies of Collective Social Innovation in the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and World Economic Forum's The Future is Collective. The case study recognised vartaLeap's approach to nurturing inside-out youth leadership in India through collective action and Youth-Centric Development.

The Future is Collective: How Collective Social Innovation Can Transform the World, Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship & World Economic Forum, 2025.



Visiting Jatan Sansthan during the vartaLeap Yatra was a truly moving experience. It showed us that real change begins with small steps in the community. Meeting inspiring people and hearing their stories gave us hope and motivation for our own journey.

Being part of this yatra also helped us enhance our learning and understand how organizations create impact. These insights will guide our organization in moving forward and growing. Overall, the visit was not just an event, but a lesson in love, courage, and commitment, leaving us with stories, learnings, and the feeling of being part of one big family.



Swati and Suraj, IYRC
vartaLeap Yatra, Sep 2025
Host: Jatan Sansthan





Accelerate:

Designing, piloting and scaling youth-centric experiences to address current 'psycho-social-cultural-economic-ecological' needs of young people.



Just Jagrik- 10k+



Jabardast Jagrik-4180



Jeevan Jagrik- 95



Partner orgs- 64



Hubs- 5



JABARDAST JAGRIK

Peer leaders' Initiative

Peer Leaders' Initiative is a learning and leadership journey for young changemakers who in turn co-design and facilitate nurturing spaces for adolescents for self and social change.

The journey equips young changemakers with right capacities, competencies and perspectives to facilitate Samvidhan LIVE! Be a Jagrik journey with cohorts of adolescents followed by executing collectively designed social action projects on themes such as Constitutional literacy, Gender, Wellbeing, and Climate. Three interconnected masteries form the bedrock of the journey design:

- Self Mastery– Sense of Purpose, Value Prioritisation, Well-being and Learnability.
- Relationship Mastery– Conflict Positive, Inclusion and Diversity.
- Social Mastery– Collaborative action based on the Constitutional framework, story interpreting and storytelling Mastery and Systems thinking

2025–26 at a glance

180

Peer Leaders

414

**community level buzz
building activities**

6,647

**community
members engaged**

90

Social Action Projects

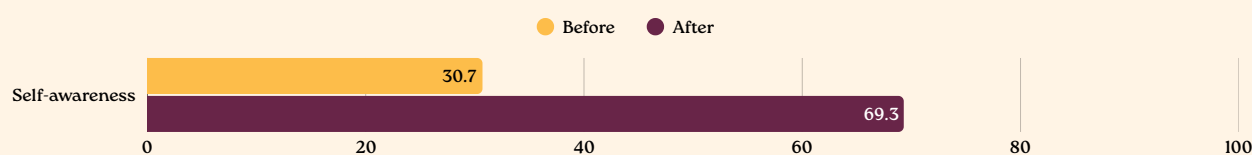
identified themes: gender equality
climate action, wellbeing, civic action,
child marriage, discrimination and
exclusion, livelihoods

Noticeable shifts in peer leaders post the retrospective assessment:

Self-awareness

30.7% → 69.3%

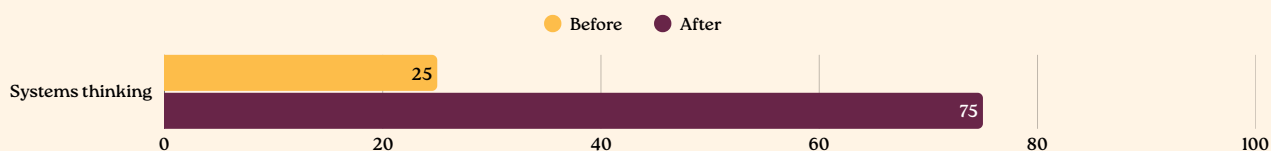
Young changemakers demonstrated enhanced ability to identify their emotions, values, identities, strengths and areas of growth.



Systems thinking

25% → 75%

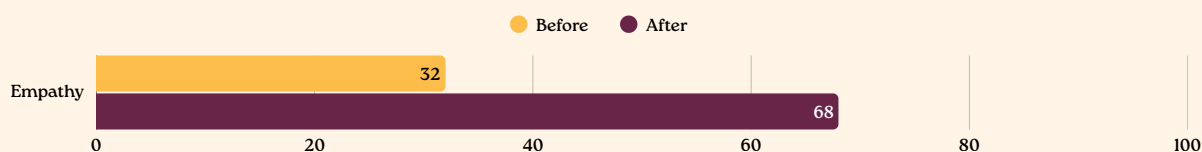
Peer leaders increasingly moved beyond seeing social problems as isolated incidents and began identifying inter-connections that exist between individuals, families, institutions, norms and wider systems.



Empathy

32% → 68%

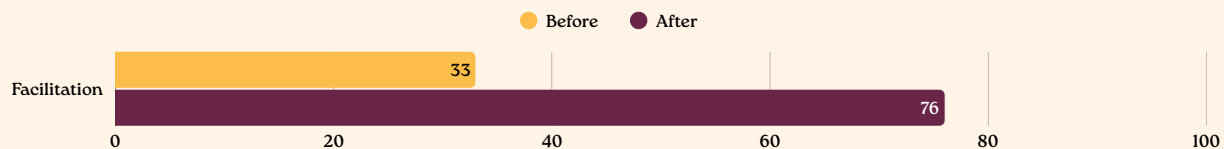
Young people demonstrated enhanced willingness to listen to others and consider how identity, power and circumstances shape people's choices.



Facilitation

33% → 76%

Peer leaders demonstrated increased confidence in creating participatory spaces, encouraging different voices, managing group dynamics, and adapting activities according to the needs of the group.

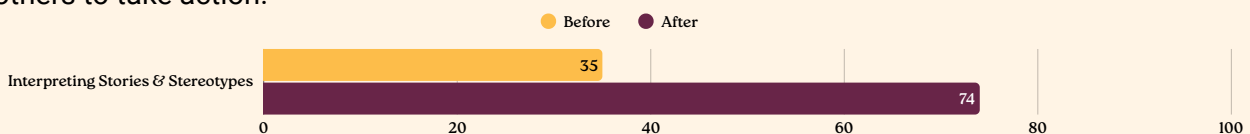


Interpreting Stories and Stereotypes

35% → 74%

Peer leaders demonstrated enhanced ability to question assumptions, labels, and dominant narratives about themselves and others. They showed greater ability to recognise how stereotypes influence perceptions and to engage with different stories and perspectives more critically.

