



# **BI-ANNUAL REPORT**

## **APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2017**

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# Foreword from Vinita, Managing Trustee

This year, we continued our focus on training teachers with the aim of revitalising citizenship education with school students. This has thrown up some key insights:

- **Teachers are very keen to learn.** This is more so among the private school teachers - they seek engaging methods and try their best to access them. This interest is also evident among an increasing number of government school teachers. The most rewarding statements I heard was from two Delhi Govt. school mentor teachers. One exclaimed, “The textbooks talk about democracy as if it is only about elections. We know that democracy is really an attitude. How do we teach children this?!” Another stated, “With all this exposure and methods, I am not sure how much will finally get translated in the class. But one thing I can say for us all, **we are not the same teachers as we were six months back.**”
- The successes that students have had when they have taken up community projects clearly show that the citizenship education approach can have dramatic gains for the students and for the community. **Helping educational institutions see this link between student learning and community impact and invest in this approach is very important.**
- In the future, it appears that we may have to create two very different methods to training teachers. For private schools, create on-line paid content focussing on innovative methods and information. For government schools, work with State education departments to explore which ones will back a holistic - attitudes, knowledge and skills - transformation in citizenship education.

We also continue our focus on working with NGO partners - training their teams so that we can build citizenship education among the communities that they reach. Some key insights -

- The long term capacity building process has made deep impact on the attitudes, knowledge and skills of the teams. **They have rediscovered their own power as citizens** and developed the capacity to view things from a constitutional and legal perspective. This has been somewhat amiss in the way NGO teams respond to community problems - viewing them more from a programme lens and less from an empowerment lens. One statement that stayed with me was from Basanti from our training cohort in Jharkhand. She said, “Earlier when we got very angry with the ration shop owner for not giving us ration in time, we simply beat him up. Now, we understand that that’s not the solution. We have to use the law to punish him. **We cannot ourselves break the law if we want protection from it.**”
- We understood that this work needs content that can be disseminated more easily among citizens with low literacy, so we have to constantly rework our content to suit this audience. Also, we need to build our internal capacities on select laws that are most relevant for rural communities.
- In future, we will need to explore deep NGO partnerships. The changing needs of larger, more established NGOs may help in establishing these partnerships. And the focus on building local governance may give us the opportunity we seek.

Another highlight from the last six months is that we held a Content Development Workshop in partnership with a few other organisations in the education space like CMCA, Synergy, Heritage School and Pratyya. It was wonderful to create and share learning materials that we all could use for our common cause.

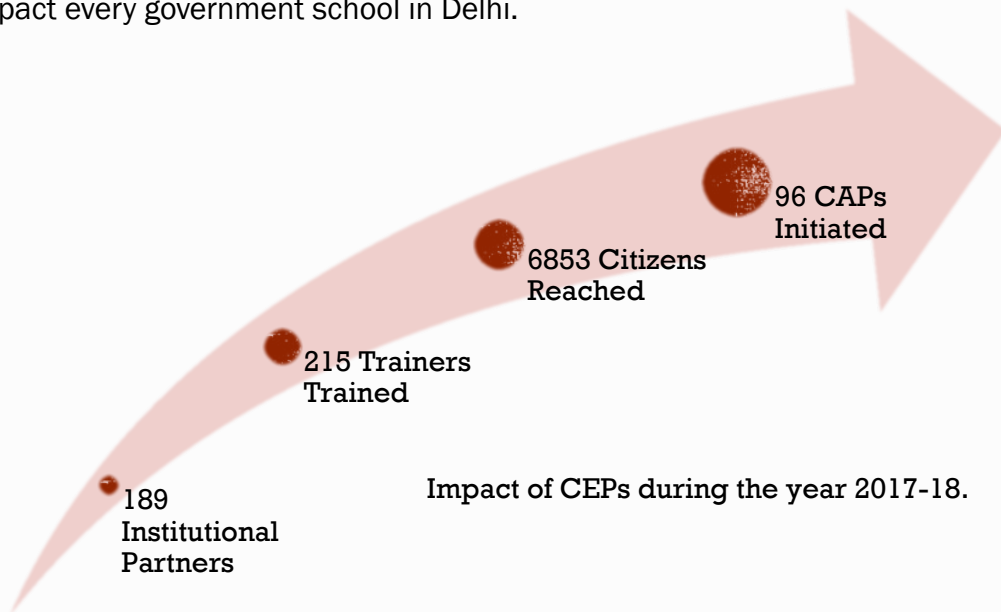
The next few months will see a deepening of our partnerships. Also we will move with active rigour into the next season of Constitution Connect with exciting methods of igniting sparks of citizenship among citizens across the country.



# Story in Numbers

While the focus of our programmes is to ensure that there is a change in skill, attitude and knowledge of the participants and also to get hands-on experience with active citizenship, it is important to keep track of the progress we are making in terms of numbers. The graphic below is the current reach of our [Citizenship Education Programme](#) (CEP) in 6 months. As per the design, we expect a lot more Civic Action Projects (CAPs) to be taken up and completed by the end of year 2017-18.

