

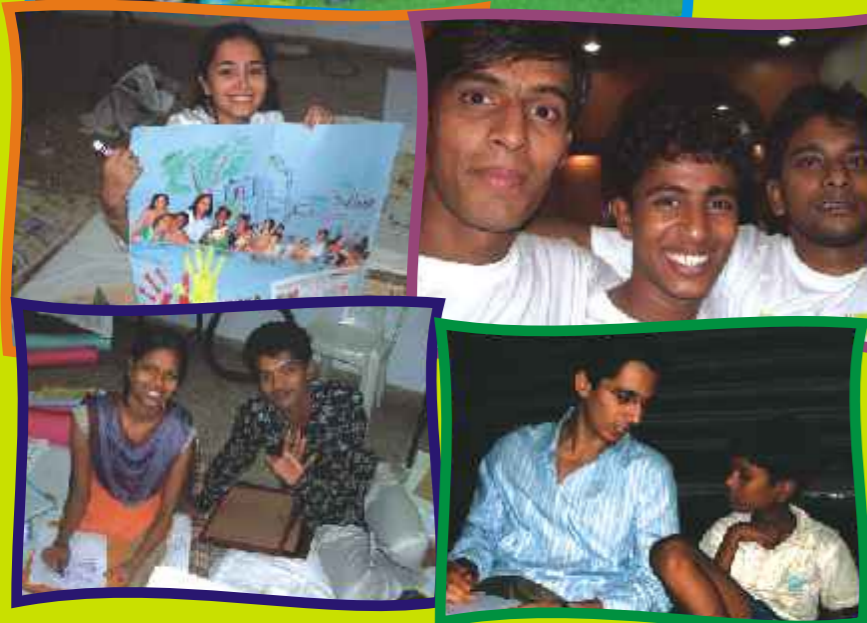
CHANGE LOOMS SNAPSHOTS



Change Looms is the beginning of a process of sharing, learning and growing with fellow changemakers. Here are some expectations from the participants of the Change Looms 2009 batch:

"I believe that this programme will be an excellent opportunity to overcome some of the challenges I face and explore different areas of expertise that will not otherwise be available to me in this format. It will give me the opportunity to put forward my project to similar and like-minded individuals as well and draw from their critique and encouragement."

Faith Gonsalves (Music Basti, New Delhi)



"We believe that the Change Looms programme will give us the guidance and support that we require as a young organisation. We hope to expand our knowledge and purview of the things by interacting with peers and industry experts and emerge as 'Changemakers' at the end of the program."

Mansi Joshi (Happy Hands Foundation, New Delhi)

"By being part of the Change Looms network, I can learn a lot from the experiences of the diverse persons and organisations that constitute the group. The programme will bring me in touch with like-minded (and hopefully even unlike-minded!) persons from different parts of the country, and by exchanging ideas and opinions with them, I can gain a deeper, more insightful understanding of social change processes."

Vartika Poddar (Swabhav, Kolkata)

YOUNGINFLUENCERS

www.younginfluencers.com

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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.pravah.org or contact **Navneet Prakash** at **011-2621 3918, 2629 1354** or mail us at changelooms@gmail.com / getinvolved@pravah.org

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 Global Fund for Children.

The past four years have been immensely significant and memorable for all of us at Change Looms. Since its inception we have worked with 46 Changeloomers across 16 states. The Change Looms 2008 batch included 11 inspiring teams of young people, who are working in areas of gender, child rights, culture, right to shelter, education and environment. The journey continues this year with 13 new teams who have joined the voyage. We hope to carry on together as we weave tapestries of social change in society.

In this issue of Younginfluencers we share with you the outstanding and often difficult voyages of these young people of the Change Looms batch of 2008. Read on and be inspired!

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



E-mail : mail@pravah.org
Web : www.younginfluencers.com, www.pravah.org

CHANGE LOOMS: A TAPESTRY OF DREAMS IN ACTION

Changeloomers 2008

Ahwaan Foundation, Delhi

www.ahwaanfoundation.org



Ahwaan Foundation started in 2007 as a synthesis of Ritesh Sharma's passion for theatre and films, and his commitment to protect and secure rights of street children. Initially a performing arts group that channelled its earnings to educate street children and conduct theatre workshops with them, with time Ahwaan Foundation has strengthened its focus on the issues of commercial and sexual exploitation of children. Currently, the organisation has launched a campaign against this kind of exploitation, and is supported by an energetic team made up of people from diverse fields in its endeavors. Ritesh now uses his experience in theatre by mobilising children to participate in street plays (Nukkad Naatak).

National Social Society, Delhi

nationalsocialsociety08@gmail.com

Growing up in a community in Delhi where most youth drop out of schools, Deepa Yadav recognised the importance of quality education in shaping one's life, and with a group, including Sanjay Kumar, has founded National Social Society (NSS). With support of a ruling by the High Court of Delhi which makes it mandatory for all schools built on DDA land to admit 20% students from low income groups, NSS helps poor parents to get their children admitted in private schools in Vasant Vihar, Khanpur, Badarpur and R.K. Puram. NSS is also working to mobilise the community and youth towards improving the facilities provided in the government and municipal schools in these areas.



