



BI-ANNUAL REPORT

OCT 2016 – MAR 2017

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We, The People is working towards a humane and well-governed nation through an active, informed and responsible citizenry. We believe that citizens play a critical role in fostering humane societies and ensuring good governance. We therefore focus on igniting awareness, building capacities and mobilizing action of citizens in this direction. Our outreach is through strategic partnerships with institutions that work closely with young citizens. These include schools and civil society organizations in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and NCR regions.

Foreword from Vinita, Trustee

This year we maintained our thrust in two major areas. One is the deep and intensive work on training citizens on understanding and using the Constitutional framework. This includes conceptual topics such as the Preamble, Fundamental rights, Law and Structure of the State and practical work on civic issues that citizens want to take up. This programme – called the Citizenship programme – has now been implemented with young citizens with a wide variety of backgrounds – urban, rural, privileged, under-privileged with a substantial measure of success as you will see from the case stories we have presented in this report.

The second thrust is in the wider awareness spreading of citizens with respect to the Constitution. Under this broad remit we organize a variety of events, each one very innovative and exciting.

As we come to the close of a year of consolidation – perfecting our programmes and reaching steadily a larger group of people, I have to acknowledge the people and institutions who have made this happen.



Our team without whom none of this would be possible. Neha, Bhakti and Shadab have worked with passion and dedication. We bid goodbye to Piyush who is now working with tribal communities in Chattisgarh.

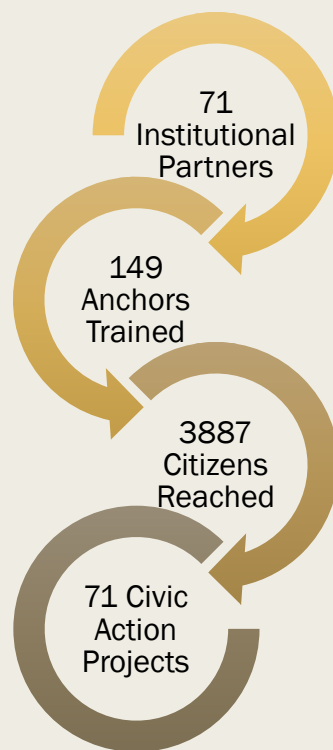
Our donors...The Tata Trust who supported our idea and trusted us to experiment wisely and come up with a solid programme. As we come to the end of their 4 years of association with us, we are deeply grateful. The WIPRO Foundation that has now partnered with us and contributed to two significant fellowships. And our Patrons – beautiful and brilliant individuals who gave us unstinted support.

My fellow trustees... whose support is rock solid. We now have the added expertise and love of Sushma who joined us on the Board just when we attained our formal registration.

Finally our partners who believed in us and collaborated with us on this tough and tumultuous journey of discovering our Constitution and Citizenship

Story in Numbers!

This is a snapshot of our efforts in the full year. On our flagship Citizenship Programme, we partnered with 71 institutions and trained 149 anchor-trainers. Through our combined efforts we reached 3887 citizens. All citizens traveled the journey from understanding the Constitutional framework to undertaking Civic Action Projects (CAPs) in their communities.



Impact during the year 2016-2017

In the second thrust area, we organize a number of innovative events all with the aim of spreading awareness about the Constitution. The events are undertaken under the Constitution Connect campaign. In this year, we organized a number of online and on-ground events such as Constitution Quiz, Citizen Cafes, Civics Symposium. We also partnered with Pravah CYC on the Jagrik campaign that was organised in 15 states. Here is a snapshot of the impact created -

Platform	Reach
Facebook	5000+ new followers, over 2,00,000 post views
Website	1600+ users visiting 6000+ pages
Constitution Connect	Partnered with “Samvidhan Live – The Jagrik Project” and engage over 7000 people through over 40 on ground events
Other online and print media	Partnered with scroll.in, thebetterindia.com, DNA in the print.

