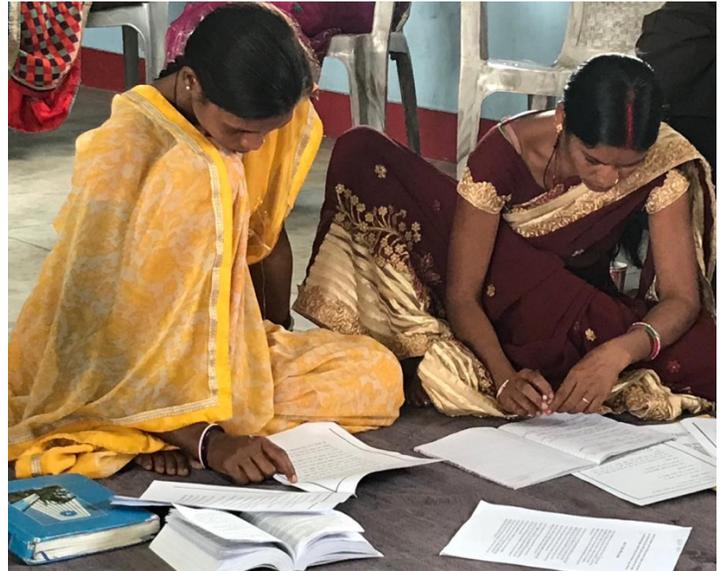


# We, The People

April – September 2018



## Fostering Active Citizenship Empowering Communities

**Our vision:**

All citizens participate, individually and collectively, in making our lives equal, free, just and dignified.

**Our mission:**

To empower all citizens to own, understand and practice Constitutional values, rights and responsibilities in our lives and communities.

Visit us at [wethepeople.ooo](http://wethepeople.ooo) to know more!

# Foreword from Manoj Papisetty

Trustee – We, The People

What a time to live in India! The dance of democracy is for all to witness with multiple state elections ongoing and the general elections due next year. Amidst the political turmoil in this country and issues like polarization, beef bans, symbolism, etc., *We, The People* is constantly working towards building an active citizenry that will hold the fort of democracy for the future to come.

I have been closely associated with WTP since the last 7 years and I have only seen the organization grow from strength to strength. I attended one of their workshops on active citizenship in 2011 and I knew, the association is going to be long and the journey beautiful!

With a renewed vision that “all citizens participate, individually and collectively, in making our lives equal, free, just and dignified”, WTP has been tirelessly working on issues of civic literacy, constitution and civic action in remote areas of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and around. This report brings forth some touching stories of citizens who are \*reborn\* after the Citizenship Education Programme. Each and every story brings in a confidence that our future is bright and reinforces the trust in democratic systems. For a lot of people, the change started from within, then moved to the family and eventually percolated to the community around. **This is the beauty of our constitution. You take time to understand it, but you will never abandon it once understood.**



The one thing that stands out for me in the entire report is “Mission 70”. It is a remarkable mission that WTP and associated CSOs have taken up to inspire youth across the country. With a series of events, games, digital content, the team is set to **empower all citizens to own, understand and practice constitutional values**. I hope each one of you spends some time to understand the mission and contribute wherever possible.

I loved this report, and you will love too!

# Story in Numbers!

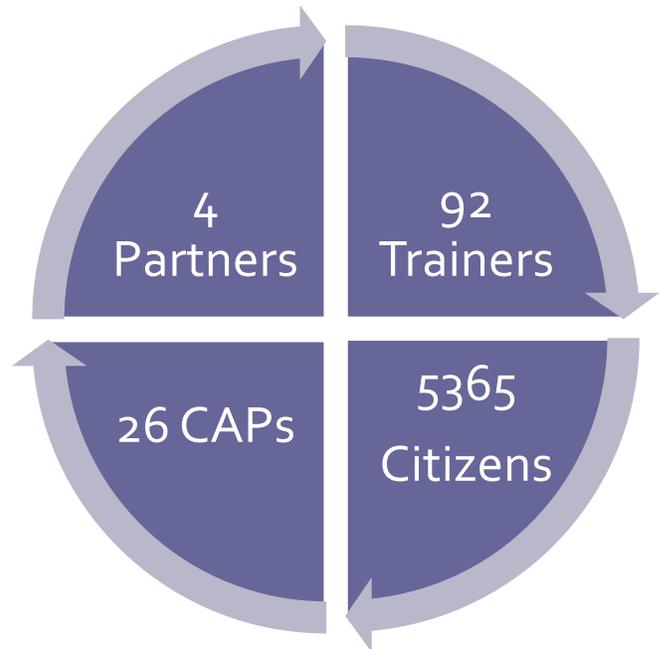
They say numbers don't lie.

