

Organization Profile – Blue Ribbon Movement

The Blue Ribbon Movement (BRM) is a hybrid social organization that creates and nurtures young social leaders. BRM's expertise lies in designing and delivering leadership programs for young people across borders and on different scales, thus being committed to leadership development. Through programs, organization invests in human capital to produce and empower the next generation of leaders who would collaborate to solve common social problems.

Movement was founded in 2000, by a group of youngsters passionate about the country. Its founding principle was Together we are Stronger, and a motto of 'Green India, Great India'. The biggest project was organization of Khoj, Mumbai's biggest inter-school festival, that was held from 2000-2005. Apart there were several projects including Prayaas (a week of intense community service), TREES (tree plantation, awareness), Model UN Assembly and BlueTal (Talent Competition). After break in 2005 BRM was revived in 2009 with initial projects BRM Mentoring Program and The Changemakers JAM. In 2010 BRM was incorporated into a formal social enterprise.

BRS's philosophy is guided by a set of ideas and beliefs that can be expressed by mottos: Together we are stronger, Follow your heart, The best brains to solve the biggest problems (the social space presents the biggest challenges, yet economic system of the free market economy do not incentive the most equipped people), Systematic social change, Be the change, We are one family and Power of connection (governance to people, connecting individuals to form communities and connecting organizations and leaders).

BRS's current programs

- *The National Service Scheme Community Connect Fellowship (NSS CCF)*

The program was initiated in 2013 in partnership with Desh Apnaye Foundation. The fellowship is conducted in partnership with the National Service Scheme (NSS) cell of Mumbai University, Praja and Bombay First. The NSS CCF selected 54 motivated and socially-inclined students from 21 colleges for a 10 month leadership development program that immerses students in personal exploration and social work in Mumbai. 29 of these fellows completed the program. Then they took part in following educational program which was focused on their personal, professional and civic knowledge development. The social aim of NSS CCF is to have fellows engage in creating awareness about dialing 1916, which connects to the central complaint registration system (CCRS) of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai in order to improve infrastructural and sanitation issues around the city. The fellows, along with their volunteers, spread awareness about social issues via street plays, one-on-one interactions with citizens and surveys around their college and residential areas. By the end of the fellowship, fellows

reached out to over 5,000 people, filed 1,903 complaints to MCGM and received 60 hours towards their community service requirements.

- *Avanti Young Women Leadership Program*

This program for young women at schools and colleges is run in partnership with The Avanti Foundation. After being run for over 5000 girls, the AYWLP is now a robust and effective leadership training intervention that can be done for women in different communities and address a whole range of social issues. The objectives are to take young women beyond academic excellence to being all rounded leaders, learn about leadership through workshops and direct contribution to the society, help them build confidence, take responsibility for themselves and their communities, learn to work in teams, and overcome fears and to develop a vision for themselves to become extraordinarily successful in terms of their career and life.

Organization Profile - Centre for Environment Education (CEE)

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) is a national institution which was established in 1984 as a Centre of Excellence supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. CEE is affiliated to the Nehru Foundation for Development. CEE is engaged in strengthening environmental education and training initiatives by developing innovative programmes and educational material that promote environmentally ethical behavior.

CEE'S mission is to enhance understanding of sustainable development in formal, non-formal and informal education through its work with schools, higher educational institutions, policy makers and reaching out to youth and the general community. To integrate education as a key driver for change by demonstrating and advancing sustainable practices in rural and urban communities, in business and in the public sector, and in meeting challenges of global issues such as climate change and biodiversity conservation. CEE also promotes individual and collective positive handprint actions that are environmentally sound, economically viable and socially beneficial.

Centre for Environment Education (CEE) Maharashtra

CEE has been working consistