



Bi-Annual Report

April to September 2016

We, The People is working towards a humane and well-governed nation through an active, informed and responsible citizenry. We believe that citizens play a critical role in fostering humane societies and ensuring good governance. We therefore focus on igniting awareness, building capacities and mobilizing action of citizens in this direction. Our outreach is through strategic partnerships with institutions that work closely with young citizens. These include schools and civil society organizations in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and NCR regions.

Our core activities are:

- ❖ Training of Facilitators within our partner organisations on the Citizenship Programme. This is an intensive capacity building programme on understanding the Constitutional framework and using action tools for improving governance
- ❖ Raising awareness on the Constitution of India and role of citizens through events, media engagement etc.
- ❖ Developing informative and inspiring training content

Foreword from Vinita, Managing Trustee

The last few months were about certainty and uncertainty.

Certainty is about the potential of our work to create empowering impact with citizens. We have worked with students from government and private schools and in both circumstances, we saw how young citizens participated actively in resolving local governance issues when they understand why and how to do it. Teachers who we trained to facilitate this understanding have given us powerful feedback on how inspired and motivated they feel. We also have initiated a cohort of trainers who are part of civil society organizations (CSOs) in Madhya Pradesh. This was largely on their persistence and it shows the interest and excitement around understanding and employing the constitutional framework. This is exhilarating!



Uncertainty has been about our financial condition. We moved into our last extension of funds from the Tata Trusts. And we had no other source of funding except for few committed individual donors.

But as the months passed, we were invigorated with contributions from our partners themselves. Private schools and Government agencies like Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI) compensated us for the training of their teachers. CSO cohort members also put in their contributions.

Equally, we reached out to key individuals who have supported us with generous donations. We succeeded in getting Fellowship support from Wipro's **Applying Thought in Schools** programme.

So, we are on reasonable footing and exerting ourselves with the commitments we have made with our partners. At the end of the year, we aim to have 150 facilitators who will have further taken the Citizenship programme to more than 5000 people. With these citizens taking up civic projects in their vicinities, we would impact life for many more citizens and communities.

The next six months are very much about hitting the ground and making things happen on the training front. Also, we will have the new season of Constitution Connect from 26th November to 26th January. Focus, alongside, will be on developing more partnerships and keeping a good financial balance.

Story in Numbers



*indicates the number of citizens expected to reach by the year end

As you can see, there is a strong focus on anchor training programmes and building partnerships with schools and other CSOs. This new approach led to an exponential growth in the number of citizens reached during the period.

Apart from this, a number of awareness activities were carried out on social media, print media and radio shows.



Team We, The People being interviewed at FTII Radio, Pune

Students of Heritage school organized an awareness drive on women's safety in front of MG Road Metro station



Students of the Heritage School, Sector 62, organised an awareness drive on women's safety in front of MG Road Metro station. The students are part of a civic infrastructure awareness forum, We the People, which educates them on how to take up issues with authorities.

Activity Report

Among the numerous activities from the last 6 months, we have cherry picked a handful of interesting and innovative projects, partnerships and events.

Training of Trainers (ToT) in NCR region

We had been working towards bringing together a cohort of civics teachers from private schools in Gurgaon and Delhi since the beginning of 2016. Last year, we tried ToTs with individual schools which took a lot of time and efforts. As a new approach and an improvisation to the previous, in April this year we did the first TOT with 8 teachers from 4 different private schools. This is a group with some of the most passionate and energetic teachers we've had in our programmes.



After the TOT they took up a personal project of a civic issue and worked on it. They took up this challenge with enthusiasm and most of them did very good work on their projects. The only challenge we faced with this cohort was to arrange meetings and visits since the these

schools are very busy and it becomes very difficult for the teachers to take out time for such activities.

From a Citizen Café to district wide ToT project!

Our engagement with SCERT Haryana started with a Citizen Café which was highly appreciated. Some key stakeholders believed that an association with us will have large impact on the schools in Haryana. As a pilot, they asked us to do Citizenship Programme with the 40 schools in Gurgaon district. The most challenging part of this association was to get the project started since the approval took a very long time. We had to work within the constraints of government setup.

The plan was to train 80 teachers but a final 49 made it. These are teachers who work in very difficult circumstances with limited infrastructure. It was quite challenging to keep them motivated about additional project work that they will have to take up as part of this programme. But after the 3 days TOT they were able to see value in this new methodology and were excited to share it with their students.