One major difference in the numbers from the last year report is the significant rise in the partners. This is largely due to our focus on doing Training of Trainers (TOTs) that will have large scale reach. For example, this year we worked with the Mentor Teacher groups of Delhi. That one TOT will impact every government school in Delhi.



On the awareness front, there are a lot of exciting events planned for the Constitution Day (26<sup>th</sup> Nov) and until the Republic Day (26<sup>th</sup> Jan) that will be covered in the next report. The big news on this front is our [website](#) revamp and we saw a lot of traction on the new portal.

# Activity Report - CEP

## Delhi Social Science Mentor Teachers Training Programme

We, The People has partnered with Delhi Government to conduct trainings for the social science Mentor Teachers (MTs) of government schools to teach civics differently in their classrooms. Delhi Government is using the model of MTs where a set of select teachers for each subject is chosen and trained through the year to come up with innovative and effective ways of teaching in classrooms. These MTs then train all the other teachers of Delhi government schools. This is a long-term association in which We, The people will conduct several workshops at regular intervals to help them with their curriculum topics. We will provide content using the Constitution and Citizenship lens and practical application. The first 2 days workshop took place in April where 35 MTs participated. The content provided by WTP was highly appreciated and was used by all MTs for further trainings with government school teachers.



## Civics Capacity Building Programme for Private School Cohort

For the second year we have started a cohort of social science teachers of various private schools in Delhi-NCR region. This year we partnered with 4 leading schools namely, The Shri Ram School Mousari, GEMS International, The Heritage School Vasant Kunj and The Shri Ram School, Aravali. We conducted a 3 days training for these teachers to share with them our curriculum and methodology. They were also asked to undertake a personal project of any civic issue that concerned them and work on it. This is a group of highly motivated teachers who are eager to learn techniques that can make their classes more effective. This training also involved going through the process of civic action projects, which students of each of these schools have taken up and are currently working on. The teachers took on some personal projects during the summer break to work on an issue that concerned them. Listen to Megha and Vidhi from The Shri Ram School Mousari talk about their experience in the video below..

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=1pip7v0MnigsWRIdi2Qu22ztC2\\_FfS4GK](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1pip7v0MnigsWRIdi2Qu22ztC2_FfS4GK)

# Activity Report - CEP



## Civic Literacy and Engagement Programme (CLEP) with PRADAN

This year we started working in partnership with PRADAN to train their community leaders in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. We have done 3 sets of trainings for a cohort of 30 members each in MP and Jharkhand. It is a TOT programme where the capacities of cohort is built on constitutional framework and CAP process. Each member took a personal civic action project in this duration and worked towards resolving it, using the constitutional framework. In last six months, both cohorts have gone through 2 sets of TOTs and several personal projects have been completed with on field support and handholding from PRADAN and WTP team. The cohorts are now ready to start the Stage 2 of the programme where they will build capacities of community members in their village on the same understanding and then take on a community civic issue to work on.

The cohort members that we are working with are extremely motivated and they have shown great enthusiasm for accepting the change. We have many success stories that have emerged from the work of our cohort. Listen to Sukhiya didi sharing her experience of being part of the cohort...<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Fh3ESARyUfk3nFSupmQ3S6xehQe0iHo>



# Activity Report - CEP

## CEP with College Students

This year we added a new name to our list of partners after completing a 2 day programme with 64 extremely talented students of ISDM (India School of Development Management). It was a great experience interacting with the bright minds who want to work in this sector and are very interested in learning about the Constitution and active citizenship. Also, continuing our partnership with School of Inspired Leadership (SOIL), we did a Citizenship Programme with 29 SOIL students of Human Resource Leadership Programme. The programme was designed keeping in mind their role as future HR leaders and how understanding the Constitution and Fundamental Rights will help them in that.



## Culmination of the PMC & PCMC School Cohorts, Pune:

The partnership with Secondary Education Department of Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), Pune successfully culminated in April 2017. 29 social science teachers were trained on CEP. 11 schools undertook civic action projects where in students worked on varied issues like sanitation, road safety and tobacco consumption prevention among others. Upon studying the constitutional provisions, acts and guidelines regarding the concerned issue, the students filed applications with respective ward offices of the municipal corporation.

In the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), Pune, 13 schools of Secondary Education Department participated in CEP in academic year 2016-17. Following the steps in the civic action projects, students initiated civic actions on topics like educational needs, solid waste management and road safety among others.