These capacities are developed through the Peer Leader initiative, where young changemakers further mobilised young people and adolescents from hard-to-reach communities and facilitated the Samvidhan Live! Be a Jagrik journey—an experiential, gamified process in applying constitutional values in real-life contexts. The journey placed a strong emphasis on peer learning through a pair of Jagriks performing gamified constitutional tasks, reflection circles, and peer-based assessment. Duties were intentionally weighted higher than rights, reinforcing the importance of civic responsibility and contribution. A pre- and post-survey reflected improvements in participants' knowledge of constitutional rights and duties and child rights under UNCRC, as well as the actions undertaken by Jagriks and their ability to inspire others to take action.



Samvidhan - Be a Jagrik LIVE! - Pre-Post Survey Outcome

On 3 key areas:



Knowledge on fundamental rights/duties and child-rights under UNCRC

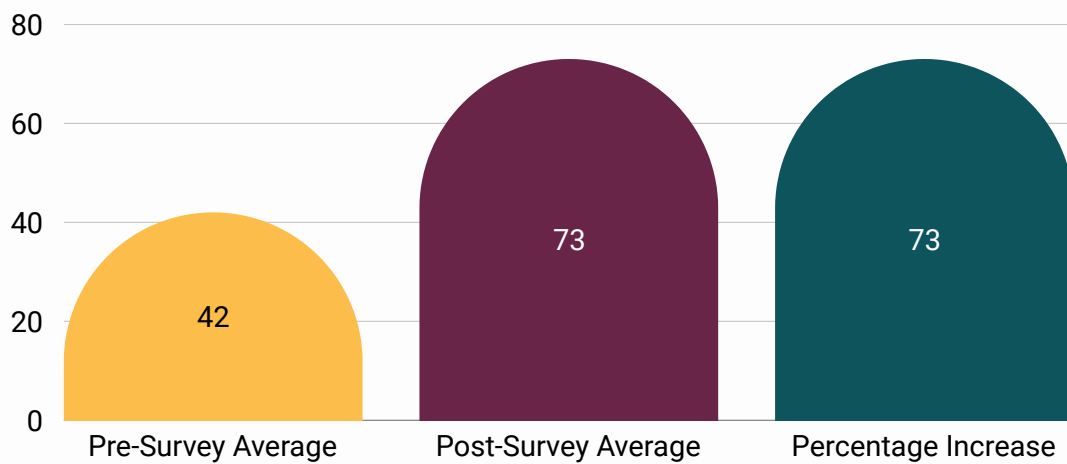


Action taken by the Jagrik



Inspiring others to take action

Survey Results:



The journey also brought together 18 youth development practitioners as mentors to accompany the journeys of the changemakers. During the year-long engagement, the mentors were offered youth-centred perspectives and opportunities to strengthen their coaching skills, along with the design and facilitation of youth journeys.

Change Story

Sunita, a young woman from the small village of Banania, once lived a life overshadowed by struggle, deprivation, and financial hardship. Dreaming about education or even speaking about her aspirations felt almost impossible something she could hardly dare to imagine. Bound by social restrictions and deep-rooted family pressures, her wings slowly began to shrink. The more the challenges grew, the more distant her dreams seemed.



But a spark of change entered her life in the form of the “Jabardast Jagrik Project.” When Sunita first joined the program, she was filled with hesitation and self-doubt. “Will I ever be able to do something meaningful?” this question echoed constantly in her mind. Yet, she refused to give up. She chose courage over fear and continued to walk forward with determination.

Through the Jabardast Jagrik journey, Sunita began to understand the values of the Constitution, the meaning of citizenship, and the power of rights and duties. She realized that there were many young people like her who were left behind because of social pressures and family limitations. It was then that Sunita made a decision no matter how difficult the circumstances, she would ensure that her two younger brothers received an education and that she, too, would build a better future for herself.

Her father was against the idea of educating the children, but Sunita was no longer afraid. With her newfound confidence, she took a bold step and re-enrolled her 13-year-old brother, who had dropped out due to hardships, into a residential school so that he could continue his studies with dignity.

Sunita proudly shares:

“Since I joined the Jabardast Jagrik Project, a new awareness has awakened within me. I understand my rights, my duties, and the values that shape our lives. Today I want to work not only for myself but also for my brothers and my community.”

Today, Sunita has not only changed the direction of her family but has also become a guiding light in her village. She founded a youth group called “Samvidhan Manch” with around 25 adolescents actively participating. Through street plays based on constitutional values, her team is spreading messages of equality, justice, and positive social change.

Sunita is no longer just a name she is a youth leader born from struggle and resilience. She has proved that when a girl discovers her own strength, she can not only rebuild her own life but also inspire an entire community towards transformation. Sunita’s journey is a testament to the power of awareness, courage, and collective change.



SAMJHO TOH

The Samvidhan LIVE! Dialogues & Fraternity Labs

Enabling 75 youth development practitioners, representing 25 organisations to nurture and inspire 4,000 young people to become changemakers in their communities.

The Samjho Toh journey was designed to enable a large cohort of young people to become changemakers in their communities to tackle and bridge identity based fault lines such as gender, caste, region, language, ethnicity, religion etc. by relying on and applying the Constitutional framework. At the same time, the programme was designed to enable 75 youth development practitioners from Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan; to enhance their perspectives, capacities and competencies to work with young people from their contexts.

This year, a 5 day residential Refresher was designed for 75 youth development practitioners to immerse themselves in the world of youth development followed by a setting up a series of online learning spaces to deepen their learning.

A few major focus areas:

- Perspectives on youth development and Constitutional frame:**
 Moving from viewing young people as beneficiaries or instruments of change to treating them as individuals having the agency to choose and shape their own selves along with bringing about change in their communities. Having Constitutional rights, duties and values framework to anchor the leadership journey of the young people.



- **Design and facilitation:** Ability to design and facilitate experiences that stick and enable change amongst young people.
- **Mentoring:** Ability to mentor young people in ways that ensure their agency building across a sustained nine-month journey, supporting cohorts through addas and weekly Constitutional tasks, and preparing them for Mohalla Sabhas and national Championship.

At the level of young people, Samjho Toh journey begins with a deliberate act of courage, choosing a cohort as divided in its idea of India, its worldview, and its politics as the country itself, because dialogue only means something when it crosses real difference.