Activity Report – CP TOT

SCERT Haryana Cohort: Success stories and more were shared at SCERT Haryana as part of the culmination event of a partnership between SCERT, DIET Gurgaon and We, The People. The event was witnessed by teachers along with the students of government schools. The chief guest was S.D.M Mr. Sushil Sangwan along with DIET principal Ms. Tanwar and SCERT director Ms. Kiran Mayee. Students and teachers from 5 government schools were felicitated for the exemplary projects they had taken up in the community. SCERT Haryana in the partnership with We, The People has trained Civics teachers of 49 schools to develop informed, active and participative citizenry in the students.



This is now an important activity we wish to do with every partner, at the end of every project. Irrespective of the outcomes of each Civic Action Project, we believe it is important to acknowledge and appreciate the exemplary efforts put in by our partners and the citizens. The positives vibes create a sense of respect towards the work and also instill confidence that such projects will eventually have a positive impact on our society.

The Private School Cohort in North Secretariat came to a closure with the end of this academic year. The cohort had 4 private schools from Gurgaon and Delhi (The Heritage, Gurgaon; Shiv Nadar School, Gurgaon; Sanskriti School, New Delhi; The Heritage, Vasant Kunj). There were 8 teachers who participated in the programme and worked with students of students 9th and 11th grade. As a part of this programme there were 25 Civic Action Projects taken up by the teachers and students of these schools. In Sanskriti school, Political Science students of 11th grade worked on 15 projects on various issues such as sanitation, traffic, noise pollution, roads, liquor store near school, road safety, parking, electricity etc.

The Madhya Pradesh cohort of 12 NGO partners also concluded this March. This cohort started in July 2016 with 22 participants who did personal Civic Action Projects and then took up projects with the community members. These NGOs work on various issues related to education, bonded labor, child abuse etc. in various districts of MP

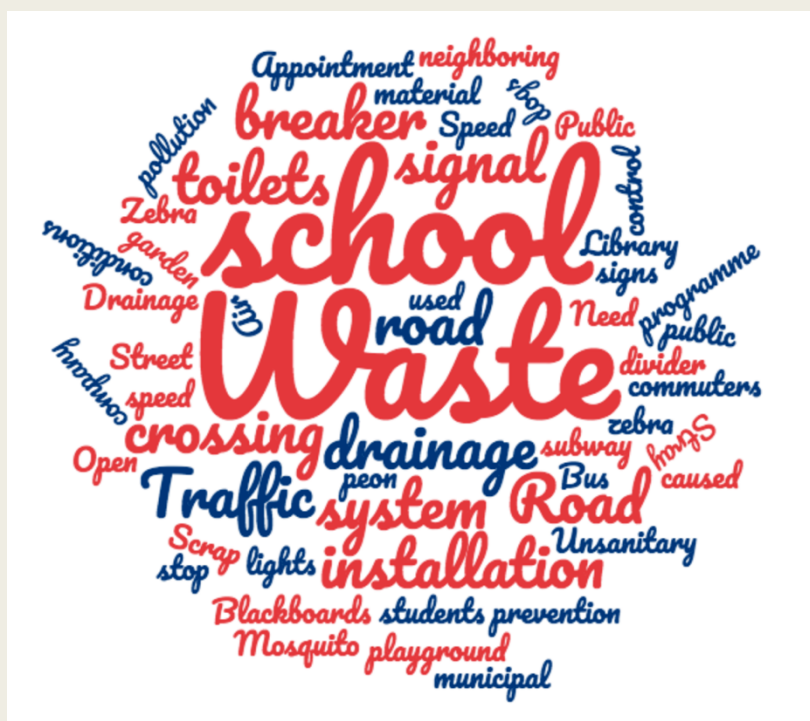
Activity Report – CP TOT

like Tikamgarh, Dewas, Harda, Seoni etc. The team had many success stories to share in the culmination event that happened from 8th – 10th March. These anchors were able to empower the community while working on various projects like, drinking water, land allocation, sexual abuse of children, streetlights, ration etc.

