yugantar

Annual Report

2021-2022

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Yugantar - Annual Report 2021-22

Yugantar was founded as India's first feminist film collective in Bangalore in 1982 by friends and filmmakers Abha Bhaiya, Navroze Contractor, Deepa Dhanraj, and Meera Rao. Operating between 1980 and 1983, during a time of radical political transformation, Yugantar created four pioneering films together with existing or ensuing women's groups, including domestic workers in Pune (Molkarin, 1981), female factory workers in Nipani (Tambaku Chaakila Oob Ali / Tobacco Ember, 1982), Sri Shakhti Sanghatana, a feminist research and activist collective based in Hyderabad (Idhi Katha Matramena / Is This Just A Story?, 1983), and members of the Chipko movement (Sudesha, 1983).

Yugantar's films carved new and productive spaces for dialogue through friendships and alliances, and their vision participated in shaping a period imbued with immense energies for resistant cultural practices to expand political discourse. The significance of the group's films lies in their original collaborative practice before "participatory video work" or "community media" became familiar terms, and in being part of the Indian autonomous women's movement and radical left movements of the 1970s and 80s.

The work of Yugantar evolved and moved into the implementation of development projects in both rural and urban settings. Yugantar worked in rural areas in Bihar and Chhattisgarh in conflict resolution and in Rural Rajasthan documenting the realities of caste. In the urban setting, Yugantar has predominantly worked in Hyderabad's Old City engaging in project implementation including research, advocacy and outreach activities. Yugantar's engagement in Old City began working in skill development and gender with Mahila Sanatkar, a women's collective. Yugantar's programme 'Tightropes and Boot Straps,' studied the impact of prolonged violence on young Muslim men and women in conflict-prone neighbourhoods in Hyderabad. 'Small Voices, Small Victories' was a pioneering action research programme working to address the issues of Youth at risk of criminalisation of becoming rowdysheeters and to facilitate their rehabilitation into mainstream society – winning the ISABS Honours in applied behavioural science Institutional Practice Leadership.

Yugantar's vision is to play a role in creating a just and equitable India, inclusive of plural traditions, individual freedoms and diverse communities. And hence, in parallel to targeted funded programmes Yugantar's work includes the support of minorities in accessing their right, such work with the Transgender community, migrants, bonded labour and child labour.

Our funding is predominantly from grants from CSR foundations and institutions, our previous donors include, Ford Foundation, Action Aid, TATA Trusts, IDRC, Tech Mahindra Foundation and Ministry of Rural Development.

MEMBERS

Navroze Contractor
(President)
Cinematographer and documentary film maker

Tejaswini Madabhushi
(Secretary)
Feminist activist and Yugantar CEO

Sashi Kumar
(Treasurer)
Senior policy expert

Madan Mohan Rao
(Member)
Journalist and Ashoka Fellow

Dr. K. Lalita
(Member)
Author, feminist activist, researcher, and founder-coordinator of Anveshi Research Centre of Women Studies

Deepa Dhanraj
(Member)
Filmmaker and feminist activist

Dr. Vithal Rajan
(Member)
Development specialist and short-story writer

L. Ravi Chander
(Member)
Lawyer and journalist

ACHIEVEMENTS

Project title: YouRTI.in

Project Duration: 2018-present

Project Activities:

In order to create a sustainable model for this project, Yugantar has developed a white-labelling process. In the digital world, white-labelling is when a company purchases another company's services and presents them to the customer under their own brand name (in this case, YouRTI will sell its services to any company that wishes to purchase its services and incorporate it into their own website). The technological design behind the process is almost complete. So far, we have two organisations wishing to purchase YouRTI's services – AndhraJyothi and Working Peoples Coalition (WPC). We are also in talks with Jhatkaa.

Project title: Intensive Vaccination Project

Project Duration: 2021-2022

Project Activities:

Beginning in September 2021, with a grant from APPI, Yugantar worked to combat vaccine hesitancy and improve vaccination rates in the poorest of the poor localities in all 6 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the Chandrayangutta area. Reasons for vaccine hesitancy ranged from not wanting to lose working days post-vaccination to worries about the vaccination causing adverse effects. Some rumours listed impotency as an adverse effect of the vaccine – one among many myths that Yugantar worked hard to dispel. To fight against vaccine hesitancy, we utilised our pre-existing relationships with political leaders, religious leaders, PHC staff and local authorities. We used auto banners, pamphlets, masjid announcements and temple announcements to spread awareness and reduce hesitancy. Another challenge we had to overcome was a dearth of vaccine vials during the month of October. After October, the supply chain and vaccination process were streamlined and improved to become more efficient.

The vaccination project required over 100 volunteers, including female volunteers to work with women from the Muslim community. Volunteers were recruited locally in order to mobilise the local population. We wanted volunteers who knew the people personally and could explain the importance of vaccination against Covid-19 in simple language and gain trust. To ensure greater vaccination rates, the voter list was used, and door-to-door mobilisation was conducted.

540 camps were organised between September 2021 and March 2022 and over one-and-a-half lakh doses were given. Yugantar achieved 93% vaccination rate for the second dose within the target population.

Project title: Budget Rani/Combating Gender Inequality Through Financial Independence

Project Duration: 2021-present

Project Activities:

Funded by the American Consulate, the goal of this project is to promote gender equality and combat gender-based violence by providing low-income women with tools for financial independence. We seek to do this by training them in financial literacy and financial planning and increasing their ability to access their property rights. This will be done through interactive workshops (beginning in April 2022), which will include knowledge and information on financial literacy, advice on savings, property rights and financial investments. Apart from the group workshops, personal guidance will also be made available to the participants whenever needed. Telephonic monitoring of participants after each workshop will also occur. Short videos on certain topics from the workshop modules will be produced as a part of this project. One of the major activities created for participants is a Snakes and Ladders game to demonstrate the practical value of budgeting, saving, and investing. Yugantar plans to partner with the Telangana Domestic Workers' Union and ActionAid for this project, which commenced in September 2021, with module design beginning in December.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our volunteers who fought vaccine hesitancy and succeed in getting our community vaccinated, saving many lives.

The Telangana Domestic Workers' Union, specifically Sister Lizzy for supported our work with domestic workers and mobilising the community.

Action Aid for showing so much enthusiasm regarding Budget Rani and providing us a space to engage with your community.

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