

REPORT

OCTOBER 2013 TO APRIL 2014



MY SPACE
MY unManifesto 

Supported By



Initiated By:

"commutiny"
the youth collective



REPORT

OCTOBER 2013 TO APRIL 2014

MY SPACE MY unManifest

DEMAND TO BE A PART
OF THIS DEMOCRACY

“commutiny”
the youth collective



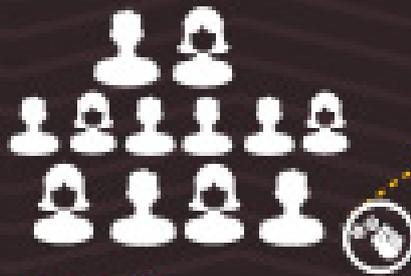
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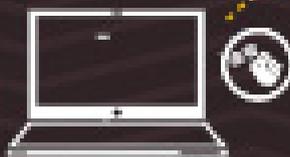
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – THE BIG PICTURE

The Big Picture

unMan
LAND



1.2 LAC
YOUNG PEOPLE
REACHED ON GROUND



15 LAKH
IMPRESSIONS ONLINE



100 POLITICIANS
9 POLITICAL
PARTIES REACHED

Manifesto SCAPE



DIVERSE YOUTH OUTREACH:
URBAN, RURAL AND SLUM, SCHOOL AND COLLEGE DROPOUTS, SEX WORKERS, TRANSGENDER, LGBT, DALITS, TRIBAL AND OTHER MINORITIES.



TOTAL PROMISES COLLECTED
70,000 PROMISES ON GROUND
10,000 PROMISES ONLINE



COVERED
20 STATES & 2
UNION TERRITORIES OF INDIA



45 PARTNERS

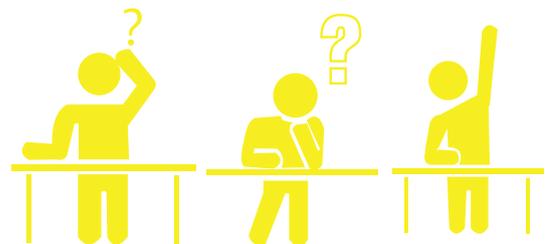
THE YOUTH CONTEXT IN INDIA

In the last year and a half the youth came of age, especially in the national capital. Starting with the upsurge during the December 16 protests, leading up to the stunning victory of the youth brigade of the AAP party, young people have begun to shape the social and political discourse of the country. Earlier youth were kept out of governance positions in most of the spaces they occupied, be it home, career/ education, entertainment/ lifestyle, and friends, now they are starting to make the rules. Like in the case of Beauf Azadi which put pressure for tougher rape laws, or to protest archaic laws - as in sec 377, or in passing of new laws - as in Lok Pal bill, or getting elected to make the rules for the Delhi state, or in getting their voices and promises heard by demanding to be part of political manifestos through the country wide unManifesto campaign.

Apart from politics, young people have explored their identities like never before - from sexual orientation to caste legacy - people are coming out in the open. Self quests both spiritual and secular are on the rise as many young people get engaged with existential questions like Who Am I? and Who are We? They are also taking part in social action like never before - volunteering hours for social causes have increased manifold despite the new college semester system that doesn't leave much time for anything except studies.

There is still a long way to go but there is no doubt that the young have come of age in 2013. In 2014, expect a lot more civic action from the youth of the country. An irreversible trend of reclaiming the common spaces has been put into motion and the young have tasted success by toppling the old established order and being heard. The numbers of youth (and thus the vote block) is increasing by leaps and bounds and therefore they can't be ignored anymore. Representation is going to increase massively in 2014. The current Lok Sabha

(parliament) has 6.3 % young people (from 25 to 40). Expect it to at least double if not triple in the next Lok Sabha. Also 70% of these young parliamentarians will be first generation and not dynasty kids. The same trend is going to be shown in Assembly, Ward and Panchayat elections. The political idiom is going to change drastically from feudal to participative thanks to this renewal of society being led by the young. But now young people are demanding to be heard. They want to play a part in making the rules, in governance. They are demanding accountability. unManifesto as a program grew out of this energy and the hope of getting their voices and promises heard by demanding to be part of political manifestos.



WHO AM I? WHO ARE WE?



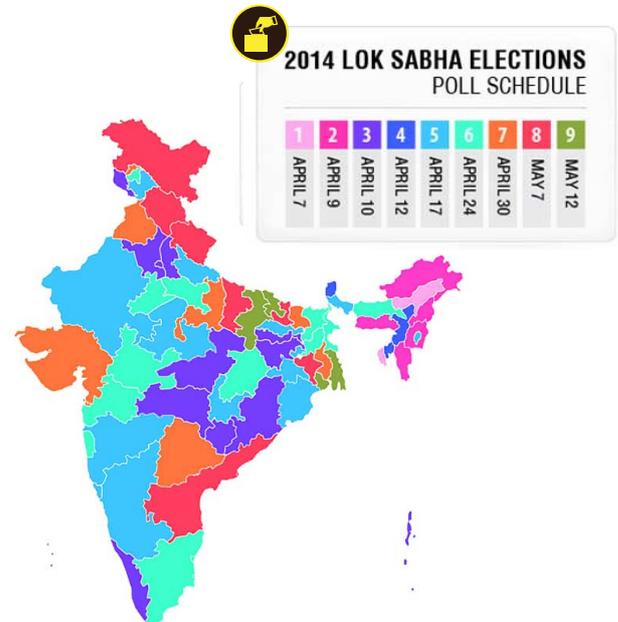
UNMANIFESTO: CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

Against this backdrop of the increasing youth action and participation, India is in the midst of electing a new government, through the 16th Lok Sabha Sabha. Heralded world over as the largest ‘dance of democracy’, this election has rapidly become the most talked about election in India. Elections in the recent past have not witnessed the kind of passion and involvement from people especially the youth that we have seen in the build up to these elections. The traditional race between the Congress and its allies and the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies has been challenged by the nascent Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) – which is still trying to find its foot hold in a very unpredictable democratic nation.

Close to 12 crore youths are eligible to vote for the first time in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. To put that in perspective, no single party garnered more than 12 crore votes in the 2009 polls, showing how significant this segment is if all of them register to vote. India is one of the youngest countries in terms of youth population; we have one of the largest percentage of youth population in the world, a fact dimly represented in the 14th Lok Sabha, where only 6.3% representatives were between the ages of 25-40 years. This coupled with the increasing disenchantment of young people with politics and democracy only led to creating a disconnect between the youth and government.

The questions here are, can a 70 year old understand what a 20 year old needs? Can a person in the same old political hierarchy assess the future needs of the nation?

These questions have become even more important at this juncture because youth forms the highest constituency of Indian population that’s going to be voting now. Until now political leaders have not made



any real attempts to incorporate them into political processes. Also, the policies that came about are not necessarily reflective of the consensus of those who are going to be the future of the nation.



WHY UNMANIFESTO?

While many young people think that they want to remain away from politics because it is a “dirty game” what they don’t realize is that politics is all around us. Each of us is a politician, like it or not. Politics is nothing but participation in organizing, influencing, and decision making within a group. Each one of us does this covertly in the four spaces of family, friends, career/ education, or even leisure.

Thus it won’t be wrong to call youth of today ‘Everyday Politicians’. It might be debated that the jump from this kind of politics to ‘electoral politics’ is a long one to make, but this is a fallacious argument. Because we are affected by electoral politics in every walk of life, may it be price rise, global changes in the environment, job opportunities, gender related violence, or even our choices in education.

So we asked the question why not accept this reality and make electoral politics an arena for young people to learn about democracy and participate in it so that they can make informed voting and other political choices? Why not make the political world a 5th Space of experiential learning by young people about themselves by taking action in the electoral arena? And what better place to learn about the democracy than diving into the source - the manifesto making process. It was from this thought that the unManifesto program was born.

In Alice in Wonderland Alice celebrates un-birthdays, which means she celebrates everyday of the year. Using the same metaphor, unManifesto seeks to create spaces for young people where they can engage in politics all the year round in every twist and turn of the political story and not just on Election Day. Instead of blaming we want them to progress to claiming the democratic spaces for themselves.

unManifesto National Coalition

At ComMutinyThe Youth Collective (CYC) all our programs are based on the concept of the 5th Space - a space for youth to explore themselves beyond the four traditional spaces of family, friends, career/education and leisure. ‘My Space – My unManifesto’ sought to look at politics as a 5th Space - a space of exploration where youth could participate in the political process rather than just blaming the system and seeing it as a ‘dirty’ space.