## The Citizenship Education Programme

Last 6 months has been an extremely focused effort in communities of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. We developed new content, trained 92 new leaders and impacted at least 26 communities.

This entire report is a validation of the partner led model that we follow at We, The People. There is commitment, there is focus, there is innovation, there is right flow of funds and a measurable impact.

We also have kickstarted new partnerships and we expect to see an increase in the impact numbers by the end of the financial year.



## Constitution Connect

We do not have numbers to present here but let me tell there is a fantastic reason for this! We are initiating an unique outreach event campaign to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> year of the Constitution 2019-2020. This campaign is called the "Mission 70" and the theme would be – "Living the Constitution in Everyday Life"

Read more on the section "[Mission 70](#)"

# Citizenship Education Programme

At the heart of We, The People

## Completion of first cycle of Civic Literacy and Engagement Programme (CLEP) with [PRADAN](#)

This entire journey of year and a half with Pradan has been about strengthening civic literacy work and building strong leaders on the ground who can take forward the understanding of Constitution and Citizenship. This is with the view that community members can own up their rights and responsibilities, engage with local governance authorities and positively impact governance and development in their communities. The CLEP program was a threefold focused engagement with the citizens through the team of Pradan in the state of Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. The overall impact is that over 1700 citizens are now aware of their role and responsibility as citizens, achieved a higher level of civic literacy and enhanced engagement on governance issues with the State. The outcomes are at these levels:

- 68 people (selected team members of Pradan and members of the community) became trainers with the skill, knowledge and perspective needed to facilitate Civic Literacy and Engagement Programme with larger community
- 1700 citizens (at SHG & VO level) achieved higher level of civic literacy and engagement through training on the Civic Literacy and Engagement Programme.
- 75 Civic Action Projects were initiated to create positive impact on local governance issues, and is achieved through efforts of the trained citizens
- 31 events to “ignite spark” among the citizens through Samvidhan Mela in JH and MP that reached around 6,000 people.



The cohorts in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand engaged with their Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Organizations (VOs) to build capacities of the community members in their villages on how to work on a community civic issue. The last six months were about cohort members leading community issues in their villages. These issues varied from drinking water, sanitation, ration and village infrastructure to improving conditions and education in the village schools. We have documented, in the later sections, numerous stories of success and positive impact from this intervention.

## New Beginnings in Jharkhand with PRADAN

After the successful completion of CLEP's first cycle, we have entered another cycle aiming to reach and inspire many more citizens. This year we plan to will work with a total of 130 community leaders in Jharkhand, whom we are calling 'Samvidhan Saathis'. This will follow a similar model as our last cohort and with the intent to reach many more communities in a shorter duration. We also plan to engage with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to build perspective on Constitution and Citizenship.



## New partnership with [Phia](#)

We started this financial year with a new partnership in Jharkhand with Phia. The purpose of the programme is to strengthen local democracy and capacitate local self-governance in 3 districts of Jharkhand (Gumla, Jamtara, West Singhbham). To achieve this, it is imperative that the Panchayat Facilitators are empowered with perspective and knowledge of citizenship and the Constitution. Democracy at all levels is deepened and development is sustained only through an informed, active and responsible citizenry. This means that the development of engaged citizenship is a critical building block and only through that we will be able to capacitate local self-governance. We trained 40 Panchayat Facilitators (both men and women) in 2 batches in April. The 3-day workshop was a training of trainers (TOT) focused on perspective on citizenship and Constitution, understanding the Preamble and the values in it and the Fundamental Rights. This was the first in the series of multiple trainings planned for this group. Since the training, Panchayat Facilitators have trained community leaders and standing committee members in their respective Panchayats.



## Citizenship Programme with ISDM

This year again, we did a one-day session with around 60 extremely talented students of ISDM (India School of Development Management). It was a great experience interacting with the bright minds who want to work in this sector. The students are very interested in learning about the Constitution and also active citizenship. The programme was designed keeping in mind their role as future leaders and how understanding the Constitution and Fundamental Rights will help them in that.



## Training with Aksharnandan school

At the beginning of the academic year of 2018, we did a 3-day training with 40 teachers of Aksharnandan school, Pune. Aksharnandan is a Marathi medium school and they believe in the philosophy of experiential learning and currently has 500 students across standards.

During the training programme, the activity around desk research as part of civics classrooms was highly liked by the teachers.