कोटड़ा में युवा क्षमतावर्धन, विकास और नेतृत्व कार्यक्रम 'समझो तों' की शुरुआत

कोटड़ा। किशोरों व युवकों के क्षमतावर्धन, विकास और नेतृत्व के लिए कोटड़ा के 4 गांवों में 'समझो तों' कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत हुई। कार्यक्रम में 15 से 18 वर्ष आयु वर्ग के सरकारी विद्यालयों में पढ़ने वाले किशोर-किशोरियों के साथ अलग-अलग व्यक्तिगत व सामाजिक मुद्दों पर समझ, चर्चा तथा संभावित समाधान पर बातचीत की जा रही है। सोशल एंगेजमेंट प्रोजेक्ट्स के माध्यम से संभावित कार्य किए जाएंगे। साथ ही उनके सॉफ्ट स्किल्स तथा हार्ड स्किल्स पर भी काम किया जाएगा। इसी को ध्यान में रखते हुए उनके साथ विद्युत वाणी पर एक सत्र आयोजित किया गया, जो भिकरती निवासी ललित ने दिया। सुलख निवासी नाना लाल ने चेतन और अवचेतन दिमाग के बारे में जानकारी दी।



Over the following nine months, 12 Addas handed young people the vocabulary and tools of the Constitution itself- the ability to express, to ask incisive questions, to dialogue, to collaborate and co-create, and to read past stereotypes to stories. Through the weekly Constitutional tasks and Mohalla sabhas, young people carried these values into the streets and homes of their own neighbourhoods: 9,000+ tasks completed in the first cycle, 8,000+ more already this cycle, and 300 Mohalla Sabhas held on the very issues that most divide. The Samjho Toh National Championship 2025 brought all the cohorts together on an online national platform attended by close to 400 people, to present their shared ideas of India and the impact they have had on themselves and the communities they are a part of.

What Samjho Toh builds, in the end, is not a project but a practice: a growing community of young changemakers and the organisations behind them, learning to disagree without breaking, and to build a shared idea of India, together.

Scale of Engagement



25 organisations across Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Rajasthan



4000+ Jabardast Jagriks engaged across two cycles



49 youth facilitators leading Cycle 2 implementation



A total of 100 batches across 2 cycles



250,000+ community members reached through outreach and public engagement

Depth of Practice



9000+ constitutional tasks performed, translating values into lived action across cycle 1



1200 addas conducted, enabling sustained dialogue, collaboration and co-creation



8000+ constitutional tasks completed within the current cycle 2 timeline



300 Mohalla Sabhas across various contemporary polarised issues



56 online matches



CHANGELOOMS:

Youth Leaders Shifting Gender Norms

From Individual Reflection to Public Action: Changelooms 2025–26

Gender norms shape who leads, who cares, who speaks, and who stays silent, reinforced daily through family, school and community. Changelooms: Youth Leaders Shifting Gender Norms engages young men to move from awareness to leadership and social action.

How change travels

Dialogue → Reflection → Practice → Social Action → Community Influence.

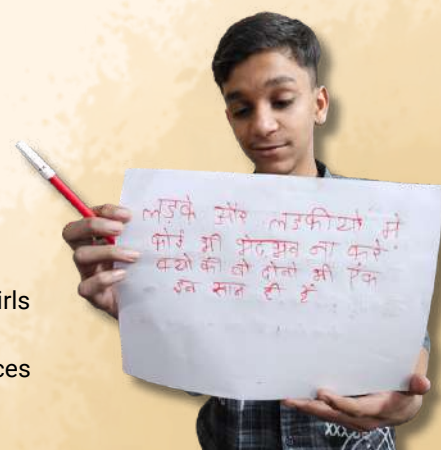
Each cohort held 11+ dialogue circles exploring masculinity, violence, power, and popular culture, often the first safe space for these conversations. These spaces enabled young men to recognise and question deeply held beliefs around gender, privilege and power, laying the foundation for more equitable behaviours and community action.

From dialogue circles to social action projects

Learning moved beyond the dialogue circle through 250 Social Action Projects implemented by young people across their communities reaching more than 20,000 members of the community.

Participants identified gender-related concerns within their own contexts and designed initiatives addressing issues such as:

- Menstrual health and stigma
- Girls' education
- Domestic violence awareness
- Gender roles and stereotypes
- Unequal expectations placed on girls and boys
- Safety and inclusion in public spaces



Young people used street theatre, songs, mohalla sabhas, group discussions and community dialogues to engage peers, families and community members.



What began to change

Baseline-to-midline data show real shifts: gender-norm identification rose from a quarter of participants to nearly all; empathy toward survivors of violence grew sharply, with most now centring women's choice and autonomy. Changeloomers also report stronger leadership identity and improved ability to engage local stakeholders.

Building sustained support throughout the journey

Sustained impact required infrastructure beyond individual motivation: two residential Development Centre workshops, nine Changelooms Chaupals, city mentoring, inter-city exchange and field accompaniment across all five cities.



**MUST
बील**

FOR GENDER ♀ EQUITY

As the Gender Jagrik journey went on, Must बील was designed as a public initiative and a platform for gender jagriks to translate their evolving understanding of gender equality into collective public action. Through social action projects, digital action and public engagement across five cities

Looking Ahead

In 2026–27, the journey will deepen across all five cities as Changeloomers continue strengthening their facilitation and community leadership, while Gender Jagriks extend their learning into sustained public action. Together, this next phase aims to deepen local leadership, strengthen community engagement, and directly reach over 1 lakh people. Some Changeloomers and gender jagriks who have shone bright in their leadership journey will continue nurturing old and new gender labs. These labs will continue to increase their perspectives and knowledge and take on social action in their communities.



Programme Reach & Impact (2025–26)

Scale of Engagement



43 Changeloomers



1,242 Gender Jagriks engaged across cohorts



250+ Social Action Projects, reaching 20,000+ community members



78 active cohorts led by changeloomers across Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Indore and Kolkata

Accelerate: Jeevan Jagrik

Human Impact Story: Finding His Voice, Redefining Gender

At 18, Prins Patni from Ahmedabad was quiet, reserved, and often isolated. His gentle nature and habit of helping his mother with household chores made him the target of ridicule at school, where classmates mocked him for "being like a girl."

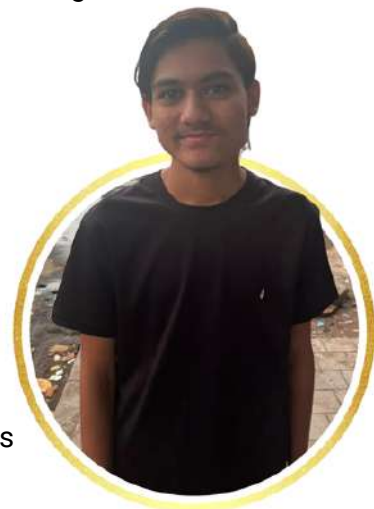
Joining Neev Lab's Gender Jagrik programme marked a turning point. Through Dialogue Circles, Prins began questioning rigid gender norms and found the confidence to speak up. He openly shared his passion for applying mehendi, a skill through which he now earns an income. By embracing work often labelled as "women's work," he challenged stereotypes and inspired other young people to rethink gendered expectations.