We also documented some of the impact stories in video format to spread the activities and impact out wide. You can watch the video [here](#)



Government schools cohort: In the West Secretariat, we have been intensively working with the municipal schools of The Pune Municipal Corporation and of The Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation. The citizenship programme was implemented in 28 schools by 45 social science teachers. The period Oct 16- March 17 revolved around the Civic Action Projects that students have been working upon. We generated a word cloud of all the projects taken up by students and here is how it looks –



Activity Report – CP TOT



CSR Partnership with TATA motors:

In collaboration with CSR arm of Tata motors, we are currently running a citizenship programme in block. Wada, district Thane. Prasad Chikitsa, the partner NGO in this project has been working towards community development since 1994 in Ganeshpuri, Wada. A cohort of 21 anchors from Prasad Chikitsa has successfully completed the first ToT programme and all of them are currently working on their own Civic Action Projects. Post 2nd ToT, every anchor is expected to train 40 citizens in the community on the skills of the responsible citizenship.



It goes without saying that such intense work on the Civic Action Projects in schools needs lot of handholding, back end and often front end support too. Our team, West Secretariat in particular, has been successful in building a trained team of interns and volunteers to carry out this support work for the Civic Action Projects in schools. The team has effectively been extending the support to the concerned teachers and students at each school.

Activity Report – Constitution Connect

67th Constitution Day Celebration: We, The People conducted the first of its kind Inter-School Constitution Day Quiz Competition with the students of six prominent schools of Delhi/NCR as the participants. The student participated with a lot of enthusiasm and were very well prepared. The Keynote address was delivered by Mr. Yogendra Yadav who spoke about three key aspects of the Indian Constitution as a symbol of Indian modernity which are typically 'Made in India'. Democracy- A concept that was thought to be only understood by the upper strata and the well-educated members of the society, until India demonstrated that it could work for the poor and the non-literate too. Diversity- Our country has an ocean of diverse culture, languages and practices which co-exist together. We are 67 years old and have build ourselves from zero to where we stand today shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the most powerful countries in the world. Development- The Indian Constitution has been formed keeping in mind the last person who should also be benefited from the policies.



Constitution Quiz with Yogendra Yadav

Citizenship and Civics Symposium: An event called Civics and Citizenship Symposium was organized by We, The People on 12th January. The Symposium was organized to explore the innovations, challenges and new methodologies that various schools are using in teaching civics. There were mainly school teachers, principals and people from Delhi Education ministry who were a part of the event. There were schools from Delhi, Gurgaon and Noida. There were also officials from Delhi Education Ministry and Mentor Teachers of Delhi government schools. We had Dr. Hilal Ahmed and Mrs. Meera Balachandran as keynote speaker who shared their insights about citizenship and how project work can be used to enhance the civics education and the understanding of its link to citizenship.

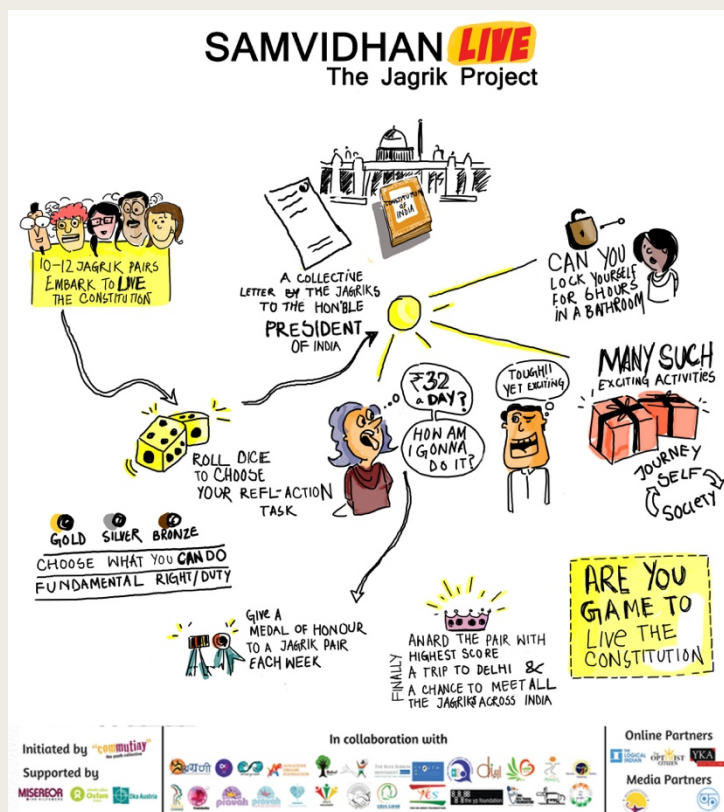
The highlight of the event was the challenges and innovations shared by the teachers in an open discussion. Teachers expressed their struggle to connect students to the grass root level and make everyday event relevant while teaching the subject. They also spoke about the responsibility that they felt in shaping the attitudes of these young citizens and try to bring more positivity into the discussions. The learning through project work emerged as the key innovation in which the subject can be taught in an experiential learning method and can connect students to their communities. The Symposium acted as great platform for civics and political science teachers to exchange ideas, learn from each other and also listen to some thought provoking perspectives from keynote speakers.

