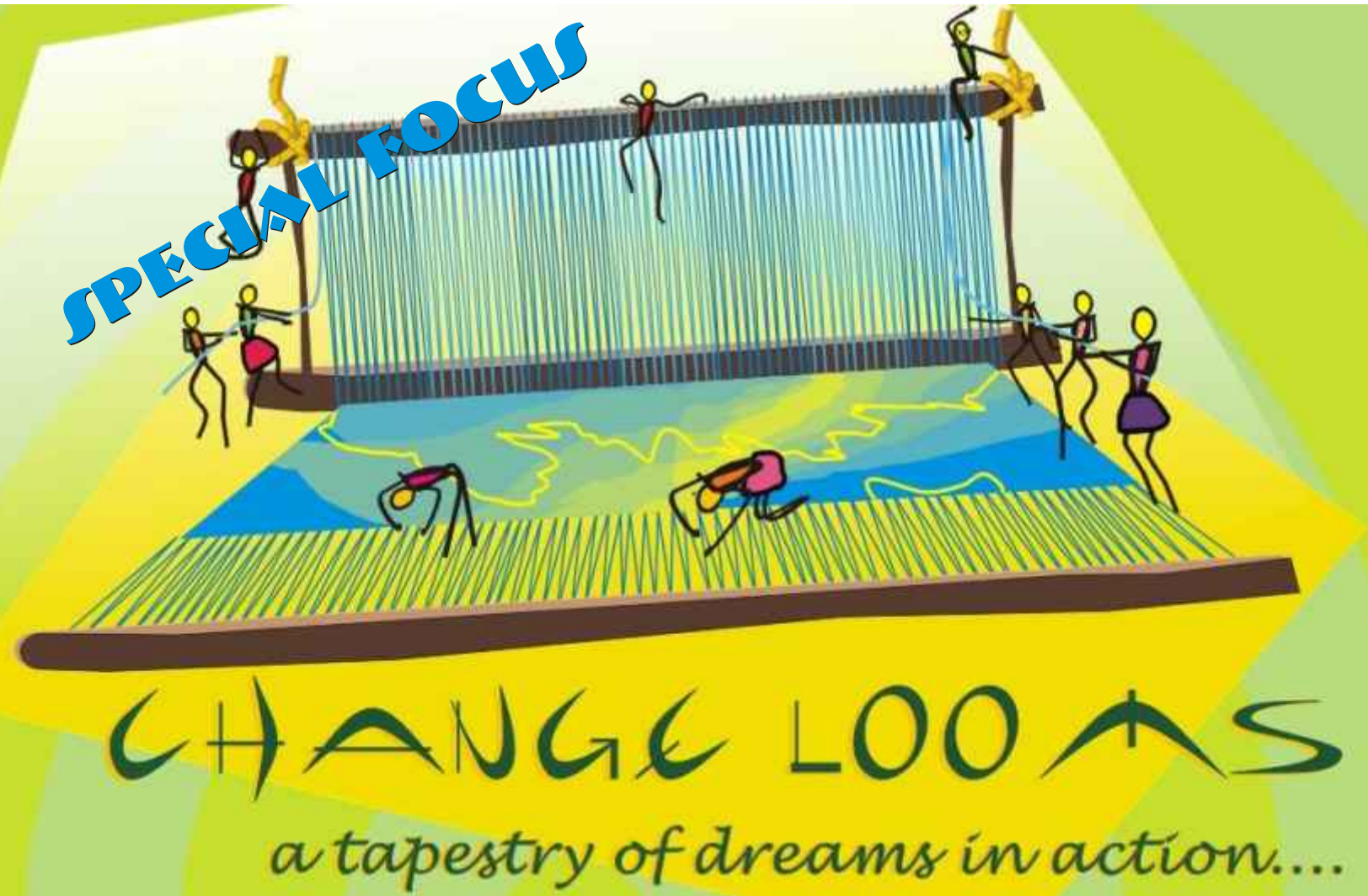


# YOUNGINFLUENCERS

www.younginfluencers.com

A Pravah newsletter • For private circulation only • February 2009 • Vol. III Issue I



## Few words from us

Change Looms is a programme to encourage, support and recognise social action by young people. Pravah launched Change Looms jointly in 2005 with Ashoka: Innovators for the Public; with support from the Youth and Civil Society Initiative of Sir Ratan Tata Trust and the Global Fund for Children.

The past two years have been immensely significant and memorable for all of us at Change Looms. We have been part of a wonderful journey with nine inspiring teams of young people. These young teams have started their own social initiatives in diverse fields like theatre for social change, working with the street children, promoting socio-economic development in rural Maharashtra, encouraging leadership skills among young people, spreading awareness on Right to Information, working for the rights of nomadic tribes in Maharashtra and taking care of mentally challenged destitute kids. The journey continued this year and was enriched with eleven more teams who joined the voyage. We hope to carry on as we together weave tapestries of social change in the society.

In this issue of Younginfluencers we share with you the outstanding and often difficult voyages of these young people. Read on and be inspired!