His transformation extended beyond personal confidence. Prins actively participated in community initiatives and led a project in his school on gender roles and equal rights, encouraging his peers to reflect on discrimination.

Today, the once-withdrawn teenager is a confident college student who builds friendships, speaks openly, and continues to grow as a socially conscious young leader. His journey reflects how acceptance and dialogue can help young people reclaim their voice and redefine what courage looks like.

Prince Patni, 18, Ahmedabad - gender jagrik

(Sunny, a changeloomer from Ahmedabad runs Neev Lab)





Youth Leaders in Climate Action

2025–26 at a glance



Changelooms: 52 young social entrepreneurs representing 26 initiatives, bringing the total to 108 young social entrepreneurs representing 65 Initiatives from 19 states



Initiatives on the ground include community-led restoration work, transitioning to organic farming, managing human - wildlife conflict, community-driven kitchens, homestead gardens, and many more,



1100 young people and community members engaged directly

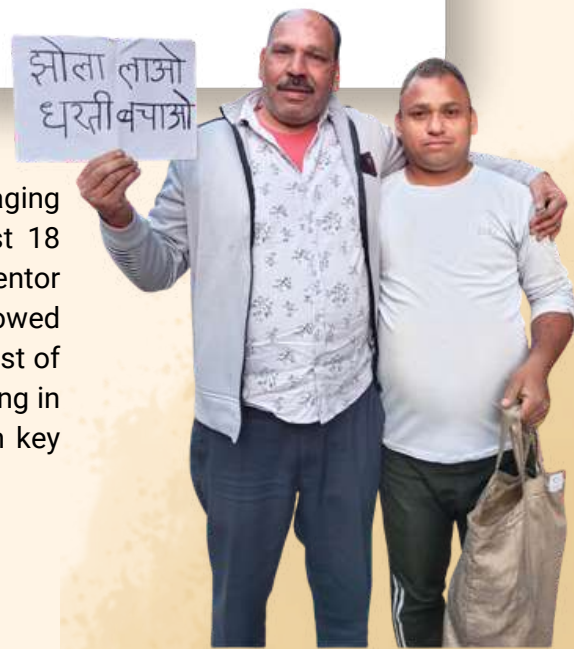


ChakraView and Intrapreneur Initiative: 35 youth-engaging organizations initiated the journey to prioritise Climate as a strategic focus area



Initiation of the Climate ChakraView festival

Changelooms: Youth Leaders in Climate Action is a three-year long learning journey enabling youth-led and youth-engaging organisations to build climate-positive communities. The first 18 months focus on a series of in-person input spaces, mentor engagement, onground piloting of new climate initiatives followed by inspiring the communities to take ownership of the work. Rest of the 18 months focus on sustaining the climate work and plugging in systemic elements to deepen and spread the work along with key allies from the community.



Changelooms brings together diverse and key contributors to support the journey of the Changeloomers across their stages of development. Some key thematic partners include: Wild Tales Foundation, Bindi International, Jhini Learning and Ecological Restoration Alliance.

As changeloomers map, analyze and diagnose psychological, socio-cultural, economic and ecological needs of their respective communities, they respond with imaginative 'Nourishing Now' pilots/ initiatives. Some examples of 'Nourishing Now' initiatives are:

- Ujhala Foundation, Udaipur, Rajasthan: Led by Ravi and Nanalal - Community-led restoration of common land plagued with invasive species like lantana through a co-owned nursery and setting up a women's cooperative to sell lantana products, resulting in a revenue of up to INR 35,000
- Barasat Initiative, Sunderbans, West Bengal: Led by Biplab and Nibedita - Set up of 30 homestead gardens by women in the community at their respective homes to enable economic benefit to individual households and strengthen the social fabric of the community
- Himalayan Pastoral Foundation, Jammu & Kashmir: Led by Shahid and Yameen - Working within migrating corridors and village commons, organizing herder youth to lead water security projects, restore rangelands, and steward fragile Himalayan habitats.

In addition to the community led youth centric climate work, capacity building and mentoring is done with all early stage organizations in the areas of individual leadership development and organizational development. This has resulted in nurturing young social entrepreneurs who display inside out, adaptive, empathetic, system, principle-centred and entrepreneurial leadership based on constitutional values and setting up of foundationally strong and sustainable organizations.



EKTA GRAMINJAN SAHAYOG SANSTHA (MADHYA PRADESH):

Changeloomers: Shyam Belwanshi & Vaibhav Singh | Betul, Madhya Pradesh

For the past 18 months, Ekta Graminjan Sahayog Sanstha has been working with farmers and youth in Khadara village, Betul, to promote natural and organic farming, showing how community-led climate resilience is built through soil, seeds, and shared effort.



The organisation first found that farmers' input costs were rising, yields were declining, and the soil was growing harder, pushing farmers toward even greater use of chemical inputs. To address this, the organisation arranged soil testing, then guided farmers on the nutrients their fields needed and how to gradually replace chemical inputs with organic ones prepared at home.

At the demonstration unit, organic inputs including jeevamrit, waste decomposer, neemastra, ghanjeevamrit, brahmastra, and vermicompost were prepared and shared free of cost, with farmers trained in their use. These alternatives are restoring soil fertility and cutting costs, with farmers reporting rising yields and stronger finances, and youth increasingly choosing natural farming over inherited chemical-intensive practices.

Of the 50 farmers connected to the initiative, 21 have adopted climate-resilient natural farming. Farmers are conserving indigenous seeds, supported by the organisation's nursery of 200 native plants, and 105 farmers have been linked to the MP Kisan Portal, securing land documentation and government entitlements.

Farming costs have fallen, indigenous seed and biodiversity conservation has grown, and dependence on external chemical inputs is steadily declining. Khadara is emerging as a replicable model, where biodiversity, food security, and farmer empowerment reinforce each other.

b) Influencing youth engaging organisations through Climate Initiatives with Intrapreneurs

After a strategic mapping of the youth centric organizations in vartaLeap, we learnt that only 20% of organizations have some experience of working in the climate action space.

