

Strategic Focus – 2009 - 2010

Organizational Profile

The YP Foundation (TYPF) in New Delhi has, for the last 7 years, been a leader in building a youth movement for social justice in India. TYPF is a youth led non-profit organization founded in 2002 by Social Entrepreneur Ishita Chaudhry when she was 17. By providing young people with the resources to execute their own initiatives that target social, cultural, economic, legal and environmental issues they are committed to, The YP Foundation is committed to developing the uninhibited expression of young people.

The YP Foundation supports young people between the ages of 13 and 28 through a yearlong process to identify problems in their community and design practical solutions that address global issues as well as local challenges. To date, TYPF has worked with 5,000 young people directly, setting up over 150 projects in India.

Our work has received support and recognition from young people, multiple donors, government, organizations and community stakeholders. These include The Ford Foundation, The Global Fund for Children, The International Women's Health Coalition, Students for the Promotion of International Law, UNICEF, UNDP, UNAIDS, The Government of Nagaland, India, The American Embassy, New Delhi, The Ashoka Foundation, IPPF, The Packard Foundation, Companies DELL, Moser Baer, Punj Lloyd and Glaxo Smith Kline amongst others.

We work with the following issues:

- Street Children (Health, Education and Peer Based Counselling)
- Mental Health and Life Skills
- Substance Abuse
- HIV/AIDS
- Gender and Women's Empowerment
- Climate Change and the Environment
- Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights
- Citizenship and Governance
- Peacebuilding and Culture
- Performing and Visual Arts

TYPF has been recognized at prestigious national and international forums. Our founder is the recipient of The SMILE Fellowship by the NGO Pravah (2006), The Student Citizen Karamveer Puruskaar – the National Award for Social Justice and Action (2007), The Seen and Heard International Award – British Telecom and the UK Youth Parliament (2008), Pepsi MTV Youth Icon of India Nominee 2008, The Change Looms Award for Social Entrepreneurship (2008) – The Ashoka Foundation and the Young Achievers Award (2009) from the President of Nepal.

Support Our Work

- By contributing to an issue/programme you feel strongly about as a donor and engaging creatively with the shape, form and impact of that project.
- Volunteer your time, skill and interest with any branch in a project of your choice.

Why? So a generation of young people never looks back on the possibilities of how they can create positive change.

Current Projects

The organization's exclusive focus over the next 2 years is committed to building and engaging through the following projects to create stronger, constructive and practical impact when developing youth led and run social change initiatives with young people.

Blending Spectrum - Health, Education and Peer Based Counselling

Launched in 2006, Blending Spectrum is an initiative that connects urban young people involved in a peer-to-peer facilitation process with street and slum children, with the aim of increasing sensitivity and understanding between street and slum children and the urban youth. Blending Spectrum provides healthcare and non-formal education (including Life Skills Based Education) through two models at the Nizamuddin Basti independently and at the Sarai Hostel in South and North Delhi respectively.

At Sarai Hotel, The YP Foundation collaborates with the NGO Aman Biradiri to facilitate the growth of children with limited access to opportunities. Working through the twin mediums of providing healthcare and life skills based education, the needs of a children at both locations are identified and a trained group of urban youth as community peer educators engage with a curriculum through an interactive process. The project is currently supporting over 110 children and works with 30 volunteers. Blending Spectrum is supported by the Global Fund for Children.

Project 19: Understanding Sexuality, Rights, Health and HIV/AIDS

Project 19 is a 3-year project that is focused on training young people over a period of 4-6 months to become Peer Facilitators on the issue of HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. Once trained, Peer Facilitators develop independent research case studies, produce their own short films and literature and conduct a year long awareness campaign that include hosting public discussions and peer to peer workshops with young people.

The project has reached out to over 1,500 young people through its workshops and has also expanded nationally, to host The Project 19 Annual Festival, that brings together over 600 at risk and marginalized group and urban youth together in Delhi from 12 states in India to lobby and articulate their collective rights to their sexual reproductive rights and health. Project 19 has been supported by NACO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, The Ford Foundation, The Packard Foundation and TARSHI and worked in partnership with companies like Punj Lloyd and Moser Baer. The project runs with a volunteer team of 50 young people.

What Does Your Vote Want? Young People, Citizenship and Governance

The Right to Information Branch at The YP Foundation develops young people's engagement with legislative research, increased awareness on laws in India and their application to our daily lives.

'What Does Your Vote Want?' is a non political, non partisan project set up to help prepare young voters for the elections in May 2009, by providing them with the necessary information required to get registered as a voter, to creating dialogue for young people to discuss issues around politics, governance and voting.

We aim to create a space where we can connect the youth to the administration and the government, and after Elections 2009, the project hopes to provide a platform where the young people can directly dialogue with representatives of the New Government to discuss their key issues and concerns.

The project has successfully registered more than 4000 people in Delhi and Chhattisgarh and many more have been helped online. The What Does Your Vote Want campaign regularly conducts college workshops, panel discussions, meet your leader accountability sessions and other methods of community advocacy, conducted by a group of 15 trained young peer educators. What Does Your Vote Want Campaign has partnered with Channel V, Live Mint and Radio Mirchi. In partnership with Sony, The YP Foundation will release 'Say Something' in May 2009, an international music album that promotes the What Does Your Vote Want campaign across India.

