# YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

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LOOKING AHEAD

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# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

I am very pleased to present to you our Annual Report for the year 2017–18. The report highlights our activities and achievements over the past year.

It was an eventful and exciting year at YUVA Urban Initiatives. We continued our work on poverty alleviation, extending emergency support services to children via CHILDLINE interventions. **We connected with 1,000+ children and youth across the year**, offering them different kinds of support. **We also set up a community resource centre and began skilling initiatives for the youth** with the support of a corporate partner. Our engagements on skill building involve a critical mix of technical knowhow and life skills, to help the youth adapt to changing workforce requirements and help them pursue different kinds of job and education opportunities that interest them. With the shrinking of democratic spaces for expression, the community resource centre is a unique space which can freely be used by anyone in the community to share experiences, participate in activities, etc.

Our **strategic support initiatives continued this year** as well, helping us strengthen networks with other organisations and learn more about scalable and replicable strategies that we can implement in times to come.

At YUVA Urban Initiatives, **we strongly believe in implementing holistic, integrated strategies to usher change in the lives of the urban poor**, instead of a siloed approach which does not consider the larger perspective and circumstances. This year too, our interventions were driven by these interconnected strategies, and I would like to thank all our partners for their unstinting support.

It has been a promising year of growth for YUVA Urban Initiatives. We have been able to forge new partnerships and enter newer areas of work. Our team has grown, and we are happy to have positively contributed with everyone's efforts. On that note, I invite you to engage with our work and look back on the year.

In solidarity Rajendra Joshi Chairperson, YUVA Urban Initiatives



IT HAS BEEN A PROMISING YEAR OF GROWTH AT YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES

# ABOUT US

#### YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES

YUVA Urban Initiatives was set up in 2007. Based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, the organisation seeks to confront the myriad challenges and inequalities that have mushroomed with the rapid and unplanned development of urban spaces.

Be it the growth of informal settlements (bastis) and inadequate living conditions, the lack of livelihood opportunities, or limited awareness of and access to health and nutrition facilities, YUVA Urban Initiatives adopts an integrated approach to drive change in each case.



### MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

YUVA Urban Initiatives has two key missions:

- > To create cities that are just, equitable and sustainable; and
- > To create a better place for the poor by **enabling access to human rights**

In particular, YUVA Urban Initiatives aims to uphold the rights of the most vulnerable groups in large cities, especially the children and youth. Rooted in our belief in empowerment, **we seek to build the capacities of urban poor communities** to address issues related to the quality of their living conditions and livelihoods. With access to healthcare services still highly inequitable, we endeavour to enable access to aid and medical facilities for the urban poor.

# GOVERNING BOARD

NAME	AGE	GENDER	POSITION IN BOARD		
Rajendra Babulal Joshi	60	Male	Director		
Kavitha Krishamoorthy	49	Female	Director		
Nisreen Zafar Ebrahim	54	Female	Director		
Helen Anthappa Joseph	65	Female	Director		
Lata Narayan	66	Female	Director		
Nalini Shekar	54	Female	Director		
Lysa John Berna	42	Female	Director		
Archana Shrivastava	53	Female	Director		

No remuneration was paid to any board member during 2017–18.

No board member has any blood relation with another board member or with any of the staff members.

2017-18 board meeting held on 4 August 2017 and 15 March 2018.

## STAFF DETAILS

Gross monthly salary (in Rs)	Male staff	Female staff	Total staff
Less than 5,000			
5,000-10,000	2	4	6
10,001-25,000	1		1
25,001-50,000			

#### **YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES** CIN: U85310MH2007NPL296526 BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2018