Activity Report – Constitution Connect



Glimpse from the Citizenship and Civics Symposium

Jagrik Campaign: We partnered with Pravah CYC on an ambitious awareness programme focused on ‘experiencing the Constitution’. We co-designed the content for the campaign and trained about 40 people who then facilitated the programme with 4500 young citizens from 15 states. More details of the campaign, stories and the outreach can be found here - <http://commutiny.in/initiatives/samvidhan-live-the-jagrik-project/>



We did two Citizen Cafes with government school students of Gurgaon in partnership with Intellect. There were 120 students who participated in these cafes. We also another Citizen Café with 40 people in the CSR and core teams of Intellect in Chennai.

Parent committee of Gyan Prabodhini school in Pune had invited us to do a citizen cafe with students and parents together. Parents and students together explored the meaning of word freedom, justice etc.

Activity Report – Other outreach events

Apart from the work done in schools and among communities, time and again various platforms like conferences, events, radio shows etc. have been used by our secretariat teams to advocate the cause of responsible citizenry building. Our participation in the International Youth Conference on Sustainable Living organised by Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai is an important step in the direction of demonstrating our work on the international platform.

Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan Mumbai is the Language and Culture Institute of the Federal Republic of Germany. While Spread of German language and German culture forms the foundation of the institute's work, the institute also strives to build sensitivity of the students on the contemporary global challenges.

FUTURE (T)HERE: Youth Conference on Sustainable Living had experts from Germany and India. West secretariat was invited to conduct seminar around the topic, “Environment, governance and citizens”.



FUTURE (T)HERE: Youth Conference on Sustainable Living, 18 - 20 November 2016, Mumbai
(c) Goethe-Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan (Photo: Bernat Parera)

Stories of Change

In addition to the stories we published in the last edition of the report, we have some stories of change from our Civic Action Projects.

For the **students of 11th standard of the Government Senior Secondary School Ghamroj – Alipur district Gurugram**, the new academic year will bring new hopes. For them, since the past few years, going to school was a very painful experience as the road connecting the school with the village was broken and filthy with dirty water from a drain alongside. This had resulted in health issues for students and residents of the village. The problem was noticed everyday by residents but nobody took any action. The situation could have been same this year also but the students decided to take some action on this problem and their school and teachers encouraged them to do so as part of their civics curriculum. They contacted Sarpanch with a formal application and various informal discussions. The Sarpanch cooperated and with them the BDO & SDM Sohna also took notice of this matter. The teacher along with the students were immensely joyous when the Sarpanch shared an undertaking that a grant of Rs. 20 lakh was being sanctioned for the maintenance of the road, now the road will soon be repaired.



For **Asgar and Aman, students of the GSSS Bhondsi** also the next academic session means their school will be a healthier place. The school will soon have the RO drinking water facility! But the journey was not as easy. Every year they had to drink from a water tank which was not cleaned as often as it should be. So, this year when the opportunity came up as part of their civics classes to take up an issue that bothered them, they got started! They contacted the Sarpanch and shared the problem via written application. He explained that installing a RO for clean water was not possible due to budgetary constraints. But students explained him providing clean water in the school is responsibility of the panchayat under Haryana Panchayat Act 1994. It was then the Sarpanch gave a receiving of the application and told students that the RO will be installed in both Girls and Boys school of Bhondsi.

Stories of Change

Students of secondary school of Shivajinagar, Pune had chosen issue of solid waste management for their Civic Action Project. The students did a thorough research on internet, found out Maharashtra Municipal Corporation Act, visited Pune Municipal Corporations website and found out the concerned authority. Recently students held meeting with the sanitary inspector of the ward office and filed an application with it.



