

# vartaLeap: Every Young Person A Jagrik And Every Space Nurturing Jagriks

*A Youth Work Vikalp Sangam*



**From left to Right:**

Row 1: Meenakshi Gupta, Ajay Pandit, Navendu Mishra, Abhishek Mazumdar, Zabi Darnei, Gobinda Dalai, Akshit Jain, Rachita Sinha, Kejal Sajla

Row 2: Bappaditya Mukherjee, Ashish Kothari, Meenu Venkateshwaran, Anshu Gupta, Ashraf Patel, Eva Wallensteiner, Avinash Kumar, Samina Bano, Moxada Singh, Aadya Singh, Durba Chose, Zulfiquar Haider, Mohd Zeeshan

Row 3: Arjun Shekhar, Ramnarayan Syag, Ujwal Thakar, Anurag Hoon, Priyanka Sarkar, Pallavi Kaushal, Fr Jerry Thomas

**Co-conveners:** ComMutiny, Ashoka Innovators for Public, Youth Vikalp Sangam

**Supported By:** DKA Austria

**Members:** Himalaya Collective, The Logical Indian, Synergy, Goonj, Manzil Mystics, Pravah, Kalpvriksh, MKSS, Prantakatha, Mithika, Bosco Institute, Yuva Vikas, BRM, Yeh Ek Soch Foundation, APPI, Agrini, You Can, Jan Sahas, Right Walk, Rupantaran.

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# ABOUT vartaLeap

## **The Objective:**

The vartaLeap retreat was envisaged as a confluence of youth workers towards making common meaning of the world's paradoxes that are curbing the potentiality of humanity through a 5th Space exploration at various levels of the self and the social narratives with a view to inform and learn from the Alternatives Framework.

Through this three day workshop, we aim to create a necessary space for reflection and action among youth workers so that we can strengthen our practice and also advocate for youth-centric development as an alternative way itself.

There were 32 participants who represented a good intergenerational mix from a range of organizations working.

## **The process:**

**vartaLoop:** Revisiting recent experiments to deepen the dialogue towards relating these experiences to the Alternatives framework and discuss how the 5th Space on youth centric approach can offer a way of experiencing and communicating experiments of the youth work practitioners and their alternatives.

**vartaLeap:** Creating an exchange on alternatives and also an alternative way of thinking and being by looking at paradoxes and keep shifting away from the typical linear problem solving approaches. Creating a space for enquiring on why alternatives are important as also how they can possibly gather greater momentum and co-creating the common authentic story of social hope.

**vartaLab:** Articulating new algorithms to promote youth-centric development as an alternativeway of engaging with young people and nurture wellbeing and consciousness that is plural, secular, enquiring, co-led in both institutional and non-institutional spaces of practice.

**vartaLet:** Sharing journeys of inspiration and change by experienced individuals coming from different works of life.

*With mehfil, bird watching, safari, Togetherness Table and lots of refreshing time.*

***Extracted from a detailed concept note shared as annexure..***

## **The Outcome:**

There were a lot of rich discussions and powerful sessions on perspectives and personal stories. The vartaLeap culminated with a lot of inspiration and energy and a concrete collaborative action plan to enable the creation of a large cohort of future looking wholesome leaders with a long term preventive mindset. The final outcomes and group initiatives are attached in this report.

## **Way Forward:**

It is expected that individuals and groups and organizational representatives will take forward their committed actions in the sub groups and converge within a week or two of the retreat. The hub at ComMutiny will take the responsibility of coordinating with group coordinators to ensure further movements. The hub will also need to convene a group to work towards developing a proposal or proposals in earnest to incubate some of the ideas proposed at the vartaLeap as also the coalition itself and it's members.



# **EVERY YOUNG PERSON A JAGRIK\* AND EVERY SPACE NURTURING JAGRIKS**

*A Youth Work Vikalp Sangam*

*November 5 - 9, 2019 | Camp Hornbill, Village Kyari, Jim Corbett*

## **OBJECTIVES :**

- To strengthen and expand the coalition\*\* for promoting this new norm of making every young person a Jagrik and every space nurturing Jagriks
- To converge on alternatives that focus on youth centric development principles
- To innovate strategies for youth work to nurture youth leadership at scoul (Scale with Soul)
- To co-architect the coalition eco-system and to have each member opt in for role taking

## **OUTLINE**

### **DAY 1 - Nov 5: Arrival at camp at 6 PM**

Find your co-voyager in bus: Paired introduction in bus

Welcome address by Naveen Upadhyay and an inspirational talk by Manohar Singh Mandral from Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve

Evening mehfil with collective art and a round of introduction over Who am I? and Why am I here?