Particulars		Note No	As at 31st March 2018	As at 31st March 2017
I. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES				
(1) Shareholder's Funds				
(a) Share Capital		3	1,00,000	1,00,000
(b) Reserves and Surplus		4	6,22,303	1,80,213
(2) Non-Current Liabilities				
(a) Corpus Fund		5	2,40,011	2,40,003
(3) Current Liabilities				
(a) Other current liabilities		6	12,37,800	14,32,539
(b) Earmarked Funds		7	(3,77,711)	(10,00,966
	Total	-	18,22,403	9,51,789
II.Assets		F		
(1) Non-current assets	X			
(a) Property, Plant & Equipments				
(i) Tangible assets		8	12	4
2) Current assets				
(a) Cash and Bank balances		9	15,99,919	7,37,237
(b) Short-term loans and advances		10	1,22,472	49,748
(c) Other Current Assets		11	1,00,000	1,64,800
	Total	-	18,22,403	9,51,789

Significant accounting policies 2 The accompanying notes are an intergral part of the financial statements.

CHARTERED

ACCOUNTANT

MUMB

#### AS PER OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE

FOR C N K & Associates LLP

**Chartered Accountants** 

ICAI Registration No. 101961 W/W-100036

5.5

Suresh Agaskar Partner Membership No: 110321

Place : Mumbai 2 5 AUG 2018 Date:

FOR AND ON THE BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES

Lata Naray Director DIN: 01037356

Place : Mumbai

Nisreen Zafar Ebrahim Director DIN: 00394241

Place : Mumbai Date 2 5 AUG 2018 ate:

### FOCUS AREAS



#### **POVERTY ALLEVIATION**

Traditionally, the urban poor have been treated as passive recipients of welfare schemes. We aim to empower them through their conscientisation and by helping them form collectives to engage in participatory decision making.

YUVA Urban Initiatives seeks to address the issues stemming from inadequate and insecure housing, faced by about 40% of the city's population. We also engage with the issue of informal livelihoods, which constitute near-90% of the city's working population, yet whose contribution is often undervalued. We also focus on children and youth development, as their conscientisation and development is critical to drive change in society.

#### STRATEGIC SUPPORT

With our decades long experience of working on urban issues, we frequently take up consulting assignments, offering strategic support to other organisations in the sector.

# WHAT WE DO

#### ENGAGEMENTS WITH CHILDREN

#### **Emergency Support Services**

#### Introducing CHILDLINE

Since 2008-09, YUVA Urban Initiatives has been partnering on CHILDLINE, a 24-hour toll-free emergency call service for children in distress across the country. The project is funded by CHILDLINE India Foundation under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme.

We respond to emergency calls for direct and indirect interventions such as rescuing children from difficult circumstances, providing assistance for medical and shelter needs, counselling, offering referral support, and so on.

#### Coverage

Our intervention areas in the Western Line are from Mahim to Dadar; in the Central zone from Dadar to Mulund; and from Wadala to Mankhurd in the Harbour Line.

The intervention areas cover zones IV, V, VI and VII of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) zones.



#### Outreach

The team received 500+ new calls from children in Mumbai and suburban areas during 2017-18. Individual, group and mass outreach planning and implementation took place. Work on earlier cases continued too.

To ensure that all children in need of care and protection are aware of and have access to CHILDLINE services, we conducted numerous awareness activities especially among those living on the streets, exposed to various dangers.

#### **ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS**

In 2017-18, we conducted awareness activities in different areas— Ghatkopar, Sakinaka, Asalpha, Powai, among other areas.

Children performed street plays on how calls at CHILDLINE are attended.

An awareness rally took place in Lallubhai Compound, Mankhurd, on child abuse and child labour.

#### Nature of Intervention

We intervened in different ways, including:

> Rescuing children from dangerous and abusive situations

> Facilitating medical help and access to shelters

> Extending emotional support and guidance

> Working on cases of children reported missing

> Enhancing information awareness on CHILDLINE activities, and more

#### Partnering with Support Groups

We worked closely with stakeholders like the police system, railway authorities, etc, mobilising their assistance in rescuing children from abusive circumstances and in providing emergency attention in cases of missing and runaway children. To maximise the reach and scope of the programme, YUVA Urban Initiatives also engaged with other non-profits working on child-related issues and services.