# Activity Report - CEP

## Citizenship Education Programme with tribal communities of Maharashtra

In partnership with CSR wing of Tata Motors Limited and Prasad Chikitsa – an NGO working in health and community development, we built capacities of nearly 400 tribal citizens on civic literacy and action in Ganeshpuri, District Thane, Maharashtra. Under guidance of community leaders trained by us, the self help group members of Ganeshpuri, along with villagers initiated numerous civic actions listed below -

- Training citizens on Panchayati Raj and rural local governance
- Getting information boards painted in Gram panchayat under section 4 of the Right to Information Act
- Pursuing citizens to attend Gramsabhas
- Conducting information exchange sessions with district/block officer of agriculture on governmental schemes
- Working on availing grants for families under Swachha Bharat Mission
- Introducing and acquainting School Management Committee with Right to Education Act
- Applying for job cards under MNREGA
- Working on availing funds from Gram panchayat towards women and child development



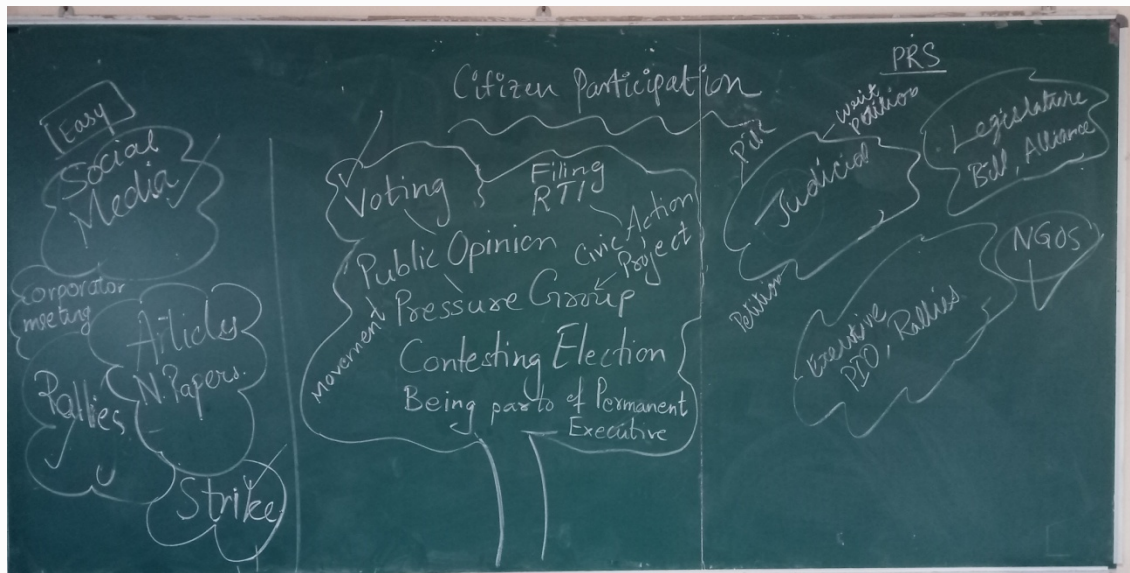
## Exciting 6 new partnerships with schools in Maharashtra

This year, we set out on another exciting journey of working with 6 new schools. In our work with schools, it has always been a mutual process of learning between us, the teachers and students. However, this year is indeed special and different. The school partners that we are working with this year have for long pursued innovative ways of learning and have set examples for others to live up to. With CEP in these schools, we are sure the teachers will bring their expertise on experiential education on board and help us enhance our content further.

While discussing about values in the Preamble to the Constitution of India, Rubina Shaikh from Anutai Wagh Shikshan Kendra, Vikramgad, Dist. Palghar, Maharashtra mentioned 'In our school, we the teachers, work in a conducive environment where we can practice and experience value of liberty ourselves.' Big congratulations to the team of Vikramgad for making a constant effort to adhere to our constitutional mandate.

# Activity Report - CEP

During a session on *Citizen Participation*, at City Pride School, Nigdi, Pimpri Chinchwad, Maharashtra, many of the teachers were delighted and felt proud to listen to the story of Kamla teacher who took a stand and participated in a civic action during the episode of Jallikattu in Tamilnadu.



Session on *Citizen Participation in Indian Democratic Set Up* at City Pride School, Pune





# Experiences of Change

For the first time in our reports, we are bringing in some of the real experiences of change from the ground. These experiences are the reason why we do this work and it inspires us to do more.

## “We have heard about it, but never saw a copy”

This year with Pradan cohorts we gave the copy of the Constitution to each anchor in our second TOT. The impact it had on their confidence was great. One of the anchors, Sukhiya bai, shared during the field visit that many people in her village have started talking to her and asking about the Constitution copy that she has. She shared that a doctor and a teacher asked her to lend her copy for a night so that they can go through it. Everyone had the same thing to say, ‘We have heard about it but never seen a copy’. She shared that it felt very happy when she was able to explain to a doctor and a teacher, who are much more educated than her, about her training on values and rights.