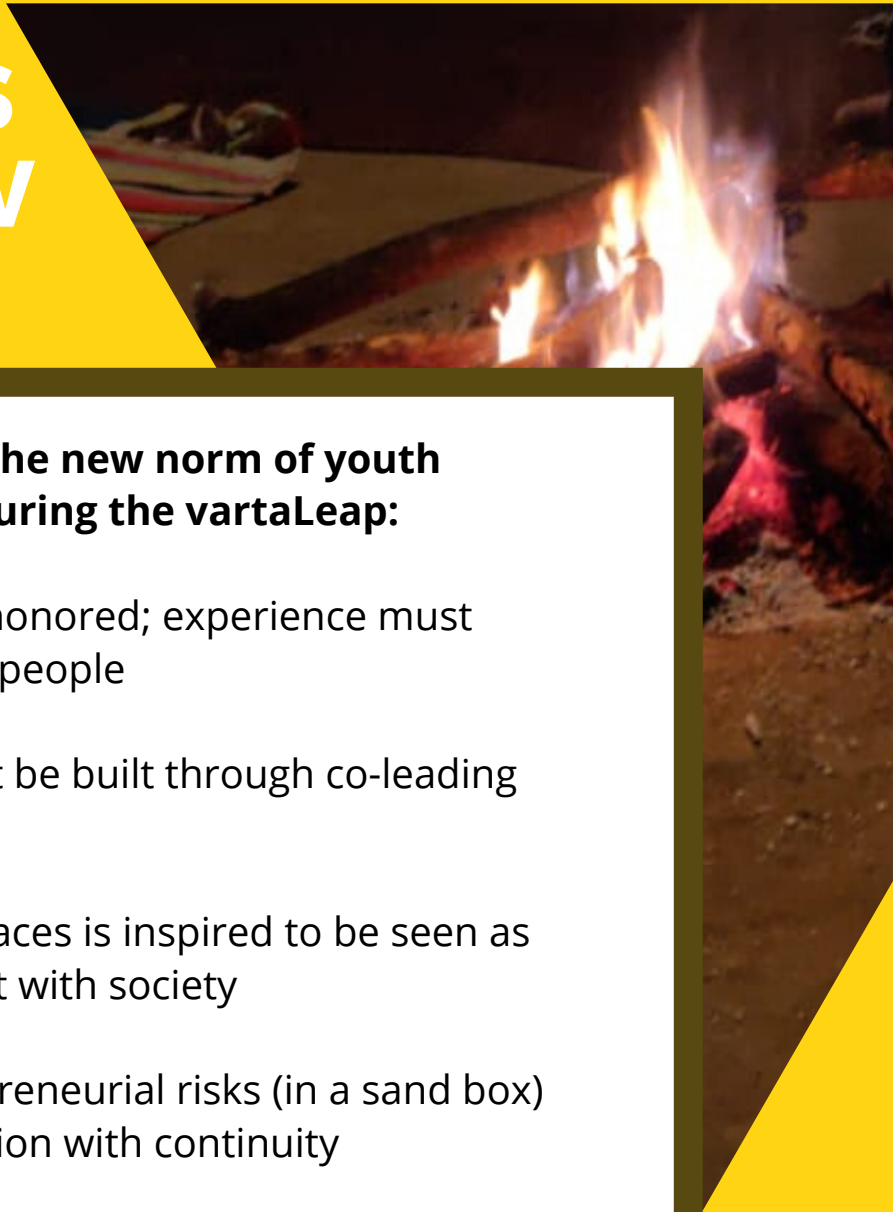
co-facilitators: Priyanka, Akshit, Smita, Zeeshan