### SUPPORTING REHABILITATION

One day, we received a call from a lady, telling us about her son Ramesh\*, an adolescent addicted to drugs, drinking and smoking. The caller, a single parent, was concerned about the change in Ramesh's mannerism since he had started using these substances. She found it difficult to handle him at home, and his wayward manners led to frequent conflicts that escalated quickly.

The CHILDLINE staff worked together with Ramesh and his mother, referring him to a counselling and rehabilitation centre that could offer him the adequate support. At first, Ramesh resisted the intervention efforts, but gradually he started taking interest in his own wellbeing. He is still undergoing the counselling sessions, but his reports over the past few months have been promising. We are in touch with him and the support team, to monitor his progress on a frequent basis.

\*name masked to protect identity



#### Highlights 2017-18



YUVA Urban Initiatives has partnered on Railway CHILDLINE, as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for railways to ensure care and protection of children at these sites, in coordination with the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). Our interventions have begun at Dadar Railway Station since February 2018, and we are working on-site round-the-clock to keep children safe and rehabilitate them as per the situation requirements. So far, numerous public awareness activities of CHILDLINE have taken place at Dadar station.

#### Building Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse Cases



In particular, we have advanced our capabilities to deal with cases of child sexual abuse. Across the year, we conducted many training programmes on child sexual abuse with different stakeholders and participated in workshops to further our understanding and sharpen skills. Given our thorough handling of child sexual abuse cases, our internal SOP developed on this thematic has now been adopted by other CHILDLINE partners.

#### Partnering on Research



YUVA has partnered on research by All India Working Group for Rights of Children in Contact with Railways (AIWG-RCCR) titled Life World and Agency of Children in Contact with Railways. The study aims to shed light on the heterogeneity of children in contact with railways and promote the need for additional modes of intervention, apart from the rescueand-restore approach. We surveyed children at Kurla station and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to contribute towards the study findings.



We conducted 7 open house programmes this year to identify vulnerabilities experienced by children. This was done by organising games and activities, imparting information on CHILDLINE, conducting street plays, etc. Some of the problems identified by children included:

- > Lack of a playground
- > Inadequate medical facilities
- > No place to study
- > Harassment by government authorities

#### Highlights 2017-18

#### Celebrating Child Rights Week



During Child Rights Week (14-20 November 2017), sessions on child rights took place in different areas (Dadar, Kurla, Sewri, etc) and in Matunga and Ghatkopar police stations. The police shared their experiences of tracing missing and trafficked children, and our staff shared CHILDLINE intervention procedures with different allied systems.

#### Participation in Informal Worker Events



Across the year, we also participated in all events organised for informal workers by YUVA to spread awareness on the activities of CHILDLINE.

#### Participating in World Habitat Day

Street children from Sewri and Matunga were present on the panel of Bal Sabha, a programme organised by sister organisation Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA), where they presented concerns on habitat issues, and interacted with other children speaking on the theme from across the city, and the Child Welfare Officer present at the event.



#### **ENGAGEMENTS WITH YOUTH**

#### **Skill Building**



126 girls enrolled in four batches of Salon-i last year, a beauty and wellness course in partnership with Godrej, which aims to impart a mix of technical and life skills. The course focuses on the life skills component more intensely (with over 50 sessions dedicated to this), as it is these sessions on leadership, gender equality, self-confidence, etc, which can equip adolescent girls for life, even helping them switch careers or pursue higher education opportunities. Orientation sessions on Salon-i continued within the community in Ambujwadi, Malad, to help them better understand its impact, and encourage others to participate in it.

#### **Supporting Education**

For the first time last year, YUVA Urban Initiatives engaged in scholarship support, helping youth from different areas of the city continue their studies in schools and colleges. We were able to provide scholarship of over INR 6 lakh to 70+ youth belonging to different youth groups that YUVA is associated with. We hope to continue the relationship with these youth and facilitate their growth through these efforts.

### **EMPOWERING WOMEN**



23-year-old **Kavita Jha** from Ambujwadi, Malad, says, 'I couldn't complete my higher studies, but always wanted to keep learning. I love experimenting with make-up, so this course interested me from the start.