## “Men and Women are equal”

During the second TOT in Pradan, Madhya Pradesh we asked our anchors to reflect and share if they have experienced any change in their personal life after being part of the cohort. A cohort member shared that this time during the Gram Sabha when the men sat down on chairs and all the women were sitting on ground, which is a usual practice in many places, she stood up and said that everyone should be treated equally, so either they should arrange chairs for everyone or even the men should sit on the ground with others. **Everyone was surprised to hear this but eventually everyone sat down on the ground together.** She said that it made her feel very good that she was able to voice this. She said that before joining the cohort she didn't even feel that there was anything wrong in it. She was not able to see the inequality. But now she sees through Constitutional values.

## Leaders in the community, but accept inequality at home?!

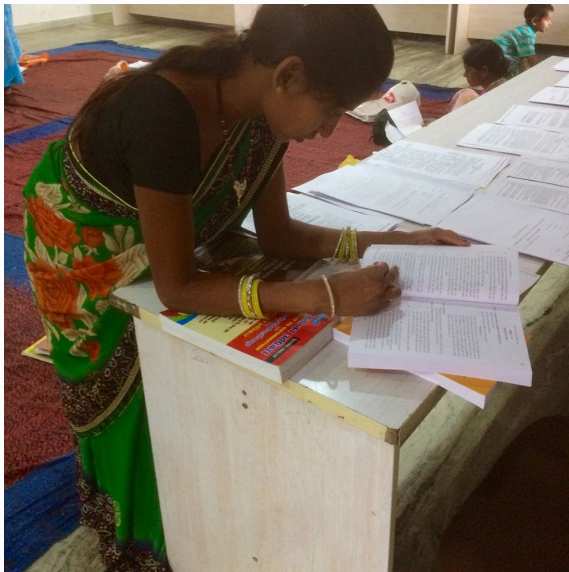
During the third TOT in Pradan, Jharkhand, the cohort was asked to reflect on how the values of equality, freedom and justice are being lived in their own lives. After being a part of the cohort for nearly 6 months and working on several issues for their rights, we wanted them to think what these rights mean in their houses and do they see any violations. The sharing was very powerful. Few anchors shared that they don't feel equal or free in their own houses because they don't have the freedom to go where they want or wear what they want to. **They can fight for entitlements with external authorities but inside the house, it is still difficult to claim their rights.** Most of them still faced domestic violence. But they shared that their language has changed and they have at least started thinking about it now whereas earlier it was part of routine. This was a very moving session for everyone.

# Experiences of Change

## How to train a group of women who haven't studied beyond class 8?

The focus of the training on the Citizenship Programme is on the Constitution (which is a written document) and on laws (which are also written!). Trainers need to have a level of familiarity with reading and writing to, at the minimum, look for relevant articles or sections. So, the question on our minds when we looked the enthusiastic faces of the cohort of community leaders in front of us was, how are we going to train a group of women who haven't studied beyond class 8?

The answer was clear - with determination, love and patience. But it was tough going. Every concept had to be revised over and over again and researching documents took much longer than planned. But slowly and surely the whole cohort moved forward. **And as they mastered the process, their faces beamed with pleasure. Ours beamed with pride.**



## “But we want to understand the full book!”

This was a simple but unusual demand by the trainers cohort in MP. Unusual because no other cohort had ever asked us to discuss the full contents of the Constitution. We usually focused on Part 3 and 4 – the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles. Yet this was what this cohort of community leaders wanted. When asked why, their answer was even simpler. **“Because this is our Constitution and we need to know ALL that is in it!”**



# Experiences of Change

## Questioning the name of a government scheme!

“Sabko Seeta Ram” – the Didis greeted each other as we started another day of the training. This is their traditional greeting as the cohort is predominantly Hindu. As we discussed a popular Government scheme called Ladli Laxmi Yojna, one of them asked, “How come we have such a name for a government scheme? Is it only for Hindus as it has a Hindu name? Won’t other communities feel excluded?” The question led to intense discussion. The question is important. The questioning even more so.

## I take the lead! I inspire others!

Personal projects are projects that trainers take up to get their hands dirty. These are issues that directly affect them such as irregular ration or pension etc. The trainers then learn by doing – looking at the laws that govern the issue, going through the grievance redress process and seeking action as per the law. They all then present their progress in the next training.

When the time to present came at the next training, only two Didis out of 20 were prepared. They stood up and presented. They spoke about their problem and the steps they took to seek redress. They explained each step, referred to the Government Orders on the issue and presented their written complaint. They spoke with immense confidence and understanding. The effect on the entire cohort was electric. What was thought to be a daunting exercise was not so at all. After all, two Didis had done it! They then spent the whole of the next day working on their personal projects with great diligence!

## Do what is right and others will follow you!

There are many challenges that community leaders face and will face when they take action questioning the “popular”. Our training tries to prepare them for this. One of the things that we do is to talk about the potential challenges and how we could engage people to face them. During one such sharing, Jagrani Didi shared a story of how she went about engaging people in her village.