# CHANGE LOOMERS 2006

## Jai-Jui, Maharashtra



Jai-Jui is an initiative started by Praniti Shinde to bridge the urban-rural divide and promote socio-economic development in Solapur, Maharashtra. Jai Jui provides livelihood options and encourages entrepreneurship. Committed to the development of youth and women, Jai-Jui has formed over 70 self-help groups of women from slum communities. These self-help groups provide training to women on manufacturing of various products, organise campaigns on environmental awareness, and arrange health camps in rural Solapur. Recently, Jai-Jui has set up a BPO centre that is currently generating employment for over 60 rural youth. Jai Jui has also started a vocational training / skill development centre for the youth who are unable to complete their education so that they can start their own enterprises. Jai Jui has recently been given permission to set up a Community Radio station to communicate social messages, awareness campaigns, songs, local forms of art and culture. Visit their website [www.jaijui.org](http://www.jaijui.org) to learn more

Praniti Shinde

## Khoj Foundation, Delhi

Khoj Foundation was initiated by Pawan Sharma and some of his close friends as a volunteer based education programme for children living and working on the traffic signals of South Delhi. It was registered as an NGO in November 2005 with an objective to empower street children by developing their skills, abilities and talents to better support themselves and their families. The volunteers of Khoj Foundation conduct regular interactive sessions to provide basic literacy and life skills to 80 -100 children between the age group 5 -15 years at Jor Bagh, Bikaji Cama Place, Dilli Haat and Ber Sarai localities of Delhi. To know more log on to [www.delkhoj.blogspot.com](http://www.delkhoj.blogspot.com)



Pawan Sharma

## Steps for Change, Delhi



Yogendra Kumar & Anand Mishra

Steps for Change is a youth organisation pioneered by Anand Mishra and his friend Yogendra Kumar. For the past few years Steps for Change has been working towards spreading awareness about various socio-economic issues. It has been active in various campaigns using theatre as its mouthpiece. Theatre being one of the strongest platforms has proved to be the best tactic to reach out to the commoner. The theatre group comprises of professionals working hand in hand with amateur theatre enthusiasts and college students. The group has also been very active in performing street plays to vent out its ideas on socially relevant topics. Some of the current projects include the Red Ribbon Express (AIDS Awareness) associated with NYKS and NACO; Right to Vote (an awareness programme for elections in Delhi); and awareness programmes through street plays on different social issues. To know more about their activities visit them at [www.stepsforchange.org.in](http://www.stepsforchange.org.in)

## The YP Foundation (TYPF), Delhi

The YP Foundation (TYPF) was established in 2002 by Ishita Chaudhry and Vidyun Sabhaney with support from the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. A youth led and run organisation, TYPF is committed to developing innovative ventures by young minds, facilitating leadership skills, encouraging proactive citizenship and increasing awareness on issues of global importance amongst young people. Since 2002, they have directly supported over 1000 young people's work and set up over 150 projects across India. These young people work on issues like Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation, HIV/AIDS and Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Education and Healthcare for Street Children, Life Skills Based Education, Governance & the Law, Human Rights and Peace Building Processes, Climate Change Leadership Projects, Music Education, Gender and Sexuality with the Transgender Community, Film and Literature. TYPF is the recipient of the Seen and Heard International Award by British Telecom (2008). Ishita was nominated as the Pepsi MTV Youth Icon of India 2008. She is also the 2009 Recipient of the Young Achiever's Award from Today's Youth Asia in Nepal. Log on to [www.theyouthparliament.blogspot.com](http://www.theyouthparliament.blogspot.com) to know more.



Vidyun Sabhaney & Ishita Chaudhry

# CHANGE LOOMERS 2007

## Ahwaan, Orissa



Sameet Panda

Ahwaan was initiated by two young social work professionals from Orissa, Biswajit Dash and Sameet Panda with Pradeep Baisakh, a freelance journalist in December 2006. Ahwaan is a platform for young people to learn and use the Right to Information Act (RTI) and take up different issues affecting the marginalised. At present, the volunteers of Ahwaan are taking steps to train the young people in slums in Bhubaneswar on the use of RTI, so that they can address their day to day issues more efficiently. With this initiative, Ahwaan is attempting to establish linkages between youth from different organisations/institutions, networks and social event groups and attempting to build an understanding of different social problems and promoting volunteerism. Get in touch with them at [biswajitrinku@gmail.com](mailto:biswajitrinku@gmail.com) & [sameet1983@gmail.com](mailto:sameet1983@gmail.com)



Biswajit Dash

## Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR), Kerala



Centre for Public Policy Research (CPPR) was launched by Dhanuraj in July 2004. Based in Kerala, CPPR's efforts are aimed at the creation of an equitable, socially just and environmentally sound state based on democratic and secular principles. CPPR's strategy for advocacy and action is based upon primary research studies mostly in the areas of education, urban governance, livelihood issues and community management and self sustainability of the natural resources. CPPR has several programmes to engage youth in social issues, including Weekend Research, Open Forum, Tea Time Chat and the publication of Mind Text, a monthly e-newsletter. It recently organised the first South Asia Youth Summit in New Delhi, thus providing a platform for the youth of South Asia to discuss and understand various issues in the region. Log on to [www.cppr.in](http://www.cppr.in) to know more.