The life skills component of this course is also interesting. I feel it should be a part of every course, because it helps learn something new related to our development, such as our identity, gender equality, and so on. I feel like I have grown as a person due to these trainings. I am more open to sharing my experiences and listening to those of others. After completing this course I want to start working, so that I can offer financial support to my family too'.

#### **ENGAGEMENTS WITH COMMUNITY**

#### **Promoting Democratic Values**



Since October 2017, a community resource centre has been operational at Ambujwadi, Malad, led by the youth of the area. The need for this centre grew from the community's requirement for a safe, accepting space that can be used by anyone. Accordingly, this centre operates as an open space that is freely used by informal workers, self-help group women, children, youth, and others. It is a non-threatening, nondiscriminatory space where people can freely interact, share thoughts and learn from each others' experiences. The community decides how they want to use this space.

The centre is meant to host capacity building sessions, study circles, discussions, film screenings, and other kinds of activities. Computer classes, selfdefence sessions and dance movement therapy for girls, and discussions on laws and policies relevant to the community are being planned. Youth training modules are also planned for this space, such as those on leadership, value building, knowledge and application of constitutional values, and so on. In this way, the community resource centre aims to assert its identity as a safe space in the community, which helps people enhance their own capacity and promote their growth.

### A NEW BEGINNING

On 2 October 2017, we inaugurated the Child Resource Centre at Ambujwadi, Malad. The Centre was named Malwani Katta, a space which was to be used by the community henceforth for all their requirements.

The inaugural session was attended by people across age groups from the community. The Centre's objectives were laid out, followed by an evening of performances by the community members themselves.

The evening ended on a note of promise. In the coming months, the Centre will host a range of sessions.



#### **STRATEGIC SUPPORT**

YUVA Urban Initiatives conducted strategy review and development of Safe City Initiative for children in urban areas of Bhopal, a project by UNICEF in partnership with the Government of Madhya Pradesh and various civil society partners. We were a member of a team of three consultants who undertook this mandate. Based on our in-depth knowledge of child rights, we comprehensively reviewed strategies identified and implemented, and identified those that are scalable and replicable, proposing validation of strategies with the use of strategic case studies.

This strategy consulting work also helped us explore scalable and replicable models that can be piloted in our own work. We were also able to develop stronger networks with child rights organisations in Bhopal.



### LOOKING AHEAD



In the coming year, we aim to take forward our work in the poverty alleviation segment, with interventions to promote adequate housing facilities, access to basic services, and livelihood opportunities for the informal workforce. We are also looking forward to partner with corporates and expand youth skilling and digital literacy endeavours. Our work on CHILDLINE will continue, and we hope to build stronger networks with administrative authorities, to take forward the work with their support. We intend to expand on the growth pathway that we have embarked on this year through the different projects being undertaken at YUVA Urban Initiatives. We are planning to conduct a strategy planning exercise for the organisation in the coming year, to further guide our future work and offer direction for all our efforts.

# ATTRIBUTIONS

- > Children by Marie Van den Broeck from the Noun Project
- > Slap Away by Luis Prado from the Noun Project
- > Grope by priyanka from the Noun Project
- > Railway by ProSymbols from the Noun Project
- > Research by Gregor Cresnar from the Noun Project
- > Abuse by Luis Prado from the Noun Project
- > Abuse by Luis Prado from the Noun Project
- > Leader by Wilson Joseph from the Noun Project
- > Meeting by Adrien Coquet from the Noun Project
- > Document by Piotrek Chuchla from the Noun Project
- > Students by Iván Andrés from the Noun Project
- > Group discussion by Drishya from the Noun Project
- > Strategy by Vectorstall from the Noun Project

#### **About YUVA Urban Initiatives**

YUVA Urban Initiatives is a non-profit organisation that seeks to confront the myriad challenges and inequalities that have mushroomed with the rapid and unplanned development of urban spaces, and intervene with a holistic and integrated approach to change.



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