We are working on the following strategies to inspire 50 member organizations to see the intersection between youth centric work and climate action.

- Strategy 1- ChakraView Journey - Inspiring and enabling founders, co-founders, CEOs and senior leadership to create a 'Nourishing Now' nudge to prioritise climate action in their own lives and in their respective organizations
- Strategy 2- Beyond Right and Wrong: Climate Action Initiatives - Inspiring and enabling young leaders (Intrapreneurs) within member organizations to re-imagine their existing community-led work with the intersection of climate action.

Strategy 1 - ChakraView Journey

ChakraView journey brought together leaders and their second-line leaders from 21 organisations and invited them to look at climate through three interconnected lenses - Self, Organisation, and Economics -recognising that organisational change requires shifts in leadership, organisational practices, as well as the way organisations understand sustainability.

The journey began with a six-day immersion in Pench, creating space for leaders to pause, reflect on their relationship with climate, examine organisational defaults, and engage with climate through nature and real-world experiences. Following the immersion, the participants were invited into the 'Nourishing Naav - a cluster coaching' process to help them learn from each other and explore integration of climate in their organisational priorities. Through cluster conversations, mentoring, and structured reflection, the process moved the organisations from reflection towards identifying small, testable Climate Action prototypes.

ChakraView climate action prototype

1. Organisation name, team members involved; Location of implementation

A. Organisation: TYCIA Foundation
Team Members: Karan, Saanchi
Location of implementation: Nuh District Jail, Haryana

2. What specific climate-related issue are you addressing? Why is this important for your organisation/community right now?

A. Prisons are among the most climate-vulnerable institutional spaces, yet they are often excluded from climate adaptation efforts. In Nuh District Jail, rising temperatures, heat stress, limited green cover, water management challenges, and waste generation directly affect the health and well-being of incarcerated individuals and prison staff.
As an organisation working closely with prison communities, TYCIA Foundation has witnessed how climate-related challenges disproportionately impact people living in closed custodial settings. Addressing climate resilience in prisons is therefore both an environmental and social justice priority.

3. What is the 18-month climate goal your organisation wants to work towards?

A. To develop and validate a Climate Resilient Prison Model in Nuh District Jail that integrates heat adaptation, water conservation, waste management, composting, and prison-based kitchen gardening, creating a replicable framework for correctional institutions across India.

4. What is the prototype you want to do for next 2-3 months to validate 18 month climate goal? (is it a practice, creation of video, fellowship, etc)

A pilot initiative called "Green and Climate Resilient Prison Prototype" that will:

- Conduct a climate vulnerability assessment within the jail.
- Develop heat-awareness and climate education materials.
- Establish a demonstration kitchen garden.
- Introduce composting using biodegradable waste.
- Document lessons and outcomes through case studies and visual storytelling.

5. What are 2-3 specific outcomes you want to test? (awareness, behavior shift, adoption, participation)

- Increased awareness and understanding of climate risks among inmates and prison staff.
- Active participation of inmates in climate-positive practices such as gardening and composting.
- Feasibility and institutional acceptance of low-cost climate adaptation measures within prison settings.

6. Who exactly is this for and how many people will you engage? How does this prototype act as a first step toward that 18-month vision?

A. The prototype will directly engage approximately 75-100 incarcerated individuals and selected prison staff members in Nuh District Jail. This pilot will generate evidence, build stakeholder buy-in, and test practical interventions that can eventually form the foundation of a scalable Climate Resilient Prison Model.

7. What in your own or your organisation's default ways of working might get in the way? (What patterns, mindsets, or habits may need to shift?) Some other challenges you anticipate?

- Climate action has not traditionally been a core focus area within prison reform work.
- Limited awareness of climate resilience in custodial settings.
- Administrative approvals and operational restrictions within prisons.
- Resource and infrastructure limitations.
- Difficulty in measuring climate-related behavioural changes within a short period.

8. How do you plan to respond to these challenges? Who will you need help from when challenges arise?

- Work closely with prison administration and relevant government stakeholders.
- Start with practical, low-cost and visible interventions.
- Seek guidance from climate practitioners and ChakraView cohort members.
- Use documentation and evidence-building to demonstrate impact.
- Leverage existing relationships with prison authorities to facilitate implementation.



Example of Prototype shared by Saanchi from TYCIA Foundation

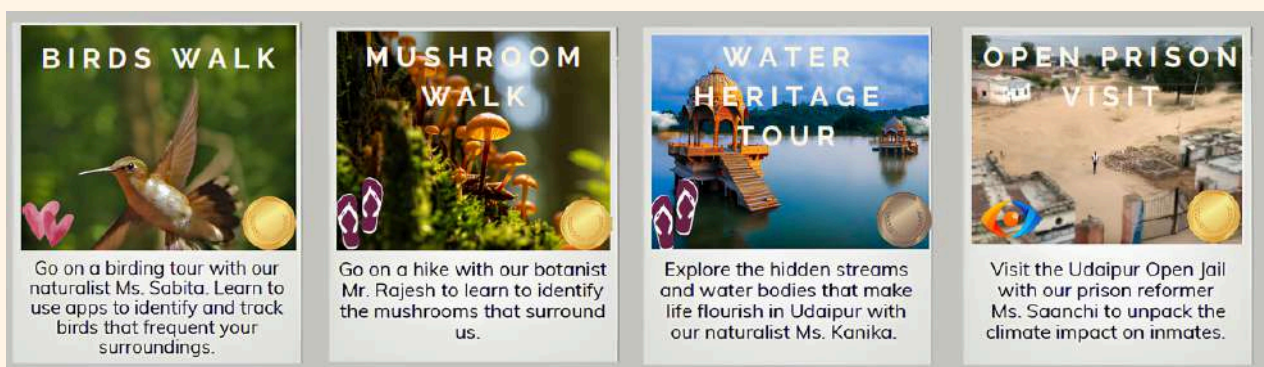
The Prototype ideas ranged from developing a climate-resilient prison model, to working with communities on waste segregation, composting, kitchen gardens and climate-resilient livelihoods, and developing a Climate justice fellowship to strengthen young people's understanding and practice around climate. These were not uniform climate projects; each organisation was finding its own entry point based on its community, existing work and organisational priorities.

The cluster process also created a space for organisations to learn from one another, build relationships and explore possibilities for collaboration. This helped shift the conversation from "What is climate change?" to "What does climate action mean for our organisation, our communities and the work we are already doing?"