Vayali Folklore, Kerala

www.vayali.org



Inspired by the famous folklorist Komal Kothari and workers of a folklore organization, Vinod Nambiar and Pradeep have founded Vayali Folklore, and have been travelling in Kerala for the last five years to collect, preserve, document and archive traditional folklore and knowledge. They have also been undertaking social and cultural initiatives, and have started eco-oriented actions for promoting a culture of traditional and eco-friendly handicrafts. Vayali Folklore is affiliated to significant government institutions that are involved in folklore and traditional studies such as the Kerala Sangeetha Nadaka Academy, Kerala Folklore Academy, South Zone Cultural Centre, Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts and Nehru Yuva Kendra.

Hamara Footpath, Mumbai

www.hamarafootpath.org

Nupur Shah, Shubhangi Swarup and Sameera Ali founded Hamara Footpath (HF), an organisation that combats exploitation, provides functional literacy, promotes employability skills and all round development of street children in South Mumbai. Since 2006, HF is working to meet the legal, medical and personal requirements of the children and their families. Along with partnering with other organisations for this purpose, HF has launched individual actions, public platforms and rallied the media for sensitising society towards the issues of street children. An eclectic group of volunteers adds diversity and creativity to HF's work.



Oscar, Mumbai

oscarashok@gmail.com



Coming from a community which does not value education, Ashok Rathod's aim is to promote child and youth development through prioritising education and sports. Along with a group of friends, he has launched Oscar, an organisation that is inculcating the importance of education and giving children a chance to develop their talents. Through football coaching, Oscar is building values of trust, friendship and a sense of belonging to a group for the community children in the Backbay area of Mumbai, besides facilitating dialogues that would lead them back to school.

Infinite Scope, Tamil Nadu

infi.scope@gmail.com

Ruchika Naidu believes that education must equip children with tools to choose their path and be sensitised to the emerging issues in society and the environment. Therefore, Infinite Scope, the organisation that Ruchika has initiated, works at building the adolescents' social and emotional skills, facilitate personal growth and enable them to develop a sense of responsibility towards themselves and society. With children and adolescents, Infinite Scope addresses issues of self-awareness and behaviours, and helps them set goals for life, understand conflicts and social issues and take up responsibility for resolving conflicts.



Amader Prerana, West Bengal

patrasutapa@gmail.com



Amader Prerana (Our Inspiration) was initiated in 2004 by Sutapa Patra - a young woman who had faced gender-based injustices in her early childhood. In the Sunderbans, West Bengal, Amader Prerana fights all forms of discrimination against women. The organisation provides legal assistance to women and girls facing violence, and focuses on building community level volunteers. To use the criminal justice system in favour of women's rights, Amader Prerana works with official bodies, the families of the abused and the larger community. To enable women to defend themselves, Sutapa trains them in WEnlido, as a trained instructor in this form of self defence.

Change Looms Affiliates 2008

Youth Expression for Right to Water, Bangalore

shivaartgroup@gmail.com

Seeing poor and Dalit families not being able to have or buy water in Doddaballapur, a town in the outskirts of Bangalore, 'art-activist' Shiva Kumar, Sumanth T and their friends launched Youth Expression for Right to Water, an initiative that uses the visual arts to make underprivileged communities and the larger civil society aware of issues related to water and urges them to fight for their rights. Till date, Shiva has organised discussions, held art classes, organised exhibitions and run campaigns involving youth and Dalits to build people's understanding about the responsibilities and rights around water conservation and usage.



Beghar Mazdoor Sangharsh Samiti, Delhi



Beghar Mazdoor Sangharsh Samiti (BMSS) was born out of Dinesh Kumar and Mansoor Khan's hardships as homeless people in Delhi and their experiences with one of Ashray Adhikhar Abhiyan's projects, which made them realise that to procure their rights, the homeless need to unite. Creating awareness for the rights of the homeless workers/laborers and ensuring better living conditions and employment opportunities for them have been the goals of BMSS since its inception in 2003. The organisation's present activities include advocacy with the authorities to procure identity cards for the homeless, supporting the sick to get medical help and sensitising the common people about the issue of homelessness through organising night-outs.

Jammu and Kashmir Association of Social Workers, Jammu and Kashmir

jkasw.kmr@gmail.com

Khalid Shah Aslam, Zahida Rashid and their team at Jammu and Kashmir Association of Social Workers (JKASW) are working to build a common platform of social work and development sector professionals since 2006. They believe that a strong voluntary sector can bring about positive social change through peaceful means in the conflict ridden state of Jammu & Kashmir. Monthly meetings, trainings, student placements and publishing a well-appreciated newsletter 'Voice of Social Workers' have been some of JKASW's strategies. To draw up model and replicable projects, JKASW has set up direct interventions with communities, and is also building an initiative involving youth from across the state to shape the voluntary sector on professional standards.



Swikriti, Kolkata

rakshit.souvik@yahoo.com



Launched by Souvik Ghosh and Souvik Rakshit in 2006 in Kolkata, Swikriti is committed to fighting homophobia and discrimination faced by effeminate adolescents and transgender people. To make the larger society aware about HIV/AIDS, sexuality, gender and human rights issues, Swikriti holds group discussions and conducts direct interventions and counseling programmes with diverse audiences. Significantly, in partnerships with UNAIDS, the organisation has facilitated interactive sessions with other organisations and the police. Swikriti also facilitates people of sexual minorities groups to design and produce dresses and accessories, and through this, lead healthy lives and express their experiences and feelings.