ComMutiny -The Youth Collective along with a coalition of over 45 civil society organizations have come together to try and reconfigure the existing system through a program called My Space My unManifesto across 20 states of the country with aim of engaging youth participation in the political process beyond simply voting on the day of elections. This campaign was supported by UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity.

The unManifesto coalition partners work with a diverse cross-section of young people – urban, rural, college graduates, drop outs, Dalits, tribals, sex workers and transgender communities, religious minorities, young men and women. These organisations all work in different socio-economic and political contexts and on different issues but what marked the common goal amongst all the partners was to empower and provide space to the youth to articulate themselves.

The unManifesto journey was organised at the grassroots level through workshops with youth to build learning and leadership so they could take informed stances (See Annexure for workshop module).

UNMANIFESTO OUTCOMES

unManifesto also built a vibrant presence online through online partners Youth ki Awaaz, Got Stared At and Halabol (See Annexure for Online Outreach Data). The extensive outreach to 1.2 lakh youth on ground and 14.5 lakh through online platforms that materialized in collecting 80,000 promises across 20 states and 2 union territories has shown the deep impact the journey has had on the youth.

unManifesto Outcomes:

The impact of unManifesto journey was over a period of seven months starting from October 2013 and culminating April 2014. The outcomes of the campaign were:

- Building learning and leadership amongst youth to take informed stances and engage in everyday politics rather than just during election time.
- Developing an understanding among the youth regarding what is politics, how does the system work and where can I as an individual citizen influence the decision making process.
- Creating possible influence on party manifestos by engaging different political party representatives in dialogue and presenting the young people's manifestos to them

The outcomes of the journey have focused on a holistic engagement and development of youth in politics, leadership and exploration on self vis-a-vis the society and a democratic nation. Therefore, delving into each outcome will unfold the processes, mechanisms, successes and challenges that the journey experienced at national and regional level.



01

Learning and leadership amongst youth to take informed stances and engage in everyday politics rather than just during election time:

Indian politics, since the independence in 1947, has been wielded by the experienced and the aged. There is no doubt that the distance between politics and youth exists but it is also important to understand that there is a mutual distrust between the current politicians and young adults that has deepened the chasm of political engagement. The exclusion of youth from the “serious business” of governance and nation building and instrumentalizing their energies only during the act of representation (viz. electoral process) is a major reason for the dismal apathy among youth towards politics.

My Space – My unManifesto as a journey has sought to fill this gap by build learning and understanding amongst young people in the political arena enabling them to make informed choices and participate in the democracy everyday, not just during elections.

In order to ensure the learning aspect of the campaign a workshop module was created collaboratively in consultation with the unManifesto coalition partners. Through interactive and engaging sessions these workshops took youth through a the journey where they learned to see themselves as ‘Everyday Politicians’ by understanding what politics actually means, and how they were involved in political acts in all spheres of life. From mock parliaments, debates and interactive street theatre sessions to actually simulating an entire electoral process with different representatives developing their own manifestos the unManifesto learning journey took many forms. Partners also simplified and modified the sessions to suit different audiences, since awareness levels vary across populations. A total of 1.2 lakh youth were reached on ground through these sessions. Many partners shared that initially many young people

were distrustful of anything associated with politics. This stemmed from the popular perception of politics being a ‘dirty’ word that only meant corruption, nepotism and incompetence. The workshop sessions included discussions on the reasons why youth didn’t want to participate in politics, whether their engagement will make a difference and how can they make a difference. Through these workshops – which were a mix of discussions, activities, short films – youth began to see the true meaning of the word ‘politics’ behind the distorted practice of politics that is commonly seen.

In many cases as a result of their learning and awareness of the political process they have been able to redefine their role in the political process post the workshop. What has probably been truly remarkable has been the response of the young people who are often labeled cynical and disinterested in the political process. The youth embraced this campaign and the learning that came with it. Across partner locations they showed passion and enthusiasm when truly engaged. Many partners spoke of being swamped by young people wanting to be a part of their workshops.

Bappaditya from Pranthakatha, West Bengal, an unManifesto partner said, “unManifesto has been an intense and in-depth learning journey for youth of Bengal. Understanding Politics as a learning space has never been thought or implemented till this journey began. unManifesto as a process encouraged more and more youth engagement in understanding how election as a political process runs in the largest democracy in the world. It helped youth to understand how effectively they could make their voices heard in the system. It made them realise that if processes like this could be run, this can actually bring in policy changes at the top and that could actually bring in changes at ground.”

unManifesto Online

Social media and online platforms have a very important role to play in creating visibility and generating a 'buzz'. In order to tap this potential of online reach the unManifesto on-ground campaign efforts were supplemented with a strong online component. Through a collaborative effort with three online partners unManifesto has been able to build a strong online presence. The online strategy was a combination of articles and debates for deeper engagement as well as posters, photos and tweetathons for reach and visibility. In fact one of the Tweetathons resulted in #unManifesto being in the top five topics trending on Twitter.



JOIN US FOR THE TWEETATHON
#unManifesto

DO YOU WANT YOUR PRIORITIES TO BE NATION'S PRIORITIES AS WELL? THEN JOIN US FOR THE TWEETATHON WHERE OUR PANELISTS WILL INTERACT WITH YOU ON ISSUES OF GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, NORTH EAST, GOVERNANCE AND YOUTH POLICIES.

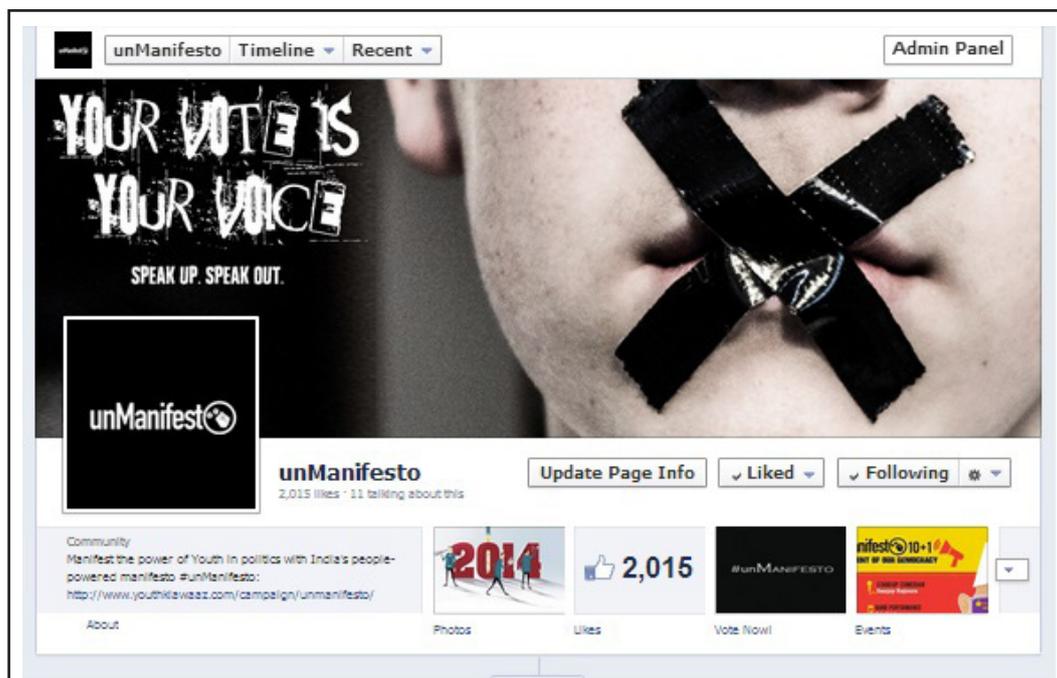
Deepa: @dipaah
Amitabh Kumar: @AmiFromIndia
Sibayan: @shibayanraha
Ayesha: @ashesovroses
Varna Sri Raman: @Varna

unManifesto 

Date: 1st March | Time: 1pm - 2pm | Tweet with: #unManifesto

unManifesto had a page on Youth ki Awaz an online youth opinion portal. This page allowed readers and partners to fill in promises they wanted political parties to include in their manifestos. This portal also housed the promises that were collected by partners on ground.

A dedicated and vibrant unManifesto Facebook page also played a great role in creating a tremendous visibility for the campaign. Through the online activities we reached 14 lakh young people online.



unManifesto Timeline Recent Admin Panel

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE
SPEAK UP. SPEAK OUT.

unManifesto
2,015 likes · 11 talking about this

Update Page Info Liked Following

Community
Manifest the power of Youth in politics with India's people-powered manifesto #unManifesto:
<http://www.youthkiawaz.com/campaign/unmanifesto/>

About Photos Likes 2,015 Vote Now! Events

02

Create an understanding among the youth regarding what is politics, how does the system work and where can I as an individual citizen influence the decision making process. Greater awareness among youth about manifestoes, how they are made, the promises for youth in the manifestos.