# Stories of Change

In the end, we enable people to solve their own problems!

## Drinking Water and Toilets

In most communities we work in, drinking water and toilets is a huge issue. In one such community, Somti didi took up the issue of handpump in a hamlet and construction of toilets. She led a group of SHG members and reached out to the gram sabha and then to PHE department. After multiple conversations and written follow-ups, they now have a handpump in their hamlet. The toilets construction has also started.



## Road Construction

In another community, Anita didi took up the issue of CC road construction. She along with her SHG members approached Gram Sabha. After quite a bit of talking, convincing and asking for what they should have got long ago, Sarpanch and other panchayat representatives acknowledged and accepted the application. The project is now in the pipeline and work will begin once the construction of another road in the same panchayat is completed.



## Social Security

One of our cohort members, Archana didi, decided to work on the issue of availing old age pension. She, along with her team, filled in all the applications and submitted them to the Gram Sabha. Verification and collection of relevant documents is also complete. According to panchayat members, pension plan has started. The beneficiaries now need get their bank passbook updated.

## Anaganwadi

Rashmi didi along with her group wanted the construction of a mini anganwadi. Plan was to submit application in Gram Sabha. But unfortunately, the Gram Sabha did not happen in the month of January. After submitting multiple applications, finally the Gram Sabha took place in the month of March. The application has been approved by Gram Sabha and the panchayat members. The SHG members had to visit the district

and block office of woman and child welfare to get the anganwadi application passed. The group has also have submitted a demand application for starting the work of anganwadi at the Panchayat.



### **Claiming back identity**

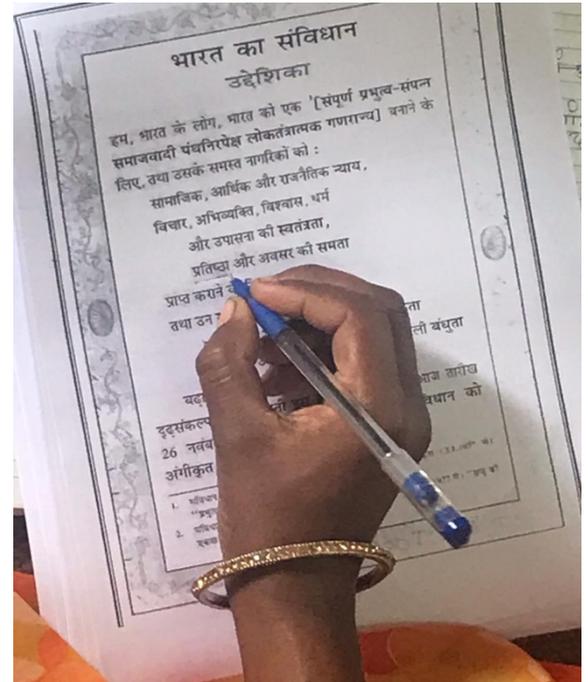
Lalita didi has a great story of personal struggle where her ex-husband was harassing her by sending objectionable messages, stalking her and threatening her. She was going through this around the time when she became a part of our cohort. This was the first problem that she wanted to fix. She wrote a complaint against her ex-husband and went to the police. Her husband was summoned, and the harassment stopped. Her journey did not stop at just this, she also worked on a community issue of drinking water. She put in a lot of effort to follow the process that she had learnt in the programme and eventually she got a hand-pump in her village.

# Experiences of Change

The difference between a citizen and an active citizen!

## I have equal rights as my husband

Rajkumari didi is our cohort member who has trained many women in her village on Constitutional values of equality and justice. She also worked on civic issues to fix problems but the biggest struggle she was facing was of at home. A typical case of domestic violence. Her husband would beat her up after drinking or even otherwise and this had been going on for a quite some time. She almost convinced herself that it was a way of life. **After becoming a part of the cohort and understanding her rights, there was a shift in her attitude.** While she was going out and training people on equality and justice, these same values were being violated in her own life and suddenly she was not okay with it. She started raising her voice, fighting it. And when all of this did not stop the abuse, she called the police on her husband. This was a big step for a woman in such circumstances and in a way, a big success for her.