From Organisational Learning to Collective Action

As part of the journey, participating organizations were invited to imagine a collaborative project and execute it and thereby learn climate and its interconnections deeply. Climate ChakraView festival is a result of the collaborative efforts of these organizations, changeloomers and climate practitioners.

The festival is being imagined not as a conventional conference, but as an experiential climate journey where people can choose how they want to engage -through Seeing, Doing and Being pathways. The idea is to make climate less distant and technical, and instead create experiences that inspire climate novices to pause, connect, see differently and discover their own pathway towards action.



आकाश (SEEING)



पृथ्वी (DOING)



प्राण (BEING)



Gold - High level of Difficulty



Silver - Moderate level of Difficulty



Bronze - Easy level of Difficulty

In this way, ChakraView is evolving from influencing organisational thinking to creating a collective space for climate action - first within organisations, and now with the wider public.



Strategy 2- Beyond Right and Wrong: Climate Action Initiatives

A national level championship was organized to select **12 intrapreneurs** out of **82 organizations** representing **20 states**, who had submitted their ideas of a climate action initiative to inspire and influence their organisations & communities.

The initiatives used 'Nourish Principles' to re-imagine their existing community led work by integrating climate action and building ideas in the areas of farming, reimagining packaging, waste management, social justice, alternative livelihoods etc.

Some organizations are working with young farmers to promote natural farming practices, strengthen climate-resilient livelihoods, and build market linkages through exposure visits, learning circles, and community-led farming initiatives. Others focused on urban slum communities, addressing waste management and plastic dependency by mobilizing youth leaders and encouraging the adoption of sustainable alternatives. In rural areas, organizations worked on water conservation, plantation drives, groundwater recharge, and community stewardship of natural resources through youth engagement, Gram Sabha mobilization, and collective action. Together, these initiatives show how climate action can be woven into agriculture, livelihoods, waste systems, natural resource management, and community leadership, creating locally relevant solutions while strengthening resilience and environmental stewardship.

Climate pe Charcha

To amplify grassroots climate narratives and make climate action accessible to rural and non-urban communities, we partnered with Radio Mayur based out of Chapra, Bihar to co-create Climate pe Charcha - a community radio series that bridges indigenous knowledge with youth-led climate innovation.

Series Overview: 8 episodes were produced and broadcast between September-October 2025, airing at 8 PM to reach maximum listenership. Each 20-minute episode was imagined with a participatory hotline for listeners from the communities - farmers, fisherfolk, and climate practitioners - whose voices remain missing from mainstream climate conversations.

Thematic Focus: The series covered critical intersections of climate action and community life, including environmental responsibility during festivals like Diwali, youth-led water rejuvenation through waste management (Resilient Minds), women-led climate solutions through waste-to-wealth models (JEW Foundation), strategies for youth mobilization (Gram Chetna), indigenous plant solutions and ecological restoration (Sohail Madan, Wild Tales) and exploring migration's impact on youth initiatives, and community-specific dialogues on climate engagement in Chapra, Bihar.



The series prominently featured voices of Changeloomers including Shivam (Badlta Rohtas), Abhishek and Lakshmi (Resilient Minds), Qasim and Roshni (JEW Foundation), and Alok (Gram Chetna), demonstrating how youth leaders are translating climate action into community-rooted narratives. Expert restoration practitioners like Sohail Madan from Wild Tales also contributed, bridging technical knowledge with grassroots implementation.



AMPLIFY:

Building the narrative and visibility for youth leadership

This year, ComMutiny-vartaLeap ecosystem focused on two connected priorities: building a stronger shared case for youth leadership, and taking that case into wider public and sector conversations. Through the Narrative vartaLab, regional and national dialogues, research, media and speaking platforms, we worked with members, young people and key stakeholders to make youth leadership easier to understand, support and invest in.

Key Figures

Shared framework and stakeholder engagement:

-  37 organisations in the Narrative vartaLab.
-  15 regional dialogues with 500+ stakeholders.
-  1,600+ young people across 50+ organisations contributing to the wellbeing evidence.
-  40+ organisations contributing sector data.
-  15 funders engaged.
-  200+ participants at Beyond Right & Wrong.
-  65+ youth leaders and allies recognised.

Visibility and outreach:

-  20+ national and international platforms.
-  11,572 LinkedIn followers.
-  2.65 lakh+ LinkedIn impressions and engagements.
-  1 lakh+ monthly Instagram views.
-  six podcast episodes produced.
-  two external podcast features.

1. Influencing key Stakeholders

Building a shared framework and evidence

The Narrative vartaLab brought together 37 organisations to build shared language and evidence around Youth-Centric Development with donors, educators and parents. Through these voices, four youth leadership outcomes were built: self-transformation, strong relationships, roles for social change, and a secure and nourishing planet.

Two research outputs gave this framework a stronger evidence base. The wellbeing report, drawing on 1,600+ young people across 50+ organisations, recorded average self-ratings rising from around 3.8 before programmes to above 8.2 after them. This shift was visible across feeling empowered, moving from indifference towards ownership of society, and 14 other psychosocial indicators including confidence, purpose, acceptance and hope.

The sector report made visible the scale and the infrastructure behind this work. Across 100 vartaLeap organisations, an estimated annual investment of ₹103 crore engages 89,300 potential youth leaders through 2,233 youth facilitators, or roughly 40 young people per facilitator and ₹11,540 per young person. Between 2022 and 2025, 30,000 community youth leaders emerged from 2.7 lakh self-to-society journeys, an 11% conversion rate. Together, the two reports help the ecosystem speak with evidence about both the inner shifts youth leadership creates and the investment needed to build it at scale.



Engaging stakeholders and sharing the learning

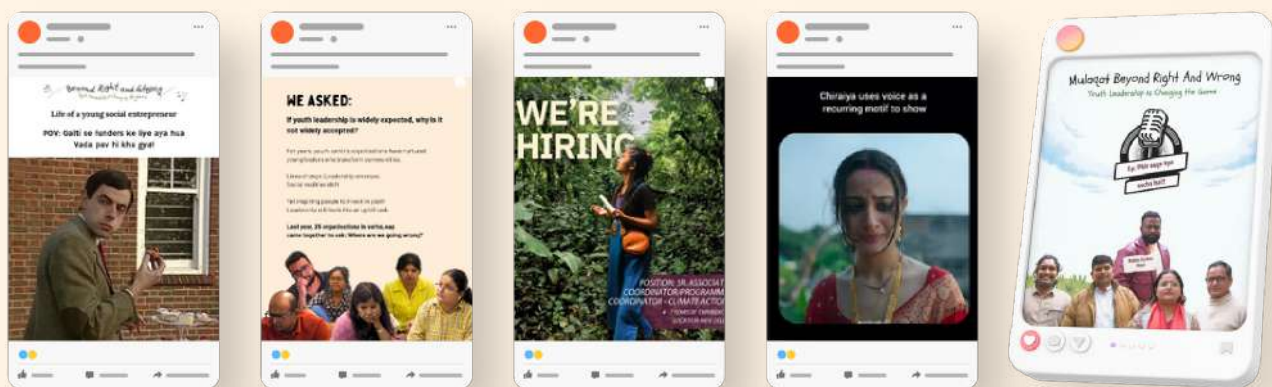
Members carried the framework into 15 regional dialogues with 500+ young people, parents, educators, civil society organisations and other ecosystem actors. The dialogues created space to test the emerging ideas against lived experience, while six podcast episodes and regional recognitions made the leadership of community-based young people, champion parents and educators more visible.