One of the biggest reasons that young people gave as a deterrent to participating in the electoral process, even voting was the feeling of ‘What difference can I alone make?’ Through the unManifesto sessions it was this role of a young person as an active citizen who can make a difference that was highlighted through in-depth conversations with young people that focused on the importance of participating to influence the decision making process. Partners shared that this was a very important process as the levels of awareness about the process was very low especially in some rural areas.



Lokesh from ALFA Educational Society, Kherwada Udaipur says, “When we first started doing the unManifesto sessions with young people we found that people didn’t know that there was something called a manifesto. Many didn’t think it essential to vote at all. But there is

new enthusiasm and hope in young people we have worked with. They want to go and exercise the right to choose and vote. I think this is a result of civil society movements all over, and unManifesto also has contributed.”

PRS Module in unManifesto Sessions

The workshop sessions included a module developed by PRS (an organization that works to strengthen the legislative process by making it better informed, more transparent and participatory). This module created understanding amongst youth about what manifestos are, the difference between local, state and national level subjects, the various youth related issues that were being discussed in the legislative bodies. It also broke some of the myths surpolitics and politicians.

The youth were also learned about manifestos and the importance of a manifesto as not only a document of demands but a document that requires commitment from both sides; those for whom it is and those who have the responsibility of fulfilling promises made in it. By illustrating that a manifesto is about decision making on issues concerning of a community, of a group and of future needs of the nation there was a sense of ownership.



Building the Youth manifesto

The act of putting forth their voices to create the youth manifesto gave young people a sense of leadership as they were representing not only themselves but their peers, family, community and the nation. This provided them a platform to where they were taken seriously resulting in high levels of political participation and community leadership.

Sugandha from Priyadarshini, Bihar an unManifesto partner, commenting on the processes of leadership building through the programme stated that,



“This experience on ground was a completely new experience for the youth. The process of involving youth in manifesto making through different tools and strategies like that of; mass meetings, one-to-one

interactions, articulating demands through public discussions, converging with other organizations and reaching out specifically to marginalised section of youth, led to creation of ownership and leadership amongst young people who took the process forward even after we withdrew from the scene.”

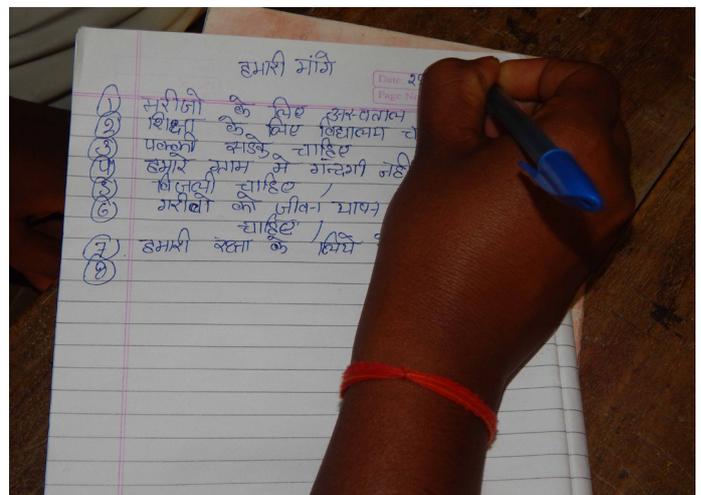
From this new awareness and understanding young people shared their promises – issues that concerned them - that they would like political parties to include in their manifestoes. Each promise, along with the name, age and location of the young person was collected. In addition to on ground collection promises were also collected online through various social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and the online partner pages.

What was perhaps the most interesting and surprising outcome from this manifesto making process was the content of the youth promises. From across the country the promises voiced were around issues of societal welfare and development. The promises speak of ideas of justice, equality and of well being that the youth envision for this country. From employment to education, from youth participation to accountability and transparency in governance young people mentioned a range of issues that concerned them.

Some very specific concerns were raised around issues of gender safety and health especially women’s health issues such as activation and proper functioning and monitoring of Anganwadis to ensure pre and post natal and reproductive health services to women. The need for closer attention and provisions made for family planning was another issue young women spoke of.

This diverse array of promises established that youth are not limited to thinking only about themselves but go beyond to think of societies and welfare of its inhabitants.

The promises collected have shown that it’s not true that youth are uncaring about issues and politics of the nation and Indian society rather it is a case of lack of opportunity given to youth to articulate themselves, a chance to participate in democracy and not just be a part of it.



PROMISE LIST

Top 10 + 1 promises that young people want

1

Mandate active youth participation in democratic processes and setting off the agenda for nation building:
a) Setting the agenda: i) Mandate 35 % reservation of youth representation in legislative assemblies and cabinet equivalent bodies of which 50 % reservation for women (including women in minority category).
b) Enhancing civic and political participation by the public: i) The provision of postal ballot should be available all across India; ii) Political parties should declare their manifestos three months before the elections for a deeper level of discussion and debate with the public.

2

Make education relevant and impactful: **a)** Allocate 7 % GDP on education; **b)** Consult relevant stakeholders (students, teachers and intellectuals) before making any change in the education sector; **c)** Reservation to include financial criteria along with caste; **d)** Make technology studies with functional computer labs compulsory, especially in government schools; **e)** Hold government and government schools responsible for the implementation of Right to Education, especially by engaging with children's parents and providing them with an incentive to make their children to go to school; **f)** Development of better higher education institutes, especially universities, in rural areas.

3

a) Invest 25% of the education budget in creating facilitated safe spaces for young people to learn more about their own and "others" identities by reflective action and co-mingling constructively across the borders of caste, religion, gender & political affiliation; **b)** Pass the anti-communal violence bill.

4

Take the following steps to ensure safety and dignity of women: **a)** 33% reservation in legislation and cabinet; **b)** 33 % reservation for women in all Police Forces; **c)** Raise legal marriageable age from 18 to 21; **d)** Proper implementation of Justice Verma Committee Report; **e)** Amend AFSPA in light of Supreme Court judgment that it should not apply in case of rape and murder; **f)** Provide maintained and clean toilets every 2 kms in all public spaces; **g)** Every work place should have a committee against sexual harassment under Vishakha guidelines.

5

Create viable employment options for all: **a)** Strengthen vocational training and life skills for all those who want it and job placement mandatory in every higher education institute ; **b)** Start Employment Guarantee scheme that gives you respectable work in your home town; **c)** Increase in job opportunities through, including and enhancing the small scale industries; **d)** Create special job opportunities for rural youth from class 10 onwards; **e)** Unemployed youth should receive an unemployment allowance in all the states across the nation; **f)** Better implementation of social entitlements & welfare schemes for poor & marginalised in terms of unemployment wage, equal wage for equal work, health & housing benefits, and pension for elderly.

6

Bring in transparency in all public spheres: **a)** Legislate and enforce a strong Lokpal system; **b)** Bring all parties under RTI for the money that's spent in election campaign and otherwise; **c)** Better implementation of the provision under which RTI activists are given special protection; **d)** Ministers who have criminal charges them should not hold any public office.

7

Special reforms in the health sector: **a)** Reserve 4.6 % of total GDP for Health care ; **b)** Free health services in the rural and tribal areas with essential medicines to be free of cost; **c)** Survey, monitoring and reimagining the government health services; **d)** Ensure proper reach, functioning and monitoring of ICDS and Anganwadi schemes ensuring quality pre and post natal, reproductive health services for all; **e)** Ambulance services should be there in every block; **f)** All hospitals and doctors should prescribe generic names and explain the side effects of the medicine prescribed; **g)** Free and safe drinking water in remote rural areas and urban slums.

8

Access to quality government services and infrastructure for all: **a)** Make electricity available for minimum 14 hours in rural areas; **b)** Good public transport connectivity between rural and urban areas and proper maintenance of highways; **c)** Strengthen Public Distribution System (PDS) especially in remote rural areas; **d)** The government should legislate on making pension available for every citizen above the age of 60 irrespective of their gender, caste, class, creed, ethnicity and others; **e)** Make the process of getting ration card, Aadhar card, voter card and caste letter simpler and accessible; **f)** Decentralised administration of government services and integrated information available for all.