DAY 2 - Nov 6	DAY 3 - Nov 7	DAY 4 - Nov 8
<b>1. vartaLoop Begins: Context Setting</b> - Lenses of viewing young people and it's limitations - Three things in our context that need to change in the way young people are viewed co-facilitators: Arjun, Meenu	<b>Jungle Safari</b> <b>4. Alternatives: The Vikalp Sangam Story</b> Ashish Kothari brings us onboard the ever growing and evolving Vikalp Sangam journey thus far in India and across the world.	<b>8. vartaColab: Co-Creating the Coalition Space</b> a) The Being - How does the space make us feel? How do we show up? - How do we communicate? How do we handle conflict? - How do we collaborate? b) The Doing - What's the dream? What are the objectives? - What are the offerings? What are the roles? - What can I commit to in the next six months? - What challenges will be faced? What paradoxes we have to live? - What are the alternatives? co-facilitators: Arjun, Bappa
<b>2. Transition to vartaLeap paradoxes: Innovations and Alternatives</b> - Moving from problem solving to paradox being. - Sharing innovations I've initiated or experienced that address these paradoxes (In my context and out of my context) co-facilitators: Arjun, Kejal, Ajay	<b>5. vartaLab: Case for Spaces</b> - Youth-hood essentials - Design Principles and FLOWING - AR - Innovation in youth spaces co-facilitators: Meenu, Durba	<b>9. vartaLet: Life of serendipity</b> Experiences and journey sharing by Ujwal Thakar
<b>3. Alternatives: The DKA Story</b> Eva Wallensteiner, Father Jerry Thomas and Zabi Darnei have an informal interaction to share the many innovations and alternatives in the DKA journey with their partners .	<b>6. vartaLet: The Goonj Story</b> Anshu Gupta and Meenakshi Gupta from Goonj share their personal journeys	<b>10. Closing the vartaLoop</b> co-facilitators: Priyanka, Akshit
<b>River Walk /Own Space</b>	<b>7. Open Space: Our Context Today</b>	<b>11. Togetherness Table</b> co-facilitators: Ashraf
<b>EVENING MEHFIL</b> Bonding over songs and stories	By Anshu Gupta and Ashish Kothari <b>EVENING MEHFIL</b> Bonding over songs, Dumb Charades and fireplace stories	Wrap up
<b>DAY 5 - Nov 9 - Departure by Bus at 2 PM in the afternoon – Arrival in Delhi at 9 PM</b>		

*\*Jagrik - The word Jagrik is a composite of two Hindi words – Jagruk and Nagrik - and signifies a proactive citizen who is awakened to their own potential. Jagriks are not only change makers but they also strive to BE the change.*

*\*\*Coalition - The coalition represents youth workers and young people in diverse sectors, geographies, identities and social and economic demographics.*

# PROTOCOLS OF THE NEW NORM



**These are the protocols for the new norm of youth development as discussed during the vartaLeap:**

**F** - Feelings of youth must be honored; experience must fulfill a visceral need of young people

**L** - Leadership capacities must be built through co-leading of the space with adults

**O** - Ownership of common spaces is inspired to be seen as taken as self is interdependent with society

**W** - Willingness to take entrepreneurial risks (in a sand box) is fostered - balancing disruption with continuity

**I** - Inclusion of all youth across caste, class, gender and religion is ensured

**N** - Now is seen as important as the future - the space rides on the zeitgeist of the time even as it creates new trends

**G** - Grounded in learning through action - refl-Action

--Added--

**A** - Active Listening

**R** - Reflective Action

# VALUES OF THE COALITION



**These are the list of values that emerged during the vartaLeap.**

Fun

Creativity

Freedom

Courage

Openness

Collaboration

Honesty

Empathy

Togetherness

Uniqueness

Authenticity

Inclusion

Love

Simplicity

Equity

Ecological  
Sustainability

# FINAL OUTCOMES

## Process:

The session began by everyone collating the wishes on what they want to see from this coalition and in an organic way the groups continuously converged and expanded like a snowball. Groups kept on collecting ideas and building consensus on the objectives of the coalition.

Following this, different people converged around the objectives that they felt most closely to and each group worked on developing the specific actions that would lend to the objectives and also invited commitments from members on the roles they would play. The group also put together the processes of engagement for each subgroup, when they would meet and what would be the governance and coordination mechanisms.

**Objective 1:** Enabling 'X' Young people by creating 'Y' members spaces & experience based on 'Z' values

**Objective 2:** Helping build deeper understanding of a Z context to take action and envisions a just equitable sustainable future.