V.O.I.C.E.S – The School Project – Addressing Life Skills and Mental Health

V.O.I.C.E.S – The School Project is a peer education project that aims at developing stronger life skills and informed decision making with school going adolescents, addressing mental health issues that continue to grow in importance in urban schools. This is done through a yearlong module that trains a team of 20 University Peer Educators on a range of issues including depression, bullying, substance abuse and eating disorders linked to peer pressure, stereotyping and the influence of appearances on adolescents.

The V.O.I.C.E.S team trains extensively with peer communication experts, doctors and psychologists, developing a research manual on successful working communication and information strategies with the issue to conduct awareness workshops with school students. V.O.I.C.E.S provides a confidential peer-to-peer exchange that provides students with a safe space to dialogue and address their concerns. A recommendations report is provided to each school at the end of the process, to suggest further, self-sustaining steps the school can engage in, to continue an open dialogue. V.O.I.C.E.S engages 20 volunteers and has worked with The Shri Ram School, Sanskriti School, DPS RK Puram, Bluebells International School and Vasant Valley School amongst others. DELL and Milkfood have supported the project.

The Butterfly Project – Supporting Film & Literature

The Butterfly Project is a unique resource space for young people interested in working with film and literature. The Butterfly Project works with a team of 20 volunteers and has been supported by the Global Fund for Children, IDEA, The Idea Works, Punj Lloyd and the Nishit Saran Foundation. The project is currently focusing on work through 3 areas:

- **The Bridge:** The Bridge is an independent magazine series run by young people, on issues that they are personally committed to. The Bridge is edited, designed, produced and funded by young people. 6 Editions have been released since 2004.
- **The Film Series:** The Film Series is an annual film festival organized by The Butterfly Project that promotes amateur and professional filmmakers to share short films on issues that communicate powerfully. This year the film series is focusing on animation, fiction and nonfiction films.
- **Digital Storytelling:** A recent addition, The Butterfly Project partners with the Global Fund for Children and the Center for Digital Media and Storytelling to train young people to create their own digital media stories, with the aim of encouraging them to inspire others with their stories of social change.
- **Monthly Screenings:** The Butterfly Project organizes short interactive film screenings and workshops for young people on issues relating to both literature and film.

Silhouette – Enabling the Arts

Silhouette creates stronger platforms to showcase young artistes and develops resources to exchange information and raise awareness on music education and theatre. Silhouette works under two initiatives:

- *The Open House Series*: A series of workshops with school students and young people aimed at:
 - An innovative conversation space designed for young people to explore the many faces of the arts. The Open House Series hosts workshops and forums created to question, explore, reinvent, challenge and reveal perspectives in music and theatre.
 - The series has been designed to showcase the work of varied artistes, making their idea, process and 'product' accessible to new audiences.
- *Impromptu*: A performance showcase, that focuses on:
 - Giving artistes working with theatre and music in Delhi a space to showcase their work at different venues across the city, giving them a chance to interact with a wider audience to which they may not have direct access.
 - Providing young people with the opportunity to attend workshops and clinics on issues, skills and tools that form a core part of Music such as production work, songwriting, music management, understanding legal issues etc.

Since 2005, Silhouette has supported establishing young people's initiatives in the arts, from Wide Aisle Productions, a theatre production group in their maiden venture to acclaimed music group Artistes Unlimited. Silhouette has partnered on key research studies in the arts featured at The International Youth Congress in Rome.

We curated The 15 Minute Fringe Festival in December 2006 for Kri Foundation and Kat Katha at the India Habitat Centre and partners extensively with The American Centre. TYPF are also conceptual and production partners for At Home – Concerts for Original Music by Prospect Advisory and Management. Silhouette has been supported by Platform Magazine, News X, Traffic Life Magazine, Punj Lloyd and Hit 95 FM.

The Technical Branch

The Technical Branch hosts young people who lend their technical skills to help the organization manage its software, visual content and design work, as well as get involved with projects with other branches from creating short films to editing work, conceptualize montages and making digital media.

The technical branch is always looking for those comfortable working with software, from bloggers, graphic designers, photographers, filmmakers to people who manage content for our websites and events. The branch is currently run in partnership with **Technomentia**, a youth led initiative that encourages people to use existing social networks (online and offline), new media and technologies for business and project promotion.

Climate Change & The Environment

Launched in partnership with the Indian Youth Climate Network and Electronic Youth Media in 2008, we provide Climate Leadership Trainings for young people who would like to set up their own initiatives. Over 80 young people have participated in this programme, with 2 current projects on Alternative Energy and Waste Management being mentored and developed. The YP Foundation also partnered with the IYCN and the Ministry of Environment in instituting Delhi's first Youth Charter on Climate Change in 2007.

Music Basti

'Music Basti', is a project run by young people, which network Delhi's young professional musicians with street children in Delhi. It has been working with the support of Integrated Development Education Association (IDEA), The YP Foundation and Aman Biradiri, as part of its 'Dil Se' campaign. The project works to uphold the dignity and rights of the urban poor, especially children who live and work on the streets.

Music Basti focuses on creating a unique musical experience for street children in homes or children's hostels, as well as a unique musical experience for young musicians usually restricted to band and concert circuits in Delhi. The project is designed to encourage students to use original and creative mediums, to engage musicians and student volunteers with young children in children's hostels and homes. A positive relationship is created through a series of workshops with young professional musicians, and a team of documenters and volunteers. The project has also produced a documentary film Music Basti (2008).

TYPF's Management & Governance

The YP Foundation is driven by a core management team of young people who also partner with volunteers working on our internal processes. Here they gain direct experience working with

- Volunteer Management
- Fundraising
- PR
- HR Management
- Finance
- Administration
- Event Management
- Training
- Project Management

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