Jagrani Didi comes from a tribal community in small village in Basia in Jharkhand. As tribal communities go, theirs is a tight knit circle of relationships. So, even the people you are trying to question may be someone you know very closely, possibly even family. In this milieu, Jagrani Didi’s issue of the ration shopkeeper charging unfair commission irked the village elders. But she and her SHG group members did not step back.

One evening, she was returning from a market day at a nearby village. It had gotten very dark and she had to pass the forest. This was of course quite normal for her so she wasn’t afraid. However, as she was mid-way, she saw a group of young men coming towards her. **They blocked her way and asked her why she was challenging the ration shop keeper.** She explained but they continued to threaten her. Then she asked them to sit down with her and she went over the ethical reasons for which she must fight. She talked about the Constitution and what it says. Then she asked them to join her in this fight. After much discussion, they accompanied her home safely and left. All of us listening to her, were just in awe.



# Experiences of Change

## **I will now listen to my wife!**

Patil works with community on agriculture related projects in Ganeshpuri of Thane District. He was one of the active members in our cohort training. After the training, he said – “Indian Constitution talks about liberty of an individual. Earlier I had always been convinced of patriarchal family values and had expected my wife to listen to what I say. After going through this training, I have changed. I have realised that the Constitution talks about liberty of an individual. **As I insist on my fundamental right, so should my wife.** Liberty is her right too.”

## **Gram panchayat should be open everyday!**

“The Gram panchayat in our village used to be closed for days together. But now I know that Gram panchayat should be open day long and should work as any office. It should be accessible to every villager. I made this happen in my village. It feels good to see that door open now. “ said Pranali who works as community motivator in Ghodgaon of Thane district.

## **We are all equals!**

After the CEP at the Indian School of Development Management, one of the students had this to share, “I feel proud about what my father and I did in our village. You know that Dalits in our village use a separate path to come into the village. It is much longer than the regular path. So, when some of them asked for a path through our fields that would help them, we readily agreed. The people from my community threatened us but we went ahead. I feel good we did it.”

## **Narrative questions finally answered**

One of the teachers of Political Science in Pimpri Chinchwad talked about the changes she has observed in the students she teaches. “This year, I noticed one change while correcting exam papers of Political Science of 9th graders. Usually, students rarely attempted questions that require narrative answers. This time, many of the students wrote in detail about their rights and responsibilities when they attempted to answer a narrative question. This change is positive. This shows that they are developing interest in the subject. Another change I see is among us teachers. The rigorous follow up by team of We, The People made us get unsettled with the current teaching practices and we tried project based learning in Civics classrooms. ”

# Stories of Change - Communities

Continuing the trend from our previous report, we have got a lot of impactful stories to present this time. These are the outcomes from our Civic Action Projects (CAPs) that are a part of the CEP. For people who are not aware about the structure of our programme, do take a minute to go through it [here](#).

## Village gets Chaupal after 15 years!

For the people of Dhappa village in Betul, MP, what Parvati didi was able to do this year was nothing short of a miracle. The people in this village have been asking their Panchayat for a Chaupal for last 15 years but nothing moved until one day Parvati didi wrote a proper application with references to her Fundamental Rights, Panchayati Raj Act and other Government Orders and went to her Sarpanch. With support of other members from her village organisation, she was able to get the Sarpanch to finally act on her complaint and start the construction of the Chaupal. She had been trying to do this for last many years by talking to the Panchayat and complaining, but after joining the Civic Literacy and Engagement Programme (CLEP) with PRADAN and WTP, she understood the power of the Constitution and rights it gives to the citizens. As part of this programme when she was asked to take up one issue that concerned her the most and use this knowledge to resolve the issue, she immediately started working on get this Chaupal constructed in her village and finally succeeded. This is what an active and informed citizen can do! Listen to the story for Parvati didi herself in the link below..



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=14oxuKUP0s4pRGzsqj1RFkNaN6CeGqMEd>



# Stories of Change - Communities

## 30 families availed grant for toilets built under Swachha Bharat Mission

Community leaders of Prasad Chikitsa worked with citizens of Akloli village, Block-Bhwandi, Dist-Thane, Maharashtra on availing grants of Rs.12,000/- for 30 families under Swachha Bharat Mission. The community leaders held several meetings with villagers on how this issue could be addressed by using the existing constitutional framework. The guidelines of Swachha Bharat Mission were thoroughly studied. An application in writing followed by RTI application were filed by villagers to avail the grants. The newspaper Daily News and Analysis recently covered this story.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-toilets-for-20-tribal-families-2552211>

## Village women file online complaint and get handpumps repaired!

The government school of Polapathar village in Betul, MP, had toilets for students and 3 handpumps, but no water. As a result, the students had no access to drinking water and were forced to go out of the school for open defecation because toilets could not be used. This was also resulting in girls dropping out of school after 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> standard. Rashmi didi had been concerned about this issue for a long time, she tried talking to the Sarpanch and the teachers of the school but nothing changed. Nobody knew who is responsible to resolve this problem. When she became a part of the CLEP cohort and understood the Constitutional framework of working on an issue, she wrote an application and gave it to her Janpad Panchayat as well as the District Education Office of Betul. The officer refused to accept her complaint and sent her to PHE department, who ensured that the problem would be solved. But again, nothing changed. After going to many offices and waiting for more than a month she decided to file an online complaint. And within 15 days the handpumps got repaired. She shared that not knowing your role and responsibilities, as a citizen is probably the only thing, which stops people from taking action. But once you understand the power of the Constitution and your Rights as a citizen, there is nothing that can stop your efforts. Listen to Rashmi didi's story from herself in the link below..