We are hoping to be able to bring significant impact in communities through civic projects in these schools and inspire young students to be active and responsible citizens.

Maharashtra is full of growth and opportunities!

Over the last 6 months, in Maharashtra, we have forged multiple partnerships and also have come up with some innovative awareness and networking events. The partnerships with Pune Municipal Corporation and Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation have resulted into citizenship programmes at 30 secondary municipal schools.



Anchors Training with Civics/Political science teachers of Pune Municipal Corporation school and Pimpri Chinchwad municipal corporation

We launched the **Constitution and Citizenship Centre** which is a non partisan space dedicated to understand and promote the constitution of India , inspire and empower citizens to practice their rights and responsibilities in the civic life. Over 6 fortnightly dialogue events in the month of April-June we covered variety of topics like “Local governance in India - Opportunities and challenges”, “Environment, its preservation and citizens roles”, “US elections”, “Understanding role of judiciary” among others. The first season of constitution and citizenship centre underlined need for such sessions and we plan to expand the scope of this in coming months and replicate it in other states as well.



*Milind Bokil Sir interacting with attendees on **Local Governance - Opportunities and Challenges** on forum of Constitution and Citizenship Centre*

Apart from our work in schools in Maharashtra, we did a citizenship programme for an CSO - Janarth. Janarth Adivasi Vikas Sanstha had been associated with us on our project with Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI), Pune for Dhule and Nandurbar districts. Towards the end of the BARTI Project, West secretariat conducted a two days capacity building programme on responsible citizenship for Janarth team members. This session was widely appreciated by the participants.

Madhya Pradesh is blooming!

Though our work in Madhya Pradesh started a couple of years back when we did some workshops on constitution with some CSO partners, some real impact and long term partnerships got established only recently. Jan Sahas, a CSO, played a vital role in bringing together a group of 11 CSOs working in various parts of MP to form a cohort of 22 people. These people work in some of the most challenging situations, on issues like education, child labour, health etc. in tribal and remote areas of MP. The first TOT with this group was a 3 days workshop in Bhopal in July after which they were to take up projects in teams and work on that for 2 months. This is a very different setup and first cohort with CSO partners. All of them understand the practical aspects of civic action and work on issue day in day out, but they lack the conceptual understanding of what exists and how things work. This aspect made it a bit more difficult as compared to our experience with teachers.

This is a group of very inspiring young people who are already doing wonderful work to bring about positive change in communities. We believe that if they can understand the framework of constitution and start using in their work, the impact can be multi-fold.



Our Approach

It is our committed belief that owning and understanding the Constitutional framework and processes must be the essential training for all citizens. To this end, we have successfully designed and piloted the Citizenship Programme with a cross section of people over the last 5 years. Through this innovative and practical training, citizens have been able to mindfully uphold constitutional values in their sphere of influence and to actively work towards resolving civic issues in their neighbourhood. This capacity building process with citizens has been facilitated by training of trainers (TOT) within partner institutions and building a cadre of citizen-volunteers serving various organisational roles.

TOT Approach

The end to end TOT spans across 9 months and below is timeline view of the training.



For the entire TOT program, content development acts like a backbone. We have developed content in English, Hindi for all modules and is available for anyone to use. [Click here!](#)

Civic Action Approach

The key to success of our programme is the practical training with civic action projects (Months 5-8). In the next few pages, we have covered some of the amazing impact stories of the work done by school kids across Maharashtra, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. Taking an example of vaccination for street dogs, below is the process which the students follow:



Impact stories!



Impact: We have captured it in this beautiful video [here!](#)

Where: Mahatma Phule Vidyalaya, Majalgaon Block, Dist. Beed, Maharashtra

What: Missing street lights

Highlight: An application supported by well researched documents and a location map was submitted at the municipal council of Majalgaon.

Where: Mahatma Phule Madhyamik Ashramschoo, Katgun Block, Khatav, Dist. Satara

What: Building a wall compound around the school



Highlight: Students attached copies of RTE act to the application which mandates every school premises to have wall compound.

Impact: The Grampanchayat Katgun got sanctioned fund of more than 1 Lakh Rupees under grampanchayat premises repair fund.