Area	Role
<b>1. Coordination</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordination</li><li>• 2 time/month</li></ul>	Zeeshan
<b>2. Spaces</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yatra</li><li>• Learn from existing</li><li>• Embed from existing Camps</li><li>• Other international design Art fellowship – games club</li></ul>	Zeeshan, Ujwal, Anshu, Aadya, Zulfi, Meenu, Zabi
<b>3. Build and expand coalition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Listing and categorizing individual + organisations</li><li>• Student communities</li></ul>	Anshu, Ashraf, Aadya



Area	Role
<b>4. Values – List &amp; unpack</b>  <b>5. Deepening understanding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historical, political, cultural, social</li> <li>• Existing material and different media</li> <li>• Identify gaps – action on this – which speaks to youth</li> <li>• Mechanism for dissemination /outreach</li> <li>• Reposting, accessible</li> <li>• Media /Advocacy – people – curate strategy</li> </ul>	Ashraf       Zeeshan

**Objective 3a:** Build a pluralistic narrative on constitutional values/human values/Civilizational values.(Internally)

**Objective 3b:** Looking at political Issues/ Action through a humanistic Lens

Area	Role
<b>1.Positive stories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injected strategically</li> <li>• Stories that work of Democratization</li> <li>• Celebrating collective processes</li> </ul> <b>2. Perception Management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research consolidation - CSOs and SDGs</li> <li>• Using Lenses as a perspective</li> <li>• Understanding the need of PR for development sector organizations</li> <li>• How do we consolidate public support?</li> </ul> <b>3. Building support for organizations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urgency in Mapping process and Registering of societies</li> <li>• Democracy between institutions and internal democracy</li> <li>• Systematic process about understanding civil society, financial handling and the “fault lines”</li> <li>• Ecological sustainability: Self Audit and peer review</li> </ul>	Ashish Pallavi Samina Fr Jerry Kejal

**Objective 4:** Seeding the process of this humanistic coalition into 25 such platforms (through Learning, Challenges, Resources for members)

Area	Role
<b>1. Understanding the coalition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documenting values and objectives</li> <li>• Create a Tatva</li> <li>• Build on existing template</li> </ul>	Rachita Priyanka Samina
<b>2. Resource Bank</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a pool of resources</li> <li>• Translating them into vernacular languages</li> <li>• Proofreading of all resources</li> </ul>	Bappa, Akshit, Navendu, Gobinda
<b>3. Expansion of coalition</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying of organizations working at grassroots across country</li> <li>• Onboarding of the organizations</li> </ul>	Meenakshi Akshit

# PHOTO SUMMARY

**Day 1: Nov 5, 2019**

**Arrival**



*After an exhilarating 7 hour bus journey from Delhi to Ramnagar, Uttarakhand, we reached camp Hornbill as the sun was setting down. After a quick briefing by Naveen from Camp Hornbill, the group was inspired by the words of Manohar Singh Mandral from Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve. We then participated in the first activity of collective art; facilitated by Smita, Priyanka and Zeeshan; followed by a round of introduction. It was great to learn that the group came together with such zeal and diversity*

**Day 2: Nov 6, 2019**

**vartaLoop Begins: Context Setting**



*We started the day with the lemon grass visualization by Arjun that helped unpacked the psychosocial approach and the power of narrative and stories that young people are influenced by. After a quick recap on previous vartaLeap discussions, we had a powerful session on lenses for youth development. We worked in small groups to share the most critical wishes in the world we envision. The wishes were clustered in spaces of family, education, governance etc.*



**Day 2: Nov 6, 2019**

## **Transition to vartaLeap paradoxes: Innovations and Alternatives**



*Arjun began the session by using a polarization statement, the critical realization in the group was to frame issues as paradoxes instead of problems. We learnt about framing issues and telling stories to enhance the potential of young people and youth workers to create social change while understanding themselves and those who are different from them. We then engaged with photolanguage as everyone picked up cards to talk about innovations they have seen or created and also reflected on a turning point in their journey as a youth worker. This was facilitated by Ajay and Kejal*

**Day 2: Nov 6, 2019**

## **River Walk /Own Space**



*An intrinsic part of the vartaLeap was being immersed in nature and understanding the diversity and beauty of the world around us. So learning about the paradox of life from nature, we went for a walk and embraced the beauty of the setting sun. As conversations bloomed, the group became more comfortable with each other and the sense of belongingness deepened.*