## My daughter will study in the same school as my son

During the course of understanding her rights, one of our cohort members faced a lot of resistance from her family to going out and take up the leadership in her community. She realized that, in her own family, she was not being treated equal and she was struggling. During one of our reviews when everyone was reflecting on their practices on these values, she shared "I feel bad when I'm not given the same freedom as my husband, but I was also doing the same thing. I sent my son to a private school but my daughter to the government school in village. It is a common practice in the village. Everyone thinks that spending money on daughter's education is not necessary because she will get married and go away. But after this training I have realized that this is not right, and **I am now sending my daughter to the same school as my son** so that she can also get the same education and become someone"

## I don't beat my children anymore

"After we read about the case in Delhi where teachers were beating up students, we understood how it was against their rights and the Constitution. I have stopped raising my hands against my children. **I now understand that they also have the same rights as I do** and if it is wrong for a husband to beat his wife than it is also wrong for me to beat my children. It is not easy, but I will follow it."

## Change starts from within

"After attending the training, there are certain changes which came in my behavior. Earlier, I didn't know how to communicate with other people effectively. Today, I know that I should listen to others, understand their

point, discuss the subject in detail, and then politely present my suggestions. In the past, I used to beat my children a lot, but now I know that I have to control my anger.

Before this training, I never heard about the constitution or the fundamental rights. Now I understand that everybody has a right to live their own life. I am happy that we discuss the Constitution in our daily life and also that I will be able to explain the Constitution to the people in my village. I will also try to do good work for the villagers.” - Bahaalen Nek



### **Duties in everyday life!**

The 10-day course has had significant impact in my outlook. In the past when I had a task at hand, I would just try to finish it and not be particular about perfection. But now I feel that it my duty to complete the task at hand perfectly. I also do not force anyone to help me on tasks as it is their individual choice whether to help me or not.

The training also helped me in improving my confidence that I no more feel shy to approach and talk to anyone. - Anuradha Devi

### **Breaking the caste barrier**

To start with, I learned that everyone is equal! No one should ever be discriminated on the basis of caste, creed, and religion.

My mother-in-law is a big devotee of god. In the name of god, she does not eat anything touched by someone of a lower caste. After the training, I explained to her that a lower caste person is also a human being, and they also eat the same food that we eat. However, she did not accept this concept and started arguing with me. I then gave her a copy of this Samvidhan Sathi, she read the copy and understood the concept of equality. She finally started treating everyone equal. - Sakuntala Devi

## **Awareness is the key**

I hardly knew anything about terms like the Constitution, liberty, duty, equality, and justice. In this training, I got detailed information about all of this. After the training, I gave this information to all the Didi's of my village. The Didi's listened carefully and understood the information. Since then, the number of fights reduced drastically in our village. They all now respect each other, try to find the solution to any problem together.

A few days ago, our Mukhiya ji had come to the village to put on the street light, we all gathered together and with due respect to mukhiya Ji, we asked him to put the street light in public places, not in the personal places. We also told him that we will file a case against him if he continues to install the lights in private places. Then our Mukiyaji ordered to put 5 lights in public places and we are were happy. - Usha Devi

## **Talk the right language**

In our village school, we have only 3 teachers vs 5 classes with a need for 2 more teachers. The school committee decided to select two private teachers, out of which one was very harsh to the children. All the children were afraid of him and did not want to go to school. Around the same time, one day this teacher beat my daughter too that caused high fever.

I went to meet the Principal and informed him about the teacher's behavior with the students. The Principal called the teacher and I asked him the reason of beating my daughter. He got angry and told me that If I had problems, I should rather teach my kid at home instead of sending her to school. I then explained him about the Right to Education and he finally understood the problem and realized his mistake. -Mariyana

# Content Development

The foundation on which we stand

In the last 6 months, we have been able to make significant strides in content development. Some of the key highlights are –

## Feedback on NCERT Curriculum

In an attempt to reduce existing curriculum and make it simple, NCERT has reached out to various educational institutions and professionals for inputs. Based on the experience of working with school teachers in Delhi and Maharashtra, WTP submitted suggestions to three areas with reference to revisiting teaching methodology, focus on experience based and project based learning in civics curriculum from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> standard.

## Short films on blockbuster movies

In today's world, movies have a significant influence in creating opinions on young citizens. Many a times, movies show wrong interpretation of law and order and that is creating a negative vibe among the youth. In search of solutions, WTP took up the challenge of making short films based on these scenes from blockbuster movies, by showing one scene of the movie followed by the actual law or the article from the constitution in context.