9

Leapfrog environment at the same level as political and economic policy by: **a)** Legislate and enforce an all powerful Environmental Committee that not only gives permissions but also oversees implementation (prosecutes and acts against violators) on lines of the Election Commission; **b)** Mandate water conservation at a micro level - street water harvesting, regulation on usage of ground water - and at a macro level - check river pollution by enforcing laws on industrial and household waste treatment; **c)** Ban low grade plastic from the country; **d)** Enforce usage of solar/ renewable energy for all street lighting, public places and government buildings in the country; **e)** Cycling lanes in all main roads; **f)** Segregation and labeling of bio and non degradable garbage.

10

Create an environment of dignity and safety for LGBT community and commercial sex workers:

a) No discrimination against commercial sex workers and transgender community based on profession ; **b)** Create awareness and training (for police and school students) regarding transgender community and why we need to give them the same dignity as any other person; **c)** Ensure employment opportunities for transgender communities; **d)** Provide alternate employment opportunities to sex workers above the age of 40. **e)** Decriminalize section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.

10+1

Stemming urban migration and making agriculture viable through reforms: **a)** Government should provide irrigation facilities, loan at a low interest rate through better implementation of schemes like Kissan Credit Card and awareness regarding technological advancements in farming; **b)** Farmers should decide the price of their own harvest (in tandem with the market price); **c)** Harvest processing facilities to be made available locally to farmers and easier transport of harvest to wholesale centre's.

03 Possible influence on party manifestos by engaging different political parties

Over the years young people have become more and more disconnected from politics and politicians. The entire political arena was viewed with cynicism and mistrust. While it is true that there have been many scandals and corruption is rampant at the same time there is also a misled, prejudiced notion of politics and politicians. unManifesto worked to redress these misconceptions by creating a platform where young people get a chance to interact with the political representatives. At the same time politicians got a chance to speak to young people who make up a large proportion of their electoral constituencies, understand their concerns. unManifesto was designed as a bridge across the disconnect bring youth and politicians together. Through the program efforts were made to break the 'us' vs. 'them' situation that has developed over the years. Through this process of creating interaction between politicians and youth both heard each other's aspirations, concerns, limitations and possibilities.



unManifesto Partner Vineet Dubey with JDU Leader Arun Kr. Srivastav

The unManifesto campaign met with great success in creating this platform where young people's voices were taken to political representatives and where they could interact with them. The engagement and interaction with politicians were of three levels:

- Meeting politicians to hand over Youth Manifesto – This level of interaction involved a few representatives of the unManifesto campaign meeting the politician and handing over the manifesto with the promise that they would take it to the manifesto making committee of their respective party. In many cases the unManifesto representatives met the key persons in the manifesto making committees of political parties and handed over the manifesto.
- A group of young people along with unManifesto representatives met political representatives and handed over the Youth Manifesto – Here a group of young people who had participated in the campaign along with unManifesto coalition representatives met the politicians and had a deeper interaction with them. Through these discussions they got a chance to talk directly to the political representatives about their concerns and their vision. This also allowed them to hear the other side of the story, to understand the ideology of political parties and understand how manifestos were made. This process greatly inspired young people as it gave them the chance to truly take their voices to political leaders.



unManifesto team and youth with A K Antony , National Executive member, AAP

As one of the young volunteers said,
“The fact that we actually got to take our manifesto to the politicians and meet them and speak to them was the most exciting part of the campaign. I never thought that I would actually be sitting in a politician's office talking to him about why a certain point was included in our manifesto. It made the whole process seem so real, like our voices actually mattered.”

- Panel discussions with politicians in local, state and national level unManifesto events– Events at local, state and national level were included as part of the unManifesto design. These events were designed as public platforms where politicians from different political parties were part of a panel and interacted with young people in the audience and each other. The youth manifesto was presented to these leaders and the discussions were centered around their party views on specific points of the manifesto and commitment to incorporating youth promises in political parties' manifestos. These events not only created great visibility for the campaign but also gave young people to come together and have interactive sessions with representatives from different political parties on one platform asking them questions and hearing their views. These events were of great value for both the youth and the political leaders who engaged with the unManifesto journey. For instance, the YES Foundation event in Lucknow led to the election commissioner of Uttar Pradesh inviting the organization to their office to know how they could further help in encouraging and motivating youth towards taking an active part in voting and politics. Kat-Katha and Pahel, two unManifesto partners organisations that work with sex workers and transgender community in Delhi spoke of how these platforms gave a chance to those who never got such opportunities.

The journey captured voices of sex workers and transgenders through which we came across many heart wrenching stories from the communities. The program has culminated in the events where there has been an attempt at connecting unheard voices from both communities to the leaders of the nation. This also brought forth and enabled the didis (sex workers) and transgenders to speak up in various forums, which has been great. ”



Vijay Jolly, BJP Spokesperson and Arun Hooda, Member, Congress along with Moderator Gouran Lal in unManifesto mega Closure Event.

An analysis of party manifestos have shown inclusion of many of the promises from our youth manifesto in some form or the other. Some of the promises that have been incorporated are:

- 1) *Bring up issue of youth reservation in the Parliament (Congress)*
- 2) *Increasing number of employment for youth (Congress) (BJP) and (AAP)*
- 3) *Right to health (Congress), (CPI (M)) and (AAP)*
- 4) *Empowering and Providing Safety Women (Congress),(CPI (M)), (BJP) and (AAP) (NTC)*
- 5) *Quality Infrastructure (Congress)*
- 6) *Saving the Environment (Congress)*
- 7) *Transparency in Governance Process (Congress) (AAP)*
- 8) *7% expenditure on education (CPI (M)) and(AAP)*
- 9) *Recognition of Transgender as a legal gender (NTC)*
- 10) *Specific youth based schemes (Congress) (AAP) (CPI(M)) and (NTC)*

This inclusion of promises in political parties' manifesto speaks of the shift that has taken place in how youth are perceived by the political community. The kind of promises that are part of the manifesto show a maturity and understanding that youth possess towards politics and holistic development. The youth manifesto reflects the integrity and responsibility youth have towards the nation and is testimonial to unManifesto campaign's efforts in creating space for this learning.



Dear Bappaditya Mukherjee,

I think you heard that my party CPI(M) took a vivid stand against section 377 of IPC and supported gay rights in election manifesto. Party also condemns AFSPA. Our party has been fighting for the cause of marginalized people from the first day and we also contact with several groups like yours to know the in depth problems of those sections of society. We were in touch with you for long with these demands. I personally discussed on sec 377 with your organization "Prantakatha" since the beginning of this year. Even I heard this debate and question in a discussion, "Unmanifesto an all indian campaign" which was organised by your organization on 14 th march. We tried to convey the results of those discussions to our party. I think this a result of our long effort.

With regards
Mayukh Biswas

A letter of appreciation from CPI(M) member Mr. Mayukh Biswas recognising efforts of unManifesto partner Prantakatha for Promoting Active Citizenship to include removal of Sec 377 in their party manifesto

A NEW SEED SOWN: FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH OUR JOURNEY

The unManifesto program is a prime example of the value and impact of strong partnerships. This one-of-a-kind journey would not only have been incomplete but would have been impossible without the absolute faith and commitment of all the coalition partners. It is through careful nurturing of these partner relationships that unManifesto had the impact that it did. The unManifesto coalition has been a great illustration of 5th Space principles in action. It allowed a space where every partner developed a sense of ownership of the program and felt free to give suggestions and feedback that were always discussed and in many cases incorporated. Regular meetings, with representatives from partner organizations further created a sense of involvement and participation, which was imperative for the program to run smoothly. In addition to the national meetings where representatives from all organizations attended there were regular monthly meetings of a smaller body called the 'seed'. This 'seed' consisted of organizations who volunteered to be part of it. This group was closely involved running the campaign and in assisting the Hub (the team at CYC) in ensuring efficient functioning. Each seed member also acted as a mentor to a group of other partners guiding them and providing them trouble shooting advice, as well as simply giving support and encouragement. 45 partners across 20 states unified by a common cause, all pulling together is perhaps one of the most significant achievements of this campaign. What is perhaps of most consequence is the strong sense of unity that was fostered through this journey that continues to sustain and is a great resource for undertaking any programs in the future.



REFLECTIONS FROM UNMANIFESTO MEET

“Everyone and everything that shows up in our life is a reflection of something that is happening inside of us.” And what better way to make this reflection an even more beautiful experience than by listening to others’ experiences – their reflections.

The unManifesto program has been a massive campaign in its scope and reach. Its reach and impact have been touched upon at various points in this report. However, the campaign would be incomplete without creating a space for contemplation and reflection – to look back on the journey and think about the experiences, the learning’s and discoveries, the challenges. An emphasis on learning was at the very core of the entire unManifesto campaign and it was imperative to ensure a learning and reflection space at the end. After all learning is the greatest thing and to miss out on sharing this learning would be an opportunity lost.