**Day 2: Nov 6, 2019**  
**Alternatives: The DKA Story**



*We then moved towards a personal sharing by Eva, Zabi and Jerry as we all participated in a fun and engaging conversation about social space and the culture of learning for young people. It was beautiful to learn about partnerships through the perspective of relationship building from Eva and team. Jerry then talked about how failures should be celebrated and considered as a mark for growth and the wonderful idea of Hall of Failures in Bosco Institute.*

**Day 2: Nov 6, 2019**  
**Evening Mehfil**



*With the bonfire lit and stars shining bright, the group bonded over stories of personal experiences in sector and some songs from old bollywood movies. We touched upon some movement songs as Anurag (Manzil Mystics) led us through the night with his guitar and wit. Some beautiful songs about life and culture made us all fall in love with our work once again as we closed the day on a musical epiphany.*



## **Day 3: Nov 7, 2019**

### **Jungle Safari**



*Starting early morning for the Jungle Safari, we all began our adventure into the Jim Corbett National Park and spent time together as a group appreciating the beauty and diversity of the nature. From the Great Hornbill to some Jackals prepping for prey to the Sambhar deer, sightings of the parks wildlife mixed with some magical scenes of beauty kept the energy going for everyone.*

## **Day 3: Nov 7, 2019**

### **Alternatives: The Vikalp Sangam Story**



*After rebooting ourselves through the power of nature, we began our session with an inspirational talk by Ashish Kothari who talked about movements like Narmada Bachao and Chipkoo and took us to the journey of innovation and alternatives as it stands today across the country. It was an insightful and polarizing talk where he talked about all of us being interconnected in this 'pluriverse' of possibilities.*



**Day 3: Nov 7, 2019**  
**vartaLab: Case for Spaces**



*Followed by a quick energizer of a Human Orchestra, we discussed design principles to actualize the wishes and make them a reality. We then moved into small groups to design some innovations on the themes of principles in the areas of Spaces, Equality and Inclusion, Power and Narrative Shift. This session was facilitated by Meenu and Durba.*

**Day 3: Nov 7, 2019**  
**vartaLet: The Goonj Story**

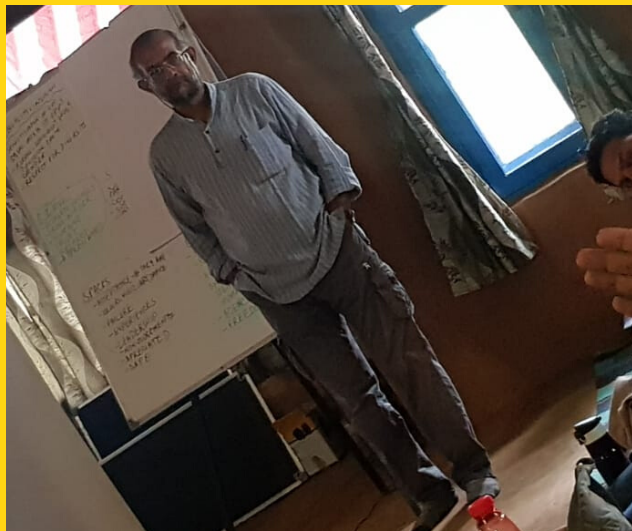


*Meenakshi Gupta and Anshu Gupta shared their inspiring journeys about Goonj's origin and their work. Anshu talked about, 'the power of our experiences in shaping our lives and how these experiences become the driving force for change not only in our lives but in the community'. They also offered Goonj's network and access to communities across country to be leveraged by the organizations in the coalition.*



**Day 3: Nov 7, 2019**

## **Open Space: Our Context Today**



*Ashish Kothari and Anshu Gupta led a powerful impromptu discussion on the social sector as it stands today and where we as a community of youth organizations are headed. Talking from their own experiences, the group discussed about the need to have a common governing body for civil societies to support them with their work and the urgency to document the contribution of sector to the country economically.*

**Day 3: Nov 7, 2019**

## **Evening Mehfil**



*We closed the day with some energetic dumb charades as the night chai kept the energy going. Divided into two groups, the members showcased their talent of acting and singing as everyone participated in games and songs. The night was officially closed by some powerful movement songs of Iqbal Bano and Piyush Mishra.*