Students of secondary Urdu school of Yerwada, Pune worked on tobacco addiction and tobacco control issue. After understanding the provisions made in the acts and various circulars issued by the State, students and teachers decided to spread awareness about the rules and regulations of sale of tobacco products near educational institutions and decided to put warning posters and boards depicting the same outside their school.



Stories of Change

Students of the Secondary Municipal School of Sant Tukaram Nagar, Pimpri Chinchwad, Dist. Pune had chosen the issue that was of concern to everyone in the school since 2 years. The school ground was filled with dismantled scrap of school material like broken benches and chairs retrieved from other municipal schools. Soon the scrap became home to mosquitoes when the epidemic of Dengu and Chickengunya that prevailed in the city. Snakes too found their home in the scrap. Students life was in danger. Despite of the continuous efforts of the school by sending applications to the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, nothing had changed in last two years.

Students took up this issue for the Civic Action Project, researched thoroughly through acts, provisions under RTE and filed an application with the education officer. Education officer visited the school and spoke with the students on the issue. She informed the students that a process for finalising the auction of the scrap has already happened and scrap will very soon be lifted. In a month's time, the students happily witnessed their right to life being secured as the process of the scrap being taken away from the school had started.



New Projects

We, The People Abhiyan has initiated an exciting partnership with Pradan. Pradan is an NGO that works with marginalized communities especially women in rural areas. The project involves training facilitators associated with Pradan, so that a Citizenship and Civic literacy curriculum could be outreached within the communities they work with. This is with the view that community members can own up their rights and responsibilities, engage with local governance authorities and positively impact governance and development in their communities. We are aiming for a sustained positive impact on local governance issues through efforts of the trained citizens that is internal team and volunteers.



Women from rural communities of Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh

In March, we began the first stage of a year-long capacity building process with 42 cohort members in Jharkhand and 29 cohort members for Madhya Pradesh. Most of the cohort members are representatives of the SHGs that Pradan has set up. Some of them are full time team members of Pradan. The specific geographies are 15 gram panchayats in the 4 blocks in the districts of Hazaribagh, Koderma and Gumla in Jharkhand. And 17 gram panchayats in 2 blocks in the districts of Dindori and Betul in Madhya Pradesh.

The main challenge was to simplify our materials in such a way that all cohort members could understand and internalize given their language and literacy constraints. But the highlight was the excellent interest and positivism demonstrated by all. The energy and enthusiasm with which the community leaders took to deciphering various laws that affected their day to day life was wonderful to work with. The main issues that cohort members were interested in understanding and addressing were access to schemes for the handicapped and elderly, cleanliness and sanitation, MNREGA wages payment or work order related issues and public distribution system. The next stage of training is in May.



M&E, The key to success!

In our years of experience of working with schools, we have observed that our innovative methodology and opportunities for hands on experience increase students understanding of Civics/Political Science. However, most of the feedback was anecdotal and experiential. This year, we have started setting up methods of measuring the impact quantitatively and qualitatively. The pre and post tests were completed with the two cohorts during the training on citizenship programme.