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# Stories of Change - Communities

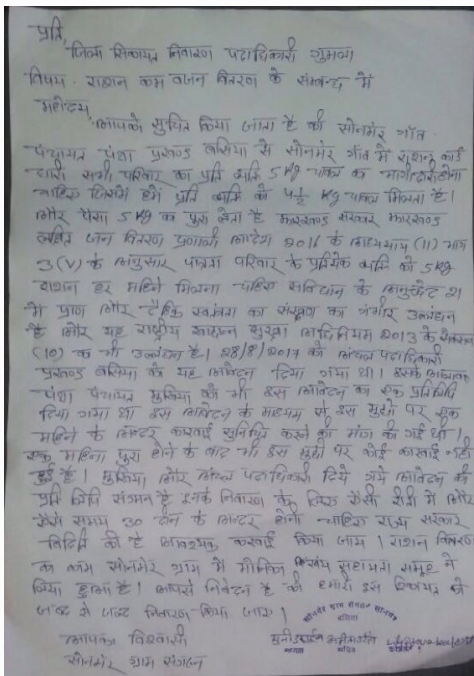
## Ghotgaon villagers get their water pipelines repaired

The women from Ghotgaon village, Thane, took up the issue of repair of water pipelines that were causing obstruction in the water supply to the village. Several meetings were held with Sarpanch and an application citing reference to article 21 was filed with Grampanchayat. The rigorous follow up by the women resulted in repair of 3 water pipelines.

## Ration at the right price.

When Basanti didi joined the CLEP Jharkhand cohort, she had not even heard about the Constitution. After going through the training and understanding her rights, she started questioning, why is that everyone in her village, Pantha, in Basia, Jharkhand, is getting less quantity of ration from the dealer of ration shop. She was supposed to get 20 Kgs of grain for her family but every month she only got only 18 Kgs, but paid for 20. When she was asked to take up a personal project during the training programme, she didn't have to think very hard. She wrote an application complaining about the ration problem and submitted it to the CO. Nothing happened for a month, but one day the dealer called her to the ration shop and started threatening her to stop her ration altogether. He obviously had gotnt some pressure from the CO and now knew about Basanti didi's complaint. But Basanti didi did not budge, she stood her ground and said that he will have to give her full quantity because if was written in the Act and it is her right. After 3 days of fights and threats, she received her full ration of 20 Kgs and paid Rs 20 for it.

But she didn't stop at that. She then shared her story and worked with other women in the village facing the same problem and wrote a group application and submitted it to the Sarpanch, the District Office and the Food Commissioner of Jharkhand. One citizen's action has sparked a movement in this village and that's the power our Constitution gives us! Below is the link to her story..



# Stories of Change - Schools

School	# Students	Issue Addressed	Actions Taken / Impact
Netaji Subhashchandra Bose Vidyalya, Yerwada, Pune	18	Stray dogs on the way to school	Application was filed with the ward office of Yerwada, Pune
Shantabai Dhole Patil Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Dhole Patil Road, Pune	41	Waste management in school	Students wrote a letter inviting sanitary inspector of the Ghole Patil road, ward office to discuss solid waste management system of Pune city in further detail.
Hakim Ajmal Khan Madhyamik Urdu Vidyalaya, Yerwada, Pune	25	Sale of tobacco products outside their school premises	Students made sign boards depicting rules and regulations of selling tobacco products to minors and attached it on the shops of tobacco vendors. Students also took out a rally spreading awareness about the same.
Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishna Prashala, Bopodi, Pune	10	Mosquitoes	Students searched for the spots, interviewed other students and prepared an application to the ward office of Aundh. Team of sanitary inspection from ward office of Aundh, Pune visited school and interacted with students.
Mahatma Phule Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Hadapsar, Pune	117	Solid waste management	Students wrote a letter inviting sanitary inspector of the ward office of Hadapsar to discuss solid waste management system of Pune city in further detail.
Nanasaheb Parulekar Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Vishrantwadi-Pune	57	Zebra crossing for the busy Alandi Road	A handwritten application supported by Indian National Congress guidelines was submitted to Pune Municipal Corpoartion to repaint the Zebra crossing.
Dr. Vasant Dada Patil Vidyaniketan, Shukrawar Peth, Pune	49	Uncovered drainage near their school bus stop	Based on a thorough research students wrote an application to Students wrote a letter to the health department of Vishrambag Wada Ward Office.
Subheddar Ramji Maloji Ambedkar Vidyalaya, Ramwadi, Pune	49	Solid waste management	Students wrote a letter inviting sanitary inspector of the ward office to discuss solid waste management system of Pune city in further detail.
Hutatma Shirishkumar Balveer Vidyalaya, Shivajinagar, Pune	31	Overflowing garbage bin	A well researched letter was submitted to the Ghole road ward office and the Sanitary Inspector visited the students and spoke with them in detail about the issue. The officer also guided students on what can be done regarding the issue.