**Day 4: Nov 8, 2019**

## **vartaColab: Co-Creating the Coalition Space**



*Building upon yesterday's conversation about forming a coalition, we started our day with a session from Arjun and Bappa by working in groups to formulate the values of the coalition and the broad objectives for the next year and action items to make that vision a reality. We then used the snowball technique to arrive at a consensus for the objectives as the larger group.*

**Day 4: Nov 8, 2019**

## **Nature Walk**



*Led by our wizard photographer, Ashish Kothari, we went on a long walk through the forest as the sun went down. Complete with the astonishing scenes of sunset and lush green wildlife, the being with nature went on a high as long walk brought everyone closer over stories venturing down the memory lane. Learning an important lesson on perspectives, we came back to the camp all rejuvenated.*



**Day 4: Nov 8, 2019**

**vartaLet: Life of serendipity**



*Sharing his journey from the lens of risk taking capacity of youth and serendipity in life, Ujwal Thakar shared his inspiring journey with the group as he drew some powerful comparisons from his stint with corporate sector and the social sector. It was beautiful to learn how he focuses all his energy on amplifying the work done by young social entrepreneurs to a much larger scale.*

**Day 4: Nov 8, 2019**

**Closing of vartaLoop and Togetherness Table**



*Following a quick recap for the protocols, values and the objectives of the coalition; we experienced the feelings of love, ownership, social hope, learning and freedom through the togetherness table. Working in groups on some innovative, deep and fun tasks, the groups ventured into folk fusion and rap to break the barriers ingrained in our family spaces. This session was facilitated by Ashraf.*

**Day 4: Nov 8, 2019**  
**Evening Mehfil**



*We closed with love letters as members shared some beautiful messages of love and gratitude with others in the group. The night reined high on emotions as everyone indulged in a group hug to thank everyone for all the beautiful memories from last 3 days.*



# CO-VOYAGERS OF THE EXPERIENCE



S.no	Name	Orgainsation, Associations	State
1	Aadya Singh	Himalaya Collective, Vikalp Sangam	Uttarakhand
2	Abhishek Mazumdar	The Logical Indian	Bangalore
3	Ajay Pandit	Synergy , ComMutiny	MP
4	Akshit Jain	ComMutiny	Delhi
5	Anshu Gupta	Goonj, Ashoka Fellow	Delhi
6	Anurag Hoon	Manzil Mystics, ComMutiny	Delhi
7	Arjun Shekhar	ComMutniy, Pravah	Delhi
8	Ashish Kothari	Vikalp and Kalpvriksh	All india
9	Ashraf Patel	ComMutiny, Pravah, Ashoka Fellow	Delhi
10	Avinash Kumar	MKSS	Rajasthan
11	Bappaditya Mukherjee	Prantakatha, ComMutiny	West Bengal
12	Durba Ghose	Mithika , ComMutiny	Delhi
13	Eva Wallensteiner	DKA, ComMutiny	Delhi/Austria
14	Fr Jerry Thomas	Bosco Institute, ComMuiny	Assam
15	Gobinda Dalai	Yuva Vikas, ComMutiny	Orissa
16	Kejal Savla	Vikalp ,BRM, ComMutiny	Maharashtra
17	Meenakshi Gupta	Goonj	Delhi
18	Meenu Venkateswaran	ComMutiny, Pravah	Delhi
19	Mohd Zeeshan	ComMutiny, Yeh Ek Soch	UP
20	Moxada Singh	APPI	Bangalore
21	Navendu Mishra	Agrini, Vikalp, ComMutiny	Madhya Pradesh
22	Pallavi Kaushal	Ashoka Innovators for the Public	Bangalore
23	Priyanka Sarkar	ComMutiny	Delhi
24	Rachita Sinha	You Can, Changelooms	Chennai
25	Ramnarayan Syag	Jan Sahas, ComMutiny	Delhi/MP
26	Samina Bano	Right Walk, Ashoka Fellow	Uttar Pradesh (UP)
27	Smita Sen	Rupantaran	West Bengal
28	Ujwal Thakar	ComMutiny	Mumbai
29	Zabi Darnei	DKA	Assma
30	Zulfiquar Haider	APPI	Bangalore



# THANK YOU CAMP HORNBILL



*Located in the Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve near Jim Corbett National Park, Camp Hornbill is like a painting completed with a riverbank, chirping birds, a quality waste segregation and disposal system and a sky full of stars.*