## Revisiting existing Citizenship Education Program(CEP) training module

All the years of experience in working with various issues and people tells us one thing – Solving problems is easier than changing individual's perspective. It takes humongous effort to help an individual realize the constitutional values and relate them to his/her everyday activities. And then the second part is to make the individual conscious of the social change that is happening around him/her. Such a change is not possible without strong frameworks and execution. After much brainstorming, we now have segregated our modules into three major segments –

- Constitutional Perspective and Principles (WHY) - Attitude
- Legal and Constitutional Framework (WHAT) - Knowledge
- Constitutional Method for Working on an Issue - (HOW)

The detailed session run through for each of the sections is in process. We did some beta tests in the CEP with Pradan team, which turned out very well. We are currently incorporating the feedback and finalizing the sessions.

## CEP – Pradan

We worked upon three new toolkits for the cohorts of Basia and Koderma region of Jharkhand. The toolkits are divided into small summaries of learning the members had during the training. The toolkits are being used as reference material by the members (now called as **Samvidhan Sakhi**) to strengthen their own understanding. The material can also be used as guides when they transfer their leaning at village level.

# Mission 70!

The world unexplored

The objective is set. The mission is clear. We, The People is on an ambitious mission to

*Remind and connect citizens with the human values in our Constitution, so that they can **acknowledge and imbibe** them in their everyday life.*

January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> year of India since the constitution has been enforced. And we took upon the "Mission 70".

The core idea is to help citizens become conscious of the experiences in their everyday life – when they (almost subconsciously) stand up for human values and rights and also when they violate human values and rights. By making them conscious of this, we remind them that this process of everyday practice of human values and rights IS the practice of the Constitution as our Constitution is based on human values. Along with raising this consciousness, we aim to give citizens a lens (the Constitutional lens) to reflect on our actions and opinions and use it to work towards a more considered practice of human values.

The mission will be run independently by a consortium of CSOs in the name of "Citizen Adda". The Citizen Adda team is now working towards adding more partners, finalizing the campaign strategy and working on content development. If you are interested to partner with the Citizen Add team, feel to free reach out to us right away. Stay excited!

# Outreach Events

Turning the unknown to known

## Collaboration with Teacher Plus

In collaboration with the magazine Teacher Plus, WTP team curated a special issue on civic education. Teacher Plus is a magazine for school educators and has been in publication since 1989. This is supported by Azim Premji University, Bangalore, and gets published every month from Hyderabad, India. The magazine aims to help teachers in their classroom endeavors and is a platform for them to share their ideas and experiences.

In 31 articles, more than 35 authors from across India and abroad shared their expertise on key areas in civic education like Building knowledge, Civics in Action and Be the Change. Couple of articles that we published on the platform –

Reimagining civics – Vinita Singh – <http://www.teacherplus.org/reimagining-civics/>

Making a civic connection – Bhakti Bhawe – <http://www.teacherplus.org/making-a-civic-connection/>

## We made it to Germany too!

Yes! We spoke on cause of responsible citizenship at a youth conference arranged in Düsseldorf, Germany from 7th June to 10th June 2018. The initiative was a collaboration between several German and Indian organizations, with Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus – Junges Schauspiel (Youth theatre house of Düsseldorf) and Goethe Institut/Max Mueller Bhavan, Mumbai being key partners among all.

Bhakti, our head of West Secretariat, chose the theme of engagement and spoke on need of being socially and politically active in democracy. The conference was attended by a group of around 30 German and Indian students and many visitors from the city.



# Team Updates

We are one heck of a team

## Farewell Bhakti Bhave

On the behalf of the entire team at We, The People, we extend a BIG thank you to Bhakti Bhave for all the efforts that she put in over the last 4 years in strengthening the organization. Bhakti, our head of West secretariat, has decided to move on to pursue different opportunities. She played a pivotal role in building curriculum, training citizens, increasing our social media reach over the years.

"I have seen many people work in different ways and different styles. I don't think these relationships end. Our paths will cross. It has been a lovely association"

– Vinita, Managing Trustee



"We shared our challenges and struggles. And it really helped the both of us, supporting each other. There are so many things that I learnt from you and I guess, it was not possible without you. With every step, you will only come out stronger"

– Neha, Head of Secretariat

"Bhakti, I have seen you overcome numerous battles over the years – on the outside and the inside of your head. The field you are in is not easy, bringing about a change in people's life is not an easy task. Good luck"

– Manoj, Trustee

## Welcome Abhilasha Sinha

For long, we have been looking to recruit a full time public relations and communications manager. And finally, we found our answer in Abhilasha. She comes with a PG diploma in Advertisement and PR along with a master's degree in mass communications. Abhilasha has a prior experience of 3 years in digital advertising and building partnership with clients.

In the coming months and years, we are looking at Abhilasha to build our partner network in print and digital media. She is also tasked with launching social media campaigns to reach out to wider audience about all the work that we do.