Where: R.G. Palande Ashram school, Mukhai, Block. Shirur, Dist. Pune

What: Vaccination of stray dogs

Highlight: Studied “The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960” and discussed with the medical officer

Impact: In response to the application submitted by students, eight stray dogs in Mukhai village were vaccinated by the vet clinic.

More impact stories!



Where: SC Residential Ashramschoo run by Social Welfare Department, Maharashtra in Mohida, Block Shahada, Dist. Nandurbar

What: Scarcity of drinking water in the premises

Highlight: This was direct violation of Article 21 (Right to life) of the Constitution of India. Students held a meeting with warden and school principal asking for repair of water filters.

Impact: The water filter was repaired and was put to use again by the school authorities. The Grampanchayat Mohida has now asked Ashramschoo to support their effort of fetching drinkable water sources to the village.

Where: VJNT Ashramschoo, Nandarkhe, Block and Dist. Nandurbar

What: Toilets in individual households. The 9th class had some students who themselves had no toilets in their homes.



Highlight: Several meetings with Gramsevak of Nandarkhe, submitted an application with list of names of individuals wanting to get toilets at their household.

Impact: Students, whose household did not have toilet, had several talks with the family members about the issue. A story building here!



Where: SC Residential School at Peth, Block. Ambegaon, Dist. Pune

What: Getting sports equipment and a playground made in the school premises

Highlight: Students wrote an application to the principal which was forwarded to district and division office of social welfare department in Pune.

Impact: While the application is still being followed up, the school received a grant of Rs. 50,000/- from Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan for the sports equipment.

Impact stories contd.



Where: Sadguru Madhyamik Ashramschoo, Shere, Block. Karad, Dist. Satara

What: Need for a speed breaker outside the school.

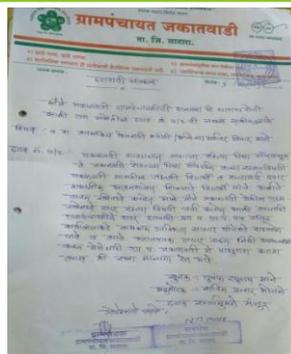
Highlight: Students studied guidelines of Indian road congress on speed breakers. A meeting between the students and the Deputy Engineer, Public Works department of sub-division Karad was held.

Impact: In response to the application submitted by students, the authority issued a letter stating that the application has been accepted and action will be taken.

Where: Shardabai Pawar Ashramschoo in Jakatwadi, Block and Dist. Satara.

What: Road repair

Highlight: The students studied Maharashtra Village Panchayat Act, in particular the mandate of Panchyats in Maharashtra. Throughout the process, the elected representatives were kept in loop.



Impact: In a gramsabha on 26th Jan 2016, a resolution was passed and it was resolved that students application will be forwarded to higher authority that is PWD (sub-division) Satara so as to get funds for implementation of the project.



Where: Sant Gadge Maharaj Madhyamik Ashramschoo by Brahmapuri, Block- Koregaon, Dist-Satara

What: Road repair

Highlight: Students studied all the acts related to rural local governance, held meeting at the office of the deputy engineer (DE), Satara.

Impact: While the application was being followed up, major patch of the to be repaired road got fixed in the process of construction of a bridge.

AND more!!



Where: VJNT Ashrams school, Sondale, Block and Dist. Dhule.

What: To solve their in-house drainage system issue.

Highlight: This was direct violation of article 21 (Right to life) In the Constitution of India. Students held a meeting with the school principal and files an application to take necessary action.

Impact: The school authorities eventually asked a professional to come to the school and resolve the issue. Students worked with the plumber and finally put an end to months suffering.

Where: The Heritage School, Gurgaon

What: There were no streetlights on a stretch of road on MG Road.



Highlight: Submitted application to the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon, organized an awareness campaign near the MG Road Metro Station to increase awareness about the issue which included a street play and a march.

Impact: Due to their effort and persistent follow ups the lights were installed on that road



Where: Synergy Sansthan from Madhya Pradesh cohort of CSO partners

What: Three young men Vishnu, Vishin and Pawan took the inspiration from the training and wanted to train more people on their own

Impact: They believed that the understanding of constitution is critical and should be made a part of their organization. They were self-motivated to incorporate these learning and train 17 others form their organization.

Our Team



Vinita Singh
Managing Trustee



Bhakti Bhawe
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Kunal Kamble



Karan Ahuja



Vikas Gupta



Preeti Ravi



Gangadhar Rao

Appendix - Impact so far! (2010-2015)