*Special Thanks to Naveen and his entire team who were always the most humble and supportive. Being in charge of the local arrangements and ensuring we get the best of the chai even at some odd hours, Naveen's team just took the entire experience to a whole different level. This camp is forever inked in so many minds as a destination for creative freedom, innovation, nature walks, and love.*

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Camp-Hornbill-Corbett/1842255649376529>

# THANK YOU TO OUR DOCUMENTATION TEAM



*We would like to acknowledge our documentation team for their support. This report is prepared using the minutes and pictures that have been kept during the retreat.*

*The report contains a summary and the future plan of action for the coalition. The detailed minutes of the vartaLeap will be made available shortly as well.*

*Here is the link of a photo drive which captured all the memories through your photos of the three amazing days at Camp Hornbill, Village Kyari, Jim Corbett.*  
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qCath4Wkhuvzsue9wo1fX7QE94Beo5cX>

## Youth Work Vikalp Sangam - A vartaLeap on Alternatives in Youth Work

# CONCEPT NOTE

### **Objective of the workshop:**

The workshop is being envisaged as a confluence of youth workers towards making common meaning of the world's paradoxes that are curbing the potentiality of humanity through a 5th Space exploration at various levels of the self and the social narratives with a view to inform and learn from the Alternatives Framework.

### **Background:**

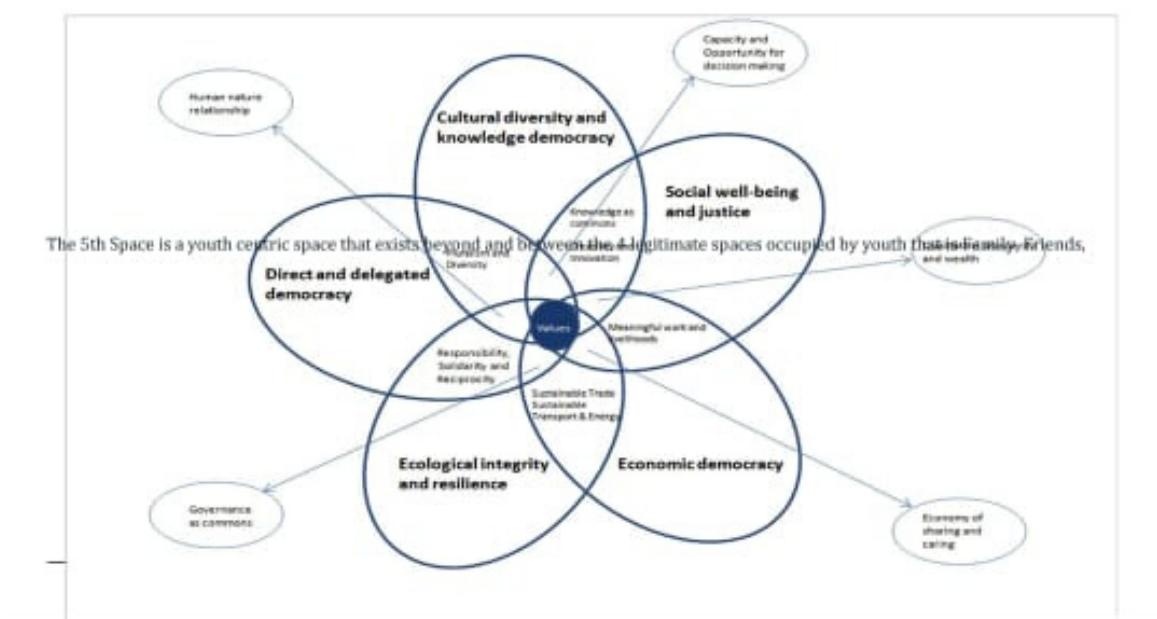
The Youth Vikalp Sangam was born out of a conversation in the Maharashtra Vikalp Sangam on the Alternative Framework and the appreciation that there are 715 million people of our country below the age of 35, each representing a power and potential of talent, skills, and entrepreneurship and more than anything the ability to co-create completely new possibilities. Following this a National Youth Vikalp Sangam was organised co-hosted by ComMutiny - The Youth Collective, Samvedna, Agrini, Blue Ribbon Movement (BRM), Synergy, Pravah and Kalpavriksh.