# Stories of Change - Schools

School	# Students	Issue Addressed	Actions Taken / Impact
Secondary School of PCMC, Sant Tukaram Nagar, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune	45	Dismantled scrap of school material in school ground	Filed an application with the education officer who 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.
Secondary School of PCMC, Wakad, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune	42	Issue of library and boys toilet in the school	They studied RTE and RMSA provisions, looked into Constitution and spoke with several students in the school on the issues and filed an application with the municipal corporation of Pimpri Chinchwad.
Secondary School of PCMC, Rupeenagar, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune	55	Faded black boards in the school	They studied guidelines of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and wrote an application to the school principal. The school had recently received the annual grant from RMSA and got the back boards in the school repainted from the grant
Secondary School of PCMC, Thergaon, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune	47	Solid waste near the Shivaji statue outside their school	Students studied solid waste management rules of the ministry of environment and with the help of that wrote an application and met the sanitary inspector of the ward office. The office took action on the application and instructed the concerned department workers to address the issue.
Secondary School of PCMC, Pimprinagar, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune	41	Broken drainage pipes	Students gathered information around the issue, interviewed fellow students and looked into municipal corporation act and identified ward office as the concerned authority to address this. Supported by the research, the application was filed with the ward office.
Secondary School of PCMC, Pimple Saudagar, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune	53	Speed breaker and signboard of <i>No Honking</i> near the hospital	Students studied the guidelines of the Indian Road Congress and Motor Vehicle Act.
Secondary School of PCMC, Kalbhornagar, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune	33	Pungent smell that was caused by the nearby company in the MIDC area	Students studied the guidelines issued by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and also held several interviews of citizens in the surrounding who were affected by the issue.

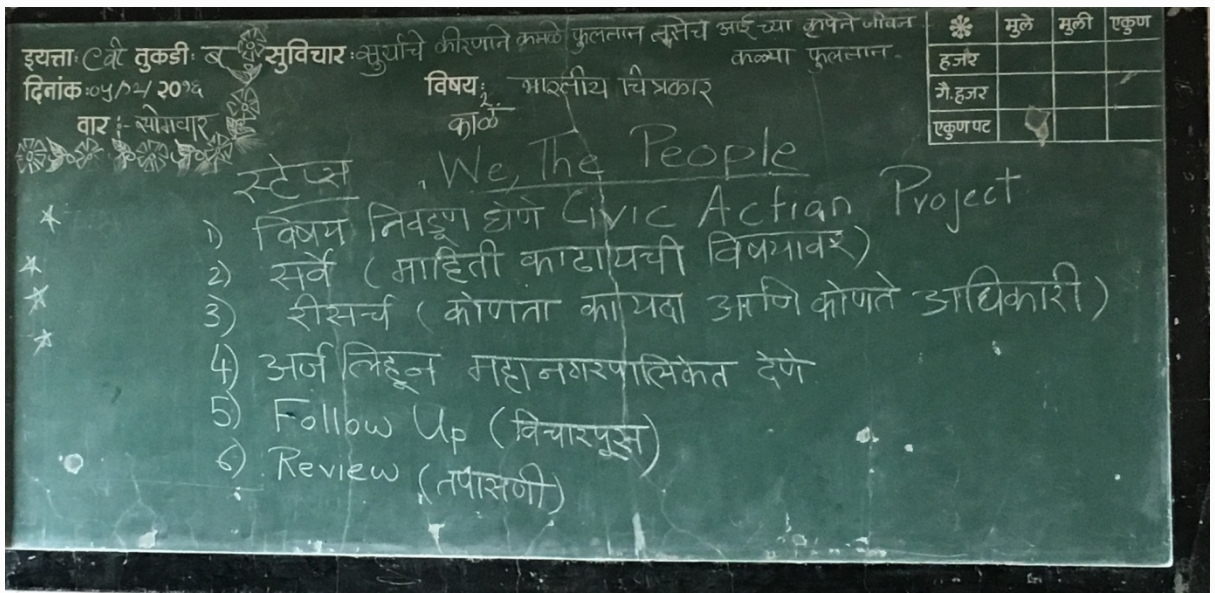
# Stories of Change – Schools – Gallery



(Left) Students from Hakim Ajmal Khan Madhyamik Urdu Vidyalaya spreading awareness about tobacco selling (Right) Students from Mahatma Phule Madhyamik Vidyalaya discussing about solid waste management



