

## **The Right to Information Branch**

**2011 – 2012**

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About the programme

**The YP Foundation (TYPF)** is a youth led and run organization that enables young people to create programmes and influence policies on the issues of gender and sexuality, education, health, governance, independent arts and media. The organization promotes, protects and advances young people's human rights by building leadership, and strengthening youth led initiatives and movements. Founded in 2002, we have worked over the last 8 years directly with 5,000 young people to set up over 200 projects in India, reaching out to 300,000 young people.

**The Right to Information Branch** at TYPF aims to develop young people's engagement with governance process, increased awareness on laws and policies in India and their application to our daily lives. In the last 6 years, the branch has worked on building the spirit of active citizenship amongst young people by exploring issues such as corruption, our right to information, and understanding the political system.

### **Vision:**

A world where young people recognize and claim their Right to Information and are able to use The Right To Information Act, 2005 effectively, have access to neutral spaces where they can engage, challenge, and proactively dialogue with public authorities (as defined under The RTI Act, 2005) and have the resources to work with them to ensure government accountability and transparency.

### **Mission:**

The RTI Branch aims to increase young people's sensitivity towards the issue of good governance and aims to increase their awareness on laws and policies in India, provide them with the resources to review and work on ensuring the implementation of laws and policies, thereby increasing their participation in processes of governance ensuring a transparent and accountable government.

### **Programme Goals (2011-2012):**

- To train 8 volunteers on RTI Act, 05 so that they can effectively use the knowledge for peer education sessions and to implement their specific job portfolios as peer educators, documenters and auditors.
- To train 8 volunteers on RTE Act, 09 and to enable them to assess and monitor 25 children's access to school and the quality of education for 150 in-school children through school audits.
- To train 3 RTI volunteers on Copyright Act, 1957 to enable them to develop and implement an IPR protection module for young music artists across the NCR region with information on IPR and to develop and implement lesson plans on the concept of Creative Commons and the Copyright Act, 1957 for 40 children from underserved communities at Ummeed, Khushi and Kilkari homes managed by partner organization, Aman Biradri.

### **Key Activities (2011 – 2012):**

- Governance
- The Right to Information Act
- Training a team of 8 peer educators on RTI Act, 05, RTE Act, 09 and Copyright Act, 1957.
- Assisting 80 families at Nizamuddin Basti to secure formal identification for their identity and income proof.
- Ensuring 25 children's access to Free and Compulsory Education under the RTE Act, 09.

- Conducting school audits in 5 government schools in the Nizamuddin Area accessible to children at Nizamuddin Basti.
- Conducting a Right Awareness Camp at Nizamuddin Basti, specifically focusing on RTI Act, 05 and RTE Act, 09.
- A report on findings of the school audit and the recommendations will be published and shared with DCPCR, NCPCR, Directorate of Education, MCD and GNCT schools in the Nizamuddin Area, MLA and Councilor of the area, mentors and partners in the sector.
- TYPF serves on Wata Na To Do Abhiyaan's Core Committee Group. The RTI Branch coordinates our work with WNTA.
- TYPF is a member of Youth Alliance for Planning, a committee of youth organizations that assist the Planning Commission of India with drafting an Approach Paper to the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan. As part of the same, The RTI Branch represents the organization in providing inputs for the demographic of youth on the thematic areas of 'decentralization of information and services', 'education' and health.
- The RTI Branch has also been part of the core committee that co-organized the National Youth Consultation in 2010-2011 to draft an Approach Paper for the 12<sup>th</sup> FYP. The team worked with 64 youth groups from across the country, addressing 12 challenge areas in the FYP that address the needs of adolescents and young people. A recommendations report was presented to the Planning Commission of India.
- Developing a curriculum and conducting workshops on IPR and Creative Commons for 40 children at-risk in low-income communities, who will produce their own documentaries and digital stories.
- Developing an IPR module and conducting workshops on Copyright Act, 57 and Creative Commons with 80 young music artists across the NCR region.

#### **Previous Projects, Initiatives and Campaigns:**

- 'What Does Your Vote Want' campaign (2009) in partnership with Radio Mirchi and Livemint Blog, focusing on Voter ID registration and awareness workshops on elections and rights? Successfully secured Voter ID registration for 4000 young people across the NCR region and Chhattisgarh.
- Intergenerational Policy Forums in partnership with CHRI and UNDP were organized on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2009 and on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010, exploring young people's role and the Right to Information Act, 05 in ensuring transparency and accountability in governance. More than 300 young people and 20 organisations attended the two discussion forums.
- Between 2002 – 2005, the RTI branch at TYPF organized and conducted seminars with young people on topics like "Corruption at young citizen's level", "Sensationalism in the media and the young citizen's right to information" and "Politics in Democracy: The Basis on Which Young People Vote".

#### **Programme Mentors, Partners and Donors:**

- United Nations Development Programme
- Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- Mr. Shekhar Singh, National Campaign for People's Right to Information
- Mr. Shailesh Gandhi, Central Information Commission, India
- Mr. Wajahat Habibullah, Former Chief Information Commissioner, India
- Joint Operative for Social Help
- American Center, New Delhi
- Governance Now
- Students for Promotion of International Law (SPIL)
- Media Partners: Channel V, Livemint, Radio Mirchi

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