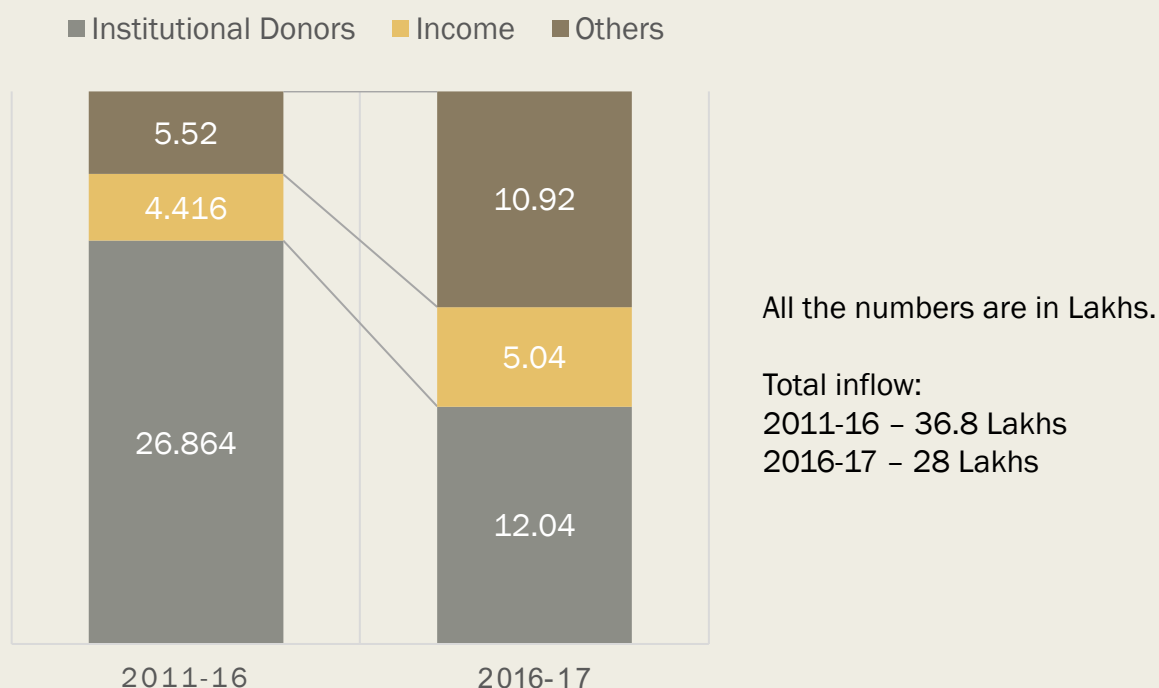
A total of 33 anchors participated in the pre and post test. The average change in the understanding of civic knowledge has gone up by 27.66%. The highest and lowest change recorded was 44.29% and 4.29% respectively. It is also to be noted that the difference between average increase in the understanding of the NGO cohort and of the teachers cohort is merely 2.7%.

Research study:

Apart from the M&E tools, this year, we have also put into place a research study with the objective of assessing the impact of the citizenship programme for the 9th Std. of secondary state board schools in Maharashtra. This study is being carried out by west secretariat and is being guided by Dr. Palshikar. Recently, a paper on this research was accepted by the NCERT in their seminar on Research in Social Sciences.

Financial Report

As Vinita mentioned in the foreword, we have put in a focused effort in raising funds to help scale our activities. Here is a comparison snapshot of what we could raise in our first five years of operation, versus what we could do just in the last one year.



Financial Report

Below is the list of all the donations we have received and also the revenue generated from our programmes with various CSO partners. (All numbers in INR)

Institutional Donors	INR 13,24,943
Individual Donors	INR 7,28,500
Programme Fees	INR 8,71,459
Total	INR 29,24,902

And below are the details of the expenses we incurred throughout the year:

Salaries	INR 13,87,733
Operations/ Programme	INR 5,16,814
Administration	INR 1,24,305
Total	INR 20,28,852

We would like to take a moment to thank all all of our donors without whom this progress would have been rather difficult for us at We, The People.

Individual Donors	Institutional Donors
Dipesh Shroff	TATA Trusts
Vipul Jain	Wipro Fellowships
Manas Fuloria	Excel Crop Care Limited
Manju Jain	TATA Motors
Yogesh Andalay	Ulhas Trust
Arvind Krishnaswamy	
Hrishikesh Salvekar	
Deepa Jain	
Pravin Gandhi	
Vinita Singh	
Hardeep Singh	

Intern Speak!

Manoj Chaudhary

At We, The People, I got to explore various professional skills like communication (especially in Marathi), reporting, documentation, research and most importantly how to work as a team. I feel that this experience has really helped me develop as a professional and made me feel good about the work I was doing. The work really created that sense of feeling that something was being contributed to the society which would bring a change for good. This feeling of being part of something that's developing the society you live in contents me. A wave of nostalgia swept over me when I visited the schools and conducted sessions in the classrooms. Interacting with the students during the sessions was indeed a joyful experience. I'd always knew, but for the first time I felt the importance and the effect a teacher has on the students who are the country's future and this really made me feel proud. I really thank We, The People for providing me with this opportunity that has given me an experience of a lifetime. It was one of the best experiences I've ever had.