It is with this objective in mind that a reflection meeting was organized at the end of the My Space – My unManifesto campaign. This was designed as a space where the unManifesto partners from across the country came together to look back on the previous seven months, to share their experiences, celebrate the successes and reflect on what they learned about themselves, about their work and about what they could do better in the future.

The unManifesto reflection meeting was an evening full of stories and experiences where the partners and everyone involved with the campaign came together to share their part of the story and discuss the journey ahead. Through interactive and engaging sessions this meeting created a platform where partners together wove the unManifesto ‘story’ through their anecdotes of change making it rich and beautiful by stitching it with their experience.

Everyone had an experience to share and every story made the experience richer.

Venkatesh Srinivasan, Assistant Representative UNFPA connected the dots by sharing a funder’s point of view and said, *“Initially I wondered if we would be able to meet the goals set and work with 45 partners across the country for such an ambitious campaign. But when I met the team, the SEED (Core Committee) members and partners I gained confidence and had faith that the team will be able to deliver what they have proposed. I was surprised to see in one small scale event in Delhi an unManifesto Ambassador Vinit invited a representative from a national political party who engaged with the youth directly and answered all the tough questions. I now proudly talk about our massive reach and impact wherever I go. It was truly a tremendous campaign which delivered to its core.”*

Saudamini Pandey from CYC shared, *“In Delhi where I live and work everywhere I go I have internet access. Its a part of life that I take for granted. It was when I spoke to the partners working in remote parts of the country that I realized how privileged we are. It is then I realized that what I take for granted is not available everywhere. In many areas where they work internet is not easy to access. To send a single mail they have to travel far. It was then I realized the ground reality. It was then that i realized where the campaign is taking place and how important it was.”*

“Without reflection, we go blindly on our way, creating more unintended consequences, and failing to achieve anything useful.”



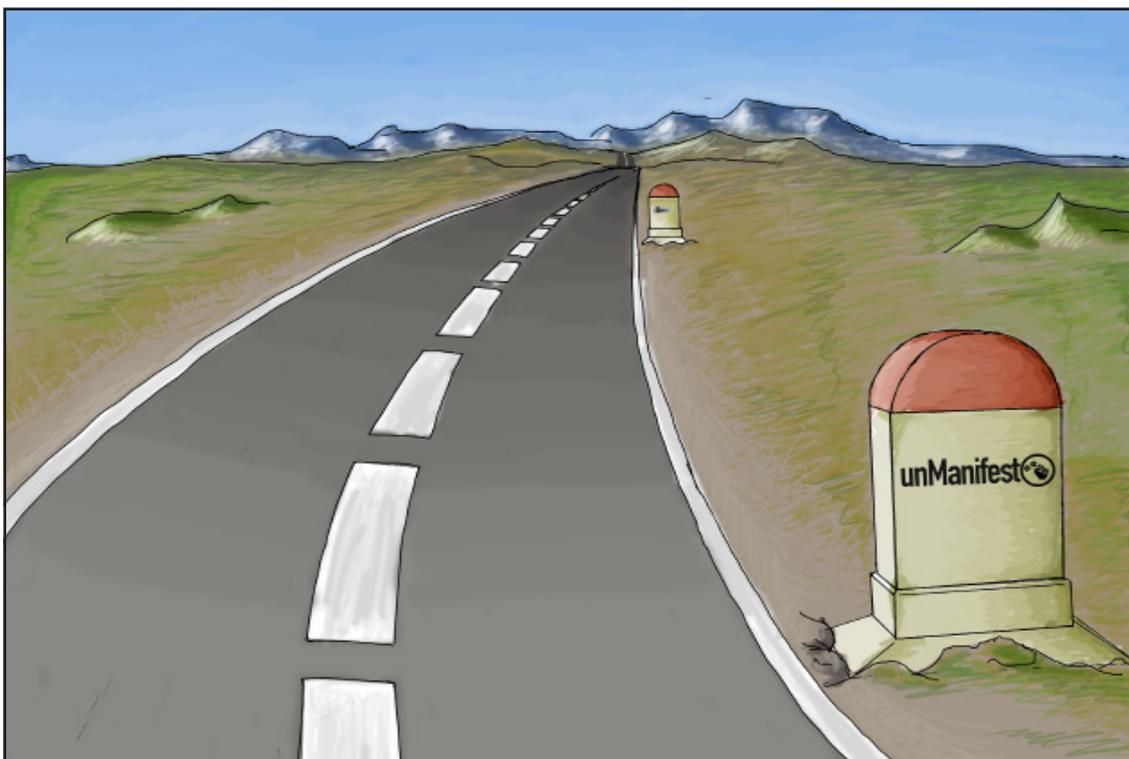
THE JOURNEY AHEAD

The unManifesto campaign has drawn to a close with the Lok Sabha Elections that commenced on April 7th 2014. These elections have seen record turn out in almost all parts of the country. Young voters have turned out in large numbers to do their part in in shaping India's future for the next 5 years. The unManifesto campaign has put its drop into this ocean through its efforts in 22 states and 2 Union Territories, reaching 14. 5 youth from diverse socioeconomic and political contexts, and taking their voices to 100 politicians from 15 political parties.

However, while the campaign may have reached its end the journey is far from over. Partners all over the country continue to hold reflective and feedback sessions with young people they worked with. All partners have done their own analysis of party manifestos to see how they have been influenced by our youth manifesto.

Partners have expressed an interest in developing ways in to build the unManifesto vision into their other programs. Sandeep Mehto, Bharat Calling in M.P says, *“There has been such great response from young people for this campaign that we don't feel that this should just end here. We have already built in some aspects of the unManifesto workshop sessions into our annual Summer School program. I think this is a very important area that needs to be worked out in order for their to be real change. We will find ways of making sure that we build this into our other programs...”*

Other partners echo similar thoughts. What began as a campaign with a start and a finish has become something much larger. The value of youth embracing politics and willingness of politicians to hear their voices is a major success for the campaign. The next step would be to build programs to ensure that the momentum that unManifesto gained in not lost and that young people continue to act and participate to make the democracy function in the best way possible.



TESTIMONIALS

"We arranged for two street plays in Ahmedabad which reached out to approximately 300 people. Just after the second play at the Law Garden, a group of senior citizens approached us and indulged in aggressive discussion with the actors of the play. Most of them were trying hard to discourage young actors by dismissing the political system of the country. In this chaos and out of the blue an old gentleman approached us and stated that he loved our play and really appreciated what we were doing. He donated whatever money he had in his pocket. The two minutes of engagement with this gentleman was extremely emotional for all the participants and it rebuilt our faith in the process of empowering youth."



Gaurang Raval (Sauhard):



"Young Men Christian Association (YMCA,) one of our partners, initiated unManifesto campaign in Churachanpur district of Manipur. Following which they received a call from the Home Secy. of one of an underground group who thought that the campaign was for a particular candidate and therefore they threatened YMCA. YMCA showed the article published on the unManifesto journey in the local newspaper and explained to them what the campaign was about. Despite the journey being tough but we had to carry forward and we did it with great success getting great response from young people involved."

Hejang (Bosco Institute):

"The very experience of working on ground was new and different for the youth. The young people participated in the process of manifesto making through mass meetings, one to one interactions, door to door awareness, public discussions, converging with other organizations and reaching out specifically to marginalised sections of youth. The campaign has reflected leadership that the young adults are ready to take up even after we withdraw from the scene."



Sugandha Munshi (Priyadarshini)



“In the course of the unManifesto journey, the communities have enlisted their aspirations. These aspirations are about their dreams and the status they want to have in the society. One of the basic wish is to attain dignity and be accepted as they are. Further on, the promise list includes basic needs such as living a normal and peaceful life and most importantly be free from violence. As a child of one of the didis (sex workers) living in GB road said “Why is it that my mother is not treated well by the police and customers? Who gives them the right to beat her, why does no one realize that she is a mother as well?” This campaign has given them a platform and a voice to put forth their demand and actually be heard.”

Gitanjali Babbar (Kat- Katha)

“The unManifesto journey generated so much political enthusiasm and energy amongst the transgender community in Delhi that when SC passed the judgment recognising them as a third gender they all felt that it was a result of their political engagement with manifesto making process.”



Sarita (Kat- Katha & Pahal)



Nikhil Dey in context of unManifesto journey and its objective called out to the youth and stated that “Loktantra roz chalaein, chunav ke din bhi chalaein, chunav ke pehle bhi chalaein, aur chunav ke baad bhi chalai” (Make this democracy function everyday, on the day of the elections, before the elections and even after the elections)

Nikhil Dey (Guest Speaker-Mega Event)

TESTIMONIALS

"We had a very unique experience of working with tribal girls through unManifesto journey. We had gone to the field full of prejudices regarding the illiteracy of girls on the issues of politics and community development. But when we reached there it was a whole new experience as the girls very confidently raised their demands. Their demands ranged from repairing of the broken houses in their areas to cleaning of the sewage and gutters as it leads to health problems to provision of foster care for orphaned children of the village. It was an eye-opener has to how young girls think of their community's development and social change."