The Youth Sangam provided the space to get a holistic understanding of the current civilizational crisis and how various processes and initiatives are voicing the urgency of looking at the fundamental alternatives to the current order. It was an opportunity to explore what it means to have a youth-centric lens and the need and nature of vibrant youth spaces including the concept of the 5th Space. At the Youth Vikalp Sangam it was clear that a large number of young people are actively working on alternatives and looking for solutions and social hope in a time of crisis, violence and cynicism. This workshop has emerged from the processes of engagement among practitioners and youth workers in and among different spaces including Youth Vikalp Sangam, ComMutiny and Ashoka and many other members organisations in the common space.

### **The Alternative Framework:**

With each Vikalp Sangam a powerful shared narrative in the form of an evolving Vikalp framework is emerging. In its current avatar the framework proposed that the lternative spheres (here overlapping) are seen as an integrated whole and are represented in the diagram:





A crucial outcome of such an approach is that the center of human activity is neither the state nor the corporation, but the community, a self-defined collection of people with some strong common or cohesive social interest. The community could be of various forms, from the ancient village to the urban neighbourhood to the student body of an institution to even the more 'virtual' networks of common interest.

Through **this three day workshop from 6th to 8th November (5th Nov arrival and 9th Nov departure)** we wish to propose a three day engagement to create necessary space for reflection and action among youth workers so that they can strengthen their practice as also advocate for youth-centric development as an alternative way itself.

### **Total number of participants for the workshop: 25 (invitation based)**

The workshop will have representative and invited members of the Youth Vikalp Sangam and members from 'Everyone a Jagrik /Changemaker coalition', ComMutiny members and Ashoka members and Fellows and DKA. It will also include invited members from organisations and individuals who are interested to and can play a positive role to support the ecosystem. The core objectives of the retreat are:

- 1. To strengthen our coalition for building a new norm or an alternative way - of 'Every youth a Jagrik ' and 'every space nurturing Jagriks'**
- 2. To come up with innovative and alternative strategies or algorithms for the new norm.**

### **Broad outline of the programme:**

**Day 1 - vartaLoop:** *To revisit and share recent experiments and deepen the dialogue towards relating these experiences to the Alternatives framework and discuss how the*



*5th Space can offer a way of experiencing and communicating experiments of the youth work practitioners and their alternatives.*

**Day 2 - vartaLeap:** *To create an exchange on alternatives and also an alternative way of thinking and being by looking at paradoxes and keep shifting away from the typical linear problem solving approaches where one solution gives rise to another problem. The effort is towards creating a space for enquiring on why alternatives are important as also how they can possibly gather greater momentum and co-creating the common authentic story of social hope.*

This vartaLeap is a dialogue at many levels aimed to 'solve' sticky issues at the most base level and understand where others are coming from. It takes the self through a journey of deconstructing our feelings, assumptions, value ranking, beliefs and fears and begins the process of co-constructing which moves from subjective (opinions and ideas) and objective (data, info and facts) truth towards the complex truths. It searches for the self-narratives and connects them to the social narratives to create the 'plu-tory' (plural stories) beyond the single story.

**Day 3 - vartaLab:** *To articulate new algorithms that promote youth-centric development as an alternative way of engaging with young people as well and nurture wellbeing and consciousness that is plural, secular, enquiring, co-led in both institutional and non-institutional spaces of practice.*

The focus is to begin conversations around co-creating new algorithms for youth leadership. A change in an algorithm has a potential to change how we function. For example: smart phones came and changed how we converse, for the good or the bad they changed the whole system; same may be said of schools. So while youth-centric development is accepted intellectually as a concept, it needs a new algorithm to be fully activated on the ground and become part of the change narrative.

The idea in this section is to create a lab for co-creation of innovative ideas, different approaches, tools and methods applied to youth-engagement in alternatives as well as youth centric development as an alternative itself and unveiling some of the designs created together through group presentations feedback and to create a way forward with clarity on possible actions towards strengthening current practice and collaborations.

## **Intended results**

This group will enable a working together to meet the need for ensuring that more and more young people find their way into these explorations and alternative spaces towards creating a large cohort of future looking, wholesome leaders with a long term, preventive mindset and recognizing the oneness between the inner and outer worlds and shift from a 'youth for development approach' to a 'youth development approach'.

It will also lead to co-creation of innovative ideas, different approaches, tools and methods applied to youth-engagement in alternatives as well as youth centric development as an alternative itself and unveiling some of the designs created together through group presentations feedback and testing.