Kamini Girase, Intern and co-researcher on a research study

The entire process of Civic Action Project for me had been a journey of learning at every stage. On the personal level, I am experiencing cogent change in the students understanding of the topics in the Political Science textbook. As the issue for the Civic Action Project is chosen by the students themselves, the ownership of the project shown by the students is impeccable. Working with students was altogether a inspiring experience, to see students who are the future citizens getting trained for the responsible citizenship and enhancing their scope of thinking out of the four walls of classrooms was a real reviving forbearance

Rewards and Recognition

Our film on 'Civics education in schools' received second prize in the international short film competition. A 6.35 minute film that captured the process of citizenship programme in one of our partner schools in Majalgaon, Dist. Beed, won the 2nd prize in the 'EduDoc' short film competition. Big big congratulations to the film crew, teachers and students of Mahatma Phule Vidyalaya, Majalgaon.



What we missed in schools – DNA covered our work in schools.

“Learning the subject helps youth engage with governments, fight for their rights, and imbibe democratic etiquette” - <http://www.dnaindia.com/analysis/column-what-we-missed-out-in-school-civics-2297771>

How students learn Civics by claiming their rights

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI / GURGAON
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017

TIMES CITY | GURGAON

How students learn Civics by claiming their rights

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Gurgaon: In rural Gurgaon, 200-odd students of some government schools have taken it upon themselves to ensure roads in their villages are rebuilt and the schools get clean water supply all of which has eluded their villages for long.

It all began when Aman Raghav (15), a Class XI student of Government Senior Secondary School (GSSS) Bhondsi, was selected by his teacher to come up with a civic project that would benefit the village. “So far, students had been drinking water stored in plastic tanks,” said Sunita Yadav, his teacher. “Text books taught them that access to clean water was their fundamental right. But now, they are discovering it through their own industry.”

The students perused law books to fish out the statute under which they were entitled to clean water in schools — Section 21 of Haryana Panchayat Act 1994 — and wrote a letter to the Bhondsi sarpanch Durga Devi. “She couldn’t help immediately, citing budgetary constraints,” said Yadav. “But impressed by their activism, she pledged two RO purifiers — for their school, and for the Government Girls Senior Secondary School (GSSSS) Bhondsi — in March, when the new financial year begins.”

“We understood how to use concepts from the classroom to solve real issues. We convinced our Sarpanch to install the RO

being finalised. “The students, though, kept frequenting her,” their teacher continued. “Finally, earlier this week, she told them the BDO and SDM has sanctioned Rs 20 lakh for the repair of the road.”

Anjali and Aman are part of a project — Samvidan Aur Hum — led by District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Gurgaon and We The People, an NGO, which seeks to make their Civics curriculum a part of their lives. “We conceived the project in September 2016,” said Neha Yadav, coordinator at We the People (North India). “It enables students to have a holistic Civics education.”

A total of 29 schools were roped in for the project. Eventually, efforts of five (GSSS Farukhnagar and Jacobpura, and GSSS Jamalpur, Bhondsi and

Ghamroj) stood out. In September 2016, 49 teachers from these schools were given training “to ensure they are aware of the task they would entrust their students with”, said Vineeta Singh, director at We the People.

Yadav said the exercise involved students interacting with government directly. “In private schools, they have state-of-the-art infrastructure. Children know how to lodge complaints with government officials,” said a teacher at GSSS Bhondsi. “In government schools, this is completely new. They are required to walk up to offices of the officials, and take up the matter with them. The exercise has a profound impact. Not only do students establish direct contact with this state’s administrators, but also learn to become active citizens.”

Special Report

A total of 29 schools were roped in for the project

This has given us confidence to resolve other issues of our village,” Aman told TOI.

In another similar exercise by students of GSSS Ghamroj, student volunteers pushed for the repair of the road connecting their school. “It was crater

ridden and covered in slush, which soiled our shoes and socks,” said Anjali, a student.

“They wrote a letter to the Ghamroj sarpanch Mamata,” said their teacher Kusum Lata. Pressurised, she told them tendering for the repair work was

Team Photos



West Secretariat (above) and North Secretariat (below)