These threads came together at the national Beyond Right & Wrong convening in Delhi, where 200+ youth leaders and allies engaged with youth stories, regional insights and the findings from both reports. A Donor Dialogue with 15 funders on the same day moved the conversation beyond individual project pitches towards the long-term field-building and investment that youth leadership requires. Across the regional and national processes, 65+ youth leaders and allies were recognised for the roles they already play in their communities.

2. Promoting and Visibilising youth leadership

Social and public media

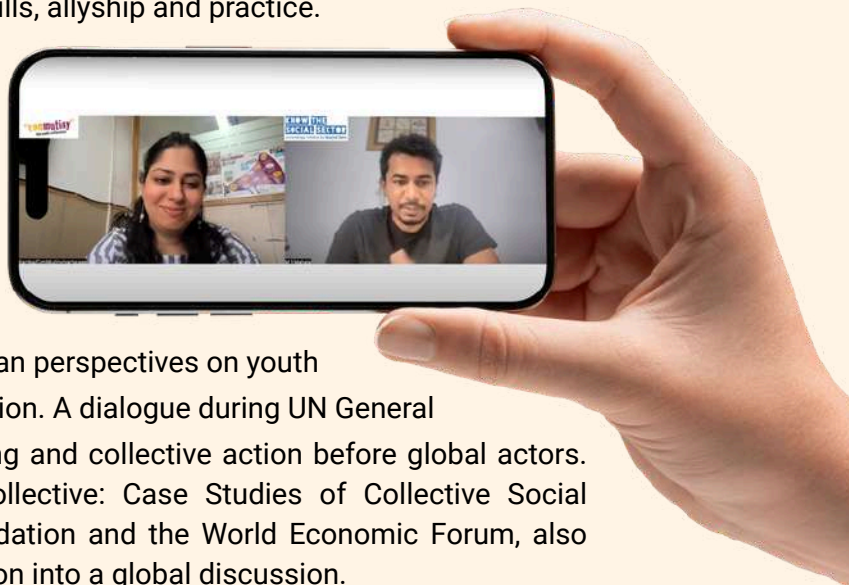
ComMutiny's public visibility continued to grow. LinkedIn reached 11,572 followers and generated 2.65 lakh+ impressions and engagements, while Instagram saw 1 lakh+ monthly views. Instagram also opened space for more youth-facing storytelling and popular culture-led formats. External features on [Ground Zero](#) and [In Pursuit Of...](#) took questions of youth agency, careers in the social sector and ecosystem building to wider audiences. The screening of *Berang* at the EcoReels Film Festival brought another expression of youth and climate narratives into a public cultural space.



National and international platforms

Across 20+ national and international sector platforms, ComMutiny and vartaLeap reached 1,000+ stakeholders through panels, workshops, film screenings, podcasts and dialogues. In India, this included conversations with Mercy Mission, Magic Bus India Foundation and Azim Premji University on youth leadership, life skills, allyship and practice.

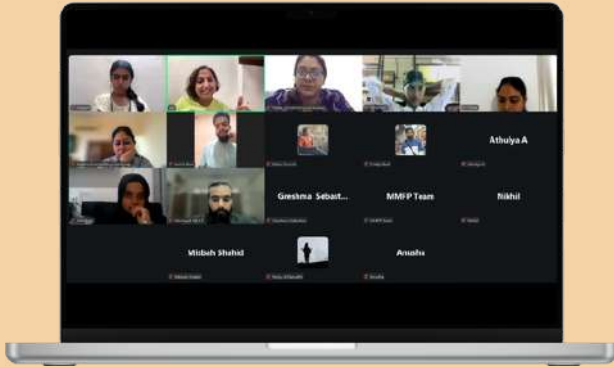
Internationally, two Shared Leadership Dialogues on wellbeing and social justice convened 90 youth workers from Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, Africa, Europe and North America. At the 5th Global Youth Work Conference in Malaysia, vartaLeap members made seven presentations to



participants from 29 countries, carrying Indian perspectives on youth work into a wider Commonwealth conversation. A dialogue during UN General Assembly Week placed collaborative funding and collective action before global actors. vartaLeap's inclusion in *The Future is Collective: Case Studies of Collective Social Innovation*, published by the Schwab Foundation and the World Economic Forum, also took the coalition's learning on collectivisation into a global discussion.

Across these efforts, amplification was not only about being seen. It was about helping the sector speak with greater clarity and evidence about young people as leaders in the present, and about the support and investment their leadership needs.

Session on Youth Empowerment and Leadership with Mercy Mission



Ashraf Patel, Kanika Sinha, and Pooja Jain facilitated a session on Youth Empowerment and Leadership with fellows from Mercy Mission Association.

Podcast by In Pursuit of...



Kanika Sinha featured in the podcast *In Pursuit Of...* exploring youth agency and ecosystem building.

Youth Work in these challenging times



Shared Leadership Dialogues with Youth Workers in the Commonwealth

United Nations General Assembly Week, 2025, New York



Kanika Sinha moderated a dialogue on pathways to strengthen collective action through collaborative funding, in collaboration with Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship and ShikshaLokam,

Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship



Conscious Leadership for these challenging times' session co-facilitated by Arjun Shekhar along with Schwab Fellows.

5th Global Youth Work Conference



5th Global Youth Work Conference in Kuala Lumpur hosted by Commonwealth Alliance of Youth Workers' Association (CAYWA) that brought together youth workers from 29 countries.

Amplify story: Building Community with Parents: A Detour for Youth Practitioners

Working with champion parents, capturing their stories and celebrating them in front of other parents was a grounding strategy in itself. It brought us back to the grassroots, reconnecting us with the communities we work with. In leadership roles, we rarely find the time for this kind of direct, on-the-ground engagement. Working in the social sector is fraught with challenges, but it is moments such as these that remind us why we do what we do.