Sandeep Mehto (Bharat Calling)



"Firstly, I would like to thank you for associating Halabol with the unManifesto campaign. At a personal level, it was indeed a great experience for me to work with your enthusiastic team and meeting new people at all your events. Honestly, I was never too engrossed in country's politics before unManifesto happened to me. It felt great to see hundreds of youngsters coming together to repair the bad political condition of the country by speaking up their minds."

Harvinder (Halabol)

"There is such enthusiasm among the young people. We never imagined that this would be the kind of response that we would get. Girls who never even spoke before were coming ahead and speaking up."



Shariq Ahmad (YES Foundation)



“The unManifesto campaign has been a tremendous learning experience for the entire team. Handling a campaign of this magnitude has been an example of great teamwork and commitment within the team. The campaign has helped us build strong partnerships with organisations across the country through working closely with them, and creating a space for co creation and co leadership.”

Mahamaya Navlakha, ComMutiny the Youth Collective

“The magic of any campaign lies on the impact that it has on the ground. The ground includes everyone, including those who hold and run the campaign. There are many ways in which we know this campaign has impacted every young person that we have reached out to. The litmus test that it passed however was that it changed things within. Suddenly we were challenged in our own notions of politics and politicians. The lunch table discussions moved from simply bashing one politician after another to actually asking questions around manifestos and issues. this was probably the first time that almost everyone in office spent hours debating who they should vote for.

As youth development professionals, this campaign enabled us to walk our talk and see democracy as more than just the day of voting. And all of this happened while we were engaging other adolescents and young people from diverse backgrounds in the process and listening to their realities... we transformed while facilitating the transformation of others.. magic!”



Neha Buch, Pravah

ANNEXURES

ANNEXURE 1

LIST OF COALITION PARTNERS FROM ALL OVER INDIA

| STATE | PARTNERS |
|----------------|---|
| ANDHRA PRADESH | Pravah Pahal |
| ASSAM | Bosco Institute Youth Empowering Space |
| BIHAR | CSEI Diksha Foundation Priyadarshini |
| CHHATTISGARH | Ekta Parishad |
| DELHI | Pravah Kat-Katha Halabol Got Stared.at Youth Alliance Youth Ki Awaaz Satark Nagrik Sangathan Vishwa Yuvak Kendra Vinit Dubey (unManifesto Ambassador) |
| GUJARAT | Sauhard |
| JHARKHAND | SEEDS Manthan Yuva Sansthan |
| KARNATAKA | Reap Benefit |
| MADHYA PRADESH | Synergy Sansthan Pravah Anhad Bharat Calling Agrini |
| MAHARASHTRA | Saher |
| ODISHA | Patang |
| PUDUCHERRY | Audacious Dreams |
| RAJASTHAN | Kaivalya Education Foundation Pravah Jaipur Initiative ALFA Educational Society Lalit Joshi (Gandhi fellow) |
| TAMIL NADU | Audacious dreams |
| UTTAR PRADESH | Milaan YES Foundation |
| WEST BENGAL | Prantakatha |

THE DELHI BASED COALITION PARTNERS :



Pravah is an organization based in New Delhi, India, working to impact issues of social justice through youth citizenship action. It works with adolescents, youth and diverse groups like youth organizations and institutions working directly with young people.

Website: <http://pravah.org>



Youth Alliance is working to build a movement of young leaders equipped to meet India's problems by designing processes to identify young individuals with a spark to think innovatively for the larger social good.

Website: <http://youthallianceofindia.org>



Manzil is a non-profit organisation located in Khan Market which empowers children and youth by providing resources and a platform to learn, teach and be creative, and see the world in new ways.

Website: <http://manzil.in>



Satark Nagrik Sangathan (SNS) is a citizens' group with a mandate to promote transparency and accountability in government functioning and to encourage active participation of citizens in governance. SNS is an independent non-governmental organization and is not affiliated to, or supported by, any political party.

Website: <http://www.snsindia.org>



Kat-Katha's vision is to present a series of "life choices" to women and children living in G.B Road, Delhi brothels and instill "confidence" in them to design and act towards a life of their choice.

Website: <http://katkathaa.wordpress.com/>



Jagori informs, inspires and empowers women's in India. Their endeavour is to reach out to the main constituency, women in increasingly innovative ways, majority of who are not educated.

Website: <http://jagori.org>



Gandhi Fellowship: To create a large network of long-term change leaders with the courage to solve problems facing India.

Kaivalya Education Foundation (KEF) is an education leadership organisation, running three innovative programmes that work in synergy on the "be the change principle". KEF is turning around government schools through the Principal Leadership Development Programme (PLDP), which supports primary school headmasters develop the skills and ability to drive a change in themselves and their schools.

PARTNERS ACROSS INDIA:



Pravah Jaipur Initiative, Jaipur, works for youth development



Pravah Anhad, Indore, works for youth development



ALFA Educational Society, Udaipur, works on issues of governance and communal harmony



Milaan, Sitapur, works for the upliftment of rural women and youth



Patang, Odisha, works for youth development



Synergy Sansthan, Harda, the organization is working in the socially backward areas of the Harda district in Madhya Pradesh



Ekta Parishad, Chattisgarh, works with communities to impact issues on environment



Prantakatha, Kolkata, is a civil society organisation which works on promoting active citizenship.

PARTNERS ACROSS INDIA:



Sauhard, Ahmedabad, aims to sensitize and mobilize Youth to be actively involved in issues concerning society and facilitate the use of various platforms to identify issues and develop strategies to offer young people alternatives, create a cadre of youth leaders, community leaders and teachers who would facilitate peace promotion processes with the youth.



Diksha Foundation, Patna, is a not-for-profit organization established to help facilitate education and empowerment of the economically and socially underprivileged.



Reap Benefit, Bangalore, is a social enterprise with a prime object of making going green a habit through personal transformation and systemic changes.



Bharat Calling close to Itarsi, (M.P.), connects SC/ST and other underprivileged youth to higher education and helps work with them on their self development.



Agrini, Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, AGRINI works to bring advanced learning techniques and awareness for Indian students, as well as finding and testing innovative ideas that can add value to quality and reachability of education to rural students.



Audacious dreams, Vellore, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry - the foundation aims to inspire, inform, engage, enable and empower youth for global understanding and sustainable development by using various measures starting from mutual dialogue, education, sports, rural development, policy making, adolescent health, environment, women empowerment, social entrepreneurship, vocational training etc.



Center for Social equity and Inclusion (CSEI) Patna, Bihar, aims to build an independent and sustainable platform of Dalit and Adivasi students where they will continuously strive to access education, take up higher education, get socially, legally and politically aware to fight against the exclusion and discrimination based on caste and class towards living a life with respect and dignity.

PARTNERS ACROSS INDIA:



Yeh Ek Soch Foundation, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, it has been working on the issues of street sexual harassment/gender stereotypes and youth development. We are a team of young development practitioners from different social fields who are ably supported by young people from various Colleges/Universities.



Priyadarshini, Patna, Bihar



Socio Economic and Education Development Society (SEEDS), Jamshedpur, Jharkhand



Manthan Yuva Sansthan, Ranchi, Jharkhand

OUR ONLINE PARTNERS:



Youth Ki Awaaz (YKA) is India's largest online and mobile platform for young people to express themselves on issues of importance. YKA is striving to transform the media landscape through thoughtful opinions contributed by young people, and by making best use of online and mobile journalism, social and new media tools.

Website: <http://www.youthkiawaaz.com>



Halabol is an online platform and a space which aims at bringing likeminded people together and making an impact collectively! Thus, help in supporting and solving various problems which, the sensitive Indian, rather neglect otherwise. It is a 'go-to' platform for all those who conceive enthusiasm, anger, regret or happiness in their minds in support or against these issues in the world around them.

Website: <http://www.halabol.com>



GotStared. At is a counter culture movement that raises awareness on social issues of violence, gender and discrimination. They are a group of pro-active liberals, rebels, thinkers and activists who question the status quo; and believe in the power of the internet to reach out.

Website: <http://www.gotstared.at>

OUR COLLABORATORS:



PRS Legislative Research (PRS) seeks to strengthen the legislative process by making it better informed, more transparent and participatory.