(Left) Students from Dr. Vasant Dada Patil Vidyaniketan discussing about open drain issue near the school bus stop. (Right) Students from Hutatma Shirishkumar Balveer Vidyalaya surveying about overflowing garbage bin in their locality



Students from Secondary School of PCMC, Kharalwadi discussing the various steps involved in a civic action project

# What changed at WTP?

## Sonal joins our team

Sonal Iyer is a development professional with over 15 years of experience. She started off her career with Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan, working with the women in rural and remote areas of Kutch focusing on Education, livelihood and citizen empowerment. She was also actively involved in the relief and rehabilitation work during the 2001 Bhuj earthquake. Following this she joined Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), wherein she worked with the community members in the riot affected areas of Gujarat. During her tenure with CHRI, she worked closely with community members to build their capacities to access various schemes and entitlements. She was instrumental in developing the communication strategy and setting up the Citizen's Information Centre. She has a sound understanding of the government systems and also have excellent skills of working at the grass root level. She is a post-graduate in Psychology and also holds Bachelor's degree in Law.



## Research project

Since September 2016, we have undertaken an experimental research study in the field of civics education in governmental schools of Pune, Maharashtra, India. The research study follows mixed methods design as it aims to assess the impact of our programme quantitatively and qualitatively. Two experimental groups and two control groups from four schools were selected based on socio economic data of the participants. The draft research report is expected to be ready by December 2017. The working paper for the same study had been accepted and was presented at the 'National Seminar on Research in Social Sciences Education in Indian Schools' organised by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in March 2017.

Our research team has following members

- **Dr. Suhas Palshikar** – Mentor for the study, currently is Chief Editor, *Studies in Indian Politics*, <http://inp.sagepub.com/>
- **Bhakti Bhawe** - Head of West Secretariat, We The People
- **Kaamini Jayashree Suhas** - 5<sup>th</sup> year student at ILS College, Pune and former intern with We, The People
- **Apoorva Barve** – PHD student at UCLA, United States

## All the best, Sharun! You will be missed.

We bid a Good Bye to Sharun Kashyap, backbone of our interns team in Maharashtra. Sharun got associated with us in year 2015 after attending a citizen cafe. From then till recently, she has been instrumental in executing our school programmes in Maharashtra. Her dedicated efforts of working with ashram schools and municipal schools in particular, have helped us reach to the underprivileged sections of society. Sharun, you will surely be missed. We wish you all the very best in your pursuance of passion for hospitality sector.



# What's new at WTP?

## New Website

This was a long pending action item on our communication team. Our work has changed significantly over the last few years that a change to our website was utmost important. After a 3 month content creation and design effort, we are proud to announce the launch of our new website – [wethepeople.ooo](http://wethepeople.ooo) – that reflects our current work, has easy access to all the work we do and the impact we create.

Have any questions? [info@wethepeople.ooo](mailto:info@wethepeople.ooo)



Fostering Active Citizenship, Empowering Communities

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Explore a new way to understand democracy and become an active citizen!

Insights from around the world have shown that democracies are deepened and sustained through an informed, active and responsible citizenry. This is a singular condition. This means that the development of responsible citizenship is a critical building block for our nation. It will enhance not only the capability of citizens but also improve governance through people's participation. This is the focus of our work at We, the People. In partnership with institutions, we build capacities of young citizens in understanding and putting to action their role as citizens, constantly using the lens of the Constitution.

97

Institutional Partners

412

Trainers Trained

6473

Active Citizens

71

Civic Action Projects



### Constitution Connect

Constitution Connect is our outreach campaign on awareness about the Constitution. We facilitate multiple events across the country on topics like the Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Duties.

[Read More](#)



### Citizenship Education Programme

The Citizenship Education Programme (CEP) is a capacity building programme that helps citizens understand constitutional values, rights and responsibilities, governance framework along with a strong focus on individual and community based action.

[Read More](#)

# In Media

## Articles published by We, The People -

### **Making a civic connection**

Published in: *Teacher Plus*, a national-level educational magazine

Date of publication: 01/10/2017 (article accepted for publication)

This article guides on how project based learning can happen in civics classrooms.

<http://www.teacherplus.org/category/classroom-update>

Note: Complete article is available for subscribers only. Full article from my archive can be read at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7Rgri-nIGIDVGhVc1U5c0FhS1U/view?usp=sharing>

### **Constitution in hand, these citizen heroes are empowering people through civic education**

Published in: *The Better India*, a reputed web portal that features stories of positive change

Date of publication: 17/08/2017

This piece sheds light on how citizenship education enables communities in ensuring effective participation in local self governments.

<http://www.thebetterindia.com/111892/tryst-with-our-constitution/>

## Articles published about our work -

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-toilets-for-20-tribal-families-2552211>

## Connect with us –