For organisations that hadn't worked closely with parents before but wanted to, this strategy became a turning point. It built trust in a way that meetings and reports never could. In some places they contributed financially; in other places they offered to bring food. Parents showed ownership and enthusiasm to build a relationship with youth practitioners and young people.

Today's picnic turned out to be one of the best days I've had in a while. I learned that something as simple as a picnic can be so much more than an outing; it can become a powerful way to strengthen relationships, express love for the people we care about, and create space to share our deepest thoughts and feelings. Sometimes the most meaningful connections are built through the simplest moments spent together.

(Reshma Arya)



MEET THE TEAM

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Akshit Jain

Amlan Jyoti Chaudhuri

Ambika Madhwal

Ariba Naim

Barkha Tanvir

Dipanshu Rathore

Hiba Fatima

Jahnabi Mitra

Kanika Sinha

Manisha Tuteja

Mohd. Khatib

Monal Joshi

Naresh Pramanik

Pooja Jain

Rajesh N Singh Meher

Sanjay Hari T

Varun Sethi

Vishal Badri

CONSULTANTS

Aaradhaya Sinha

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Ajay Pandit

Arjun Shekhar

Bappaditya Mukherjee

Father Jerry

Mahamaya Navlakha

Meenu Venkateswaran

Ramnarayan Syag

Ashraf Patel



MISEREOR
IHR HILFSWERK



Rainmatter
Foundation

ROHINI NILEKANI
philanthropies

 **Azim Premji**
Foundation

 **Dka Austria**

We are deeply grateful to our partners, advisory members, and coalition members for your trust, collaboration, and unwavering support. You make it possible for us to reach young people, nurture their leadership, and walk beside them in creating meaningful change.

What makes this journey truly special is the spirit of solidarity, care, and shared purpose you bring. Together, we are co-creating empowering spaces where every young person can step into their role as a Jagrik shaping a just, inclusive, and sustainable future.

**The Changelooms - Youth Leaders Shifting Gender Norms initiative is supported by Ford Foundation.*

BALANCE SHEET

COMMUTINY-THE YOUTH COLLECTIVE

3rd Floor, 8, Balaji Estate, Kalkaji, New Delhi - 110019

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31st March, 2026

	Particulars	Note	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
I	Sources of Funds			
1	NPO Funds	3		
(a)	Unrestricted Funds		2,21,30,512.25	1,93,25,326.06
(b)	Restricted Funds		3,31,80,550.95	3,53,75,492.63
2	Capital Fund-Fixed Assets (As per Contra)	4	7,02,029.00	4,80,757.00
			5,60,13,092.20	5,51,81,575.69
2	Non-current liabilities			
(a)	Other long-term liabilities	5	-	-
(b)	Long-term provisions	6	-	-
			-	-
3	Current liabilities			
(a)	Payables	7	-	-
(b)	Other current liabilities	8	4,980.00	6,734.00
(c)	Short-term provisions	6	-	-
			4,980.00	6,734.00
	Total		5,60,18,072.20	5,51,88,309.69
II	Application of Funds			
1	Non-current assets			
(a)	Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible assets	9		
(i)	Property, Plant and Equipment		7,02,029.00	4,80,757.00
(iii)	Capital work in progress		-	-
(b)	Non-current investments	10	-	-
(c)	Long Term Loans and Advances	11	-	-
(d)	Other non-current assets	12	4,98,000.00	4,98,000.00
			12,00,029.00	9,78,757.00
2	Current assets			
(a)	Current investments	10	3,11,40,315.00	1,92,96,334.00
(b)	Receivables	13	-	-
(c)	Cash and bank balances	14	2,31,57,003.20	3,44,55,705.69
(d)	Short Term Loans and Advances	11	-	-
(e)	Other current assets	15	5,20,725.00	4,57,513.00
			5,48,18,043.20	5,42,09,552.69
	Total		5,60,18,072.20	5,51,88,309.69
			-	-
	Brief about the Entity	1		
	Summary of significant accounting policies	2		
	The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			

For A. John Moris & Co.,

Chartered Accountants

Firm Regn. No 007220S

(CA Shrawan Kumar)

Partner

Membership No. 413548

UDIN : 26413548YYIUBB2585

Place: New Delhi

Date:

- 7 SEP 2026



For & on behalf of Board of Trustees for
ComMutiny-The Youth Collective

[Signature]
Convener

[Signature]
Trustee

Trustee



COMMUTINY-THE YOUTH COLLECTIVE

Receipts & Payment Account for the year ended 31st March 2026

Particulars	31st March 2026	31st March 2025
<u>Opening Balances</u>		
Cash In Hand	8,893.00	8,893.00
Bank Balances	3,44,46,812.69	2,89,05,931.74
Term Deposits with Banks	1,93,27,144.00	2,81,93,965.00
Other Current& Non Current Assets	9,24,703.00	9,96,114.00
Current Liabilities	(6,734.00)	(8,442.00)
	5,47,00,818.69	5,80,96,461.74
<u>Receipts during the year</u>		
Donations and Grants	9,60,60,790.18	8,92,96,650.58
Other Incomes	27,29,327.33	28,92,235.00
Proceedes from Sale of Assets	-	-
	15,34,90,936.20	15,02,85,347.32
<u>Payments during the year</u>		
Employee Benefit Expenses	2,69,23,220.00	2,50,32,173.00
Charitable Projects Activity Expenses	6,44,96,094.00	6,38,56,485.00
Administrative Expenses	62,19,921.00	62,94,831.63
Capital Expenditure	5,40,638.00	4,01,039.00
	9,81,79,873.00	9,55,84,528.63
<u>Closing Balances</u>		
Cash in Hand	8,893.00	8,893.00
Bank Balances	2,31,48,110.20	3,44,46,812.69
Term Deposits with Banks	3,11,40,315.00	1,93,27,144.00
Other Current& Non Current Assets	10,18,725.00	9,24,703.00
Current Liabilities	(4,980.00)	(6,734.00)
	5,53,11,063.20	5,47,00,818.69
Total	15,34,90,936.20	15,02,85,347.32

For A. John Moris & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No 007220S

(CA Shrawan Kumar)

Partner

Membership No. 413548



**For & on behalf of Board of Trustees for
ComMutiny-The Youth Collective**

Convener

Trustee

Trustee



- 7 SEP 2026