Website: <http://www.prsindia.org>



Wada Na Todo Abhiyaan (WNTA) is a national campaign to hold the government accountable to its promise to end poverty and social exclusion. WNTA is doing a people's manifesto across seven cities in India. Our youth un-manifesto will finally merge with the people's manifesto.

MEDIA RELATIONS PARTNER:



Wishbox Studios is a full service dedicated public relations company offering an exhaustive range of services to meet strategic communication needs in a challenging operating environment.

Website: www.wishboxstudio.com

ANNEXURE 2

UNMANIFESTO WORKSHOP MODULE

MIND JOG

Film Screenings:

- 18 TILL I DIE
- NETA VS APPLE

(Facilitate responses to the film or do a live vox-pop on the same question as NETA v/s APPLE with the participants)

Key takeaways:

- How do young people invest their time these days?
- We are claiming politics as a 5th space where we can learn more about ourselves by acting in the political arena.

PERSONAL CONNECT

Discussion: “I was on road and I suddenly remembered the flush was leaking and I didn’t turn the tap off. What will I do?” (Take responses)

“The flush that was leaking is not my bathroom but my college bathroom. How many of us would do the same as before? (Take responses)

Share your own story/concern where you did not act. (Could be anything from drainage system, bad roads or a dissatisfying relationship with my family member)

Key takeaways: My Circle of concern can be as narrow as I want it to be. How much ownership do I usually take?

[According to Stephen R. Covey, the technique of circle of concern is good for separating out lower from higher priorities, and gaining ownership for action. A Circle of Concern encompasses the wide range of concerns we have, such as our health, our children, problems at work, the amount of government borrowing, or threat of war]

INFORMATION EXCHANGE

PART I

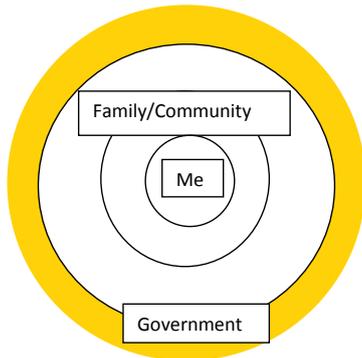
• Am I a politician?

(Share a provocative dilemma story that can elicit examples from real life. For eg: in a family, a boy is allowed to stay out late or go for a holiday with his friends whereas it’s a strict No-No for a girl, etc. Everyone shares their own story)

Key Takeaway: I am an everyday politician and am very political in my day to day dealings with people around me.

WHAT IS POLITICS? (Taking responses from participants and linking them to their dilemma story)

Key takeaway: Politics is nothing but “Organising groups and influencing decision making, politics is everywhere, at home, at college, school, offices, etc.” and we are doing this every day.



Understanding politics; what you do at micro level i.e. ME collating, strategizing, manipulating etc is done at FAMILY level by the head of the family and also by the government at the macro/national level. (Self to society)

Key Takeaways from the entire session:

- When we are so political in our daily lives, why do we shy away from the electoral politics.
- Let our circle of influence be our circle of concern. [A Circle of Influence encompasses concerns that we can do something about i.e. concerns that we have some control over.]
- When we limit our concerns to our family or everyday politics then we don't improve our skills and ability to influence. So if we see electoral politics too as a concern area (and you don't have a choice since everything in your everyday life is connected - girls safety to food on the table) then you don't grow as a human being.
- End the session by screening a film “Who's Corrupt? Known But Untold!”

PART II

Workshop by PRS Legislative Research on manifestos and legislations (What is a manifesto, How is it made, how does a promise become a legislation?)

INFORMATION APPLICATION

- Sharing the existing Top 10 un-manifesto promises.
- Vote for your top 3 from those top 10.
- Split in 5-10 groups. Each group debates on each promise.
- Take promises (explain what should a promise be like: Specific, Actionable, concrete, should not be vague, of community/country benefit, can be converted into a law)

REAL WORLD CONNECT

- Each participant reaches out to 10 more young people around them, get their promises and mail them to the facilitator along with their names and nos.
- Tell them that their promises will be handed over to the politicians either in a public event or of-line conversations. The participants should stay connected to the facilitator and analyze the actual manifestos when they are made public to check whether our demands are taken in or not.
- End the day by a broken squares game (those organizations who have the materials) or DIRECTIONS GAME. [Instructions for the DIRECTIONS GAME: All the participants are asked to look at the room carefully, map it and then stand in a circle. They are blindfolded and then given instructions like 'move two steps to the right', 'right about turn', 'turn left', etc, In the end everyone is asked to point towards the door and then remove their blindfolds to check whether they are pointing in the right direction.

Key takeaways from this activity:

In life, I keep on moving according to the directions given to me, without questioning and also without clearly looking. I don't even reflect on where I am headed. Am I really moving in the direction I want to go? Or just following someone else's instructions in a blindfolded manner?

ANNEXURE 3

UNMANIFESTO ONLINE INFOGRAPHIC

Online Data on Engagement with unManifesto Journey



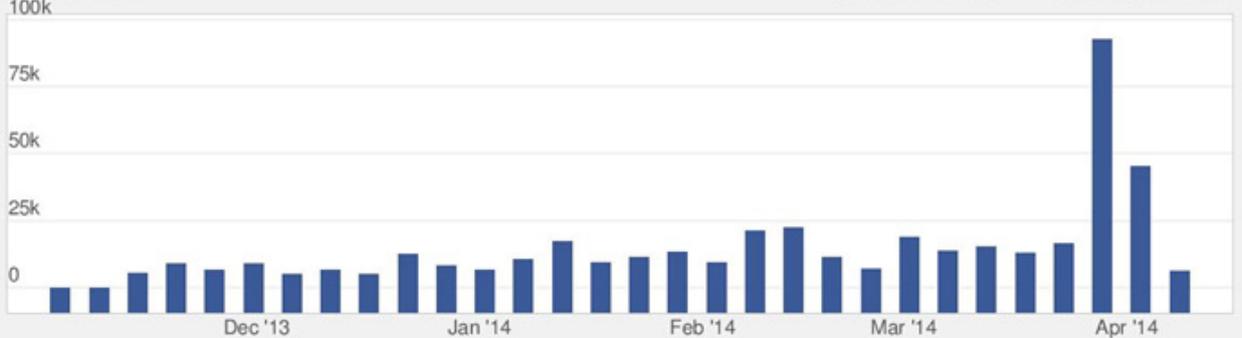
FACEBOOK PAGE REPORT from November 1, 2013 - April 10, 2014

f unManifesto

FAN GROWTH 1.98k Total Likes, and 1.02k people talking about this New Fans 1.9k Unliked your Page 38



PAGE IMPRESSIONS Impressions 426,423 by 212,660 users



IMPRESSION DEMOGRAPHICS Here's a quick breakdown of people engaging with your Facebook Page



ANNEXURE 4

UNMANIFESTO ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Youth Ki Awaaz (Screen Shots)

YOUTH KI AWAAZ
Mouthpiece for the Youth

Society ▾

Politics ▾

Environment ▾

Education ▾

Culture ▾

World ▾

Submit



Initiated by Commutiny, The Youth Collective and supported by UNFPA, unManifesto culminated with over 45 partner organizations, including Youth Ki Awaaz, to create India's largest youth manifesto. The idea was to open up the manifesto making promises of various political parties, find out what the youth [of the](#) country is demanding, and deliver it to the decision makers of various political parties. Over the course of the last 9 months (August 2013 to April 2014), unManifesto reached over 2 million young people online, about 120,000 young people on-ground and collected over 70,000 demands from young people. After a voting process held on the culminating event of unManifesto on 28th March, 2014, the top 10 promises came out. These promises, as a part of an unManifesto have been submitted to over 100 politicians across parties and regions. Find below the top 10 promises.

Top 10 unManifesto promises



1. Mandate youth participation in democratic processes



2. Make [education](#) relevant and impactful.



3. Take strong steps to ensure [safety](#) and dignity of [women](#)

YOUTH KI AWAAZ
Mouthpiece for the Youth

Society ▾

Politics ▾

Environment ▾

Education ▾

Culture ▾

World ▾

Submit

DEBATE: Should Indian Voters Have The "Right To Recall Their Elected Candidates?"

YOUTH KI AWAAZ
Mouthpiece for the Youth

Society ▾

Politics ▾

Environment ▾

Education ▾

Culture ▾

World ▾

Submit



Gunjan Kumari · Follow · DAW

It is about expectations of the people from the public representatives and people desire for bringing a qualitative change, shift from the present rot to a better future where the representative work only for the betterment of its citizens and Undoubtedly the right to reject and recall idea will keep the threat dangling over our leaders head that if they don't deliver their promises or manifesto, they may lose their seat of "power". And the time has come that our leaders should now realize that they can not take the voters for granted any more and need to be clean in their conduct. The time has come to make the " MANGO PEOPLE" the true masters of their destiny.