Dhanuraj

## Sri Arunodayam, Tamilnadu

The loss of his elder brother who was afflicted with Down's Syndrome made Iyyappan think, feel and understand the great need to work with mentally challenged people. In 2003, after working as a special educator and community rehabilitation worker, Iyyappan decided to start Sri Arunodayam - a home for destitute mentally challenged children. Today, Sri Arunodayam is providing a home-like environment for over 80 differently-abled people aged between 0 to 30 years. At Sri Arunodayam, the children receive care, shelter, psychiatric treatment, therapy and protection, and can lead a life with dignity and individuality. The centre runs on community support, and has a dedicated team of caretakers, therapists and socially motivated people engaged with it. In November 2008, Iyyappan was awarded the Youth Action Net © Global Fellowship by the International Youth Foundation, Washington DC (USA). Visit [www.sriarunodayam.org](http://www.sriarunodayam.org) to know more.



S Iyyappan

## Tanda Biradari, Maharashtra



Santosh Jadhav

Tanda Biradari was started by Santosh Jadhav in Yavatmal district of Vidarbha, Maharashtra. Tanda Biradari works on the overall development and land encroachment issues with the nomadic and de-notified tribes in the area. Santosh is working in and around villages to create awareness for the need of education through creative means. As many of the tribes are traditionally perceived as being involved in criminal activities, Santosh is assisting the communities in establishing a relationship with the police department and other government authorities. He is doing this by forming youth groups and getting them registered with the police. Tanda Biradari is also involved in conducting a nomad status survey in coordination with the National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic tribes and Econet, Pune. To get in touch with Santosh and learn more, contact him at [tandabiradari@yahoo.co.in](mailto:tandabiradari@yahoo.co.in)

## Tribal and Rural Upliftment Through Humanity (TRUTH), Orissa

TRUTH has been working in the Kalahandi district of Orissa since 2001. In the area fraught with starvation, malnutrition, and farmers' suicide, the mission of Prasant Mishra and his team members is to strengthen tribal and the rural poor's economic well-being through an eco-friendly approach. Their strategy is to promote organic farming and build the skills of people by supporting people's organisations such as Farmers' Clubs, Self-Help Groups, and Village Development Committees. TRUTH sees itself as a link between the villagers and the government. It aims at creating an efficient information channel to make sure that everyone has knowledge about government schemes and acts such as Right to Information (RTI) and National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Prasant can be reached at [dearprasant@gmail.com](mailto:dearprasant@gmail.com)



Prasant Mishra

# CHANGE LOOMS SNAPSHOTS



Change Looms is the beginning of a process of sharing, learning and growing with fellow young changemakers. A central piece in the Change Looms is the Development and Assessment Centre (DAC), a one-week long residential workshop where participants get to know each other, share their ideas and experiences and have some fun along the way.

Some of our friends who were a part of the last DAC in August 2008 have shared their feelings...

"The Change Looms DAC workshop will add value to my work and of the whole team by helping us modify our strategies, goals and vision as well as help us with conflict management"

- Ipshita (Ahwaan Foundation, New Delhi)

"I actually received more than I expected. The Change Looms process and the DAC has equipped me better not only to contribute to my project, but has also helped me reflect on my personal conflicts and given me hope to resolve it."

- Nupur Shah (Hamara Footpath, Mumbai)

"I learnt that collective thinking, team effort and a broader vision with a planned mission can keep me really focused on the key issues and hence add value to my work as a changemaker."

- Zahida Rashid (Jammu Kashmir Association of Social Workers, Srinagar)



## CHANGE LOOMS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

- ◆ If you are an enterprising young person / team under 27 years, believe in making a difference and have an inspiring commitment to social change...
- ◆ If you are the founder or a leader of an initiative, organisation, project or grassroots movement that is addressing an important social issue anywhere in India...
- ◆ If you wish to learn from and associate with other dynamic young changemakers all over the world...

**Then we are looking for you! Apply for the Change Looms programme**

### Once selected, you will

- ◆ Participate in a weeklong workshop to develop a project vision and strategy, learn leadership skills, build self-awareness and social understanding
- ◆ Have access to a growing network of young social changemakers
- ◆ Receive support to go on exposure visits and avail of other learning opportunities, invite resource people and learn from leaders in the social development field
- ◆ Be eligible to apply for an organisational development grant of Rs. 40000

### JOIN A GROWING YOUTH MOVEMENT!

For further information and downloading application forms, please visit [www.younginfluencers.com](http://www.younginfluencers.com) or contact **Navneet Prakash** at 011-2621 3918, 2629 1354 or mail us at [changelooms@gmail.com](mailto:changelooms@gmail.com) / [getinvolved@pravah.org](mailto:getinvolved@pravah.org)

Add : C-24B, 2nd Floor, Kalkaji, New Delhi 110019  
Tel : 91 11 26440619, 26213918, 26291354



E-mail : [mail@pravah.org](mailto:mail@pravah.org)  
Web : [www.younginfluencers.com](http://www.younginfluencers.com), [www.pravah.org](http://www.pravah.org)