Reply · Like · 1 · Follow Post · April 22 at 11:51am



Yaduvanshi Ankit · Follow · Internship at Astrophysics and Space Science

I agree.. We must have right to recall our elected candidates. But there should be some proper measures for it. Since common people may take a few decisions getting emotional. So we need to have a true reason for the change as well. Also there should be some measure to not to let a rejected candidate to get a chance of standing in an election many times. There should be some small limit defined for that. Also re-election shouldn't be happening everyday, so there should be some small time limit defined before which people won't be able to call for re-election like a year(Utmost).



Yeah Right to recall promotes democracy and also a much needed step for today's game of politics..but however it will make the whole system of democracy more complex. People will start to form masses and play unfair game of majoritarianism which itself is against the concept of democracy just think of a situation when election commission has to conduct election regularly after 1-2 month in the constituencies. It will bring a lot of chaos to the society itself. As a remedy to this there should be transparency in the political parties and a supervising committee which is unbiased may help to solve the problem to quite an extent.:-)

Reply · Like · Follow Post · April 10 at 12:24am



Preetika Bhatnagar · ITM UNIVERSITY, GURGAON

No point in giving the masses more of 'Rights', if they cant implement most of them, rather than spending huge amount on re-election better to make your decision in the first go! Most of the people won't be satisfied with the work of a politician and will keep recalling, so a big no! Empowering the authorities who supervise the work of a politician and an unbiased system in place would solve the problem to quite an extent.

Reply · Like · Follow Post · March 16 at 1:18pm



Jaipal Kummari · Follow · Rk valley

how did u get conclusion of masses not using RIGHTS if u think that is all cost then why should u vote for MLA for five

ANNEXURE 5

SNAPSHOTS FROM THE UNMANIFESTO CAMPAIGN





YOUTH MANIFESTO

Well on the track of democracy

Why should youngsters just be content with the voting process rather than be active participants in all the twists and turns of the political story? Why not make the political world a space of experiential learning for the young people and prepare them to take action in the electoral arena? Certainly, when all hopes and expectations are pinned on the youngsters these questions need to be answered. It is with this intent that several youth organisations came up with the idea of roping in youngsters and involve them as key players in the process of democracy and encouraging them to craft their own 'Manifesto'.



POLITICALLY-ACTIVE With debates, street theatre and flash mobs, Commuting-The Youth Collective engaged youngsters in crafting manifestos.

Since last year Commuting-The Youth Collective has been working on 'My Space-My Unmanifesto', through which lakhs of young people have opened up about issues that need to be addressed by the Government. The campaign is popular on internet but to engage more people from different walks of life, age groups, the volunteers of the Unmanifesto programme recently organised 'Music for Harmony', a day-long event at

Dilli Haat. From debates on democracy to gigs, street theatre and flash mob, the event was replete with activities by the youngsters and for the youngsters.

The team conducted an array of exciting activities engaging the young crowd present at the venue. Starting with a debate, an interesting suggestion was placed before the audience- 'Young people do not have the experience to govern, so they will mess

things up' which led to an interesting and participatory discussion with the audience on the role of youth in democracy and governance. While some among the gathering were of the opinion that young people should be trained and given a place, others felt that youngsters were ill-equipped to handle responsibility.

Making the programme more interesting was 'Weather-tation', an online event

where the audience had to immediately post their demands on the social networking sites. Many had placed 'women's security' right on top, followed by 'make voting mandatory for all'.

Thereafter, students of Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC) staged a *nukkad natak* on the social awakening of the general public. The play was a satire on those who take democracy lightly. Also, there were gigs by bands like Manzil, Stereonoid. Since engaging general public in such participatory events is not an easy task, these bands played their role commendably.

Jaya Sudha, a young participant says, "I think the coming year is going to see tremendous youth participation on many issues. Such activities are important to encourage and enthuse young people to be active in the political process. I don't mean they have to become politicians but they do have to be active and aware citizens." Archana Mishra



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ABOUT LEADERSHIP SCHOLARS FELLOWSHIPS PUBLICATIONS THE MEDIA VERDICT

YOUTH SPEAK
Expecting Beyond the Unexpected

Shivani Gupta Jun 5, 2014
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Panelists addressing the youth on the mega event. (From left) to right) Gouran, the moderator, Dr. Jolly (BJP), Arun Mohan (Youth Worker Congress). Photo: Contributing the media network.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, which rode to power on the back of popular disenchantment, has a lot to deliver to keep up its poll promises. With the youth emerging as an important constituency, Shivani Gupta urges the government to go beyond poll promises and chalk out tangible policies based on a nation-wide pre-election exercise, which came up with charter of demands that reflect the younger generation's aspirations.

A new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government has been voted to power, with its main constituent, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), emerging as a party commanding a majority in parliament on its own. This political victory is not only the result of an impressive publicity campaign by the party, but also the disillusionment that people felt with the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government. While the old government has left the nation with many cases of corruption and a highly debatable performance on inclusive growth, the new government's victory has been its claims to development, good governance and accountability.

The vote share of the BJP is around 32 per cent. This has led to a spate of media opinions that swing between hopefulness and cynicism with regard to the new government. The optimism is that India will become a new model of development to reckon with. Realists fear the threat of minorities losing their basic rights. If we move out of these polarised debates then the need of the hour is to look at the promises that were made by the BJP in its Manifesto.

In a newspaper article, Syed Mohammed Ali says, "Manifestos are meant to provide a roadmap highlighting the unique vision of different political parties for tackling major challenges facing particular countries. Political manifestos can thus provide a tangible means for voters to assess and reward political parties on the basis of their performance, which is vital for countries like our own where democratic governance is still a fragile and evolving phenomenon." Political manifestos are a narrative to voice the success and achievements of

Delhi Age

City diary
Music For Harmony



Celebration of harmony

To inspire youth to become a part of democracy, a day-long event was organised to celebrate and promote the message of peace and harmony at Dilli Haat recently. A Youth Collective, "My space - My unManifesto" - movement that kick-started by bringing together 300 young minds to discuss their vision for the world they want to co-create has now spread across 15 states in the country. People from different realms of the arts came together to celebrate peace under the theme of 'colours of peace'. Music, theatre, dance and exhibits were organised by Pravah volunteers.

मतदान के लिए किया जागरूक

♦ महिला पीजी कॉलेज में मजबूत लोकतंत्र युवा भागीदारी विषय पर कार्यशाला

जागरण संवाददाता, लखनऊ : हम अपने लिए छोटी सी चीज खरीदने से पहले उसे सौ बार परखते हैं और फिर जाकर उसका चुनाव करते हैं। मगर वोट देते समय क्या हम इस बात का खयाल रखते हैं? कुछ इन्हीं सवालों के साथ महिला विद्यालय पीजी कॉलेज में मजबूत लोकतंत्र युवा भागीदारी विषय पर एक दिवसीय कार्यशाला का आयोजन किया गया। एक निजी संस्था मिलान की ओर से आयोजित इस कार्यशाला में प्रमुख वक्ता जावेद अब्बास ने छात्राओं को पूरे अभियान के बारे में बताया और तीन लघु फिल्मों दिखाकर युवाओं के राजनीति में भागीदारी और राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधि के रूप में उनकी भूमिका पर रोशनी डाली। वहीं छात्राओं ने भी वक्ताओं से राजनीति में अपनी भूमिका के बारे में कई सवाल पूछे। कुछ छात्राओं ने तो चुनावों में सक्रिय भागीदारी करने की भी बात कही। कार्यशाला



में विद्यालय की शिक्षिका डा. रुपा रानी ने बताया कि अभियान में शामिल होने के लिए करीब 180 छात्राओं ने अपना पंजीकरण कराया है। इस अभियान का मकसद आगामी लोकसभा चुनावों में मतदान के लिए युवाओं को जागरूक करना, उनके विचारों को राजनीतिक दलों के घोषणापत्र तक पहुंचाना तथा महिलाओं की राजनीतिक सहभागिता बढ़ाना है।



About ComMutiny – The Youth Collective

At CYC we work for youth development and together advocate for young people’s participation and leadership. We seed inspiration and support by believing passionately in the right and power of young people to envision a future and act in the present. We co-create 5th spaces for the young to learn, self enquire, stumble, reinvent and take action to craft the world they want to live in - outside and within. We are a collectively held space rich with ideas and experiences that span the ages. We believe the first mutiny is within. Of this journey and exploration unManifesto has been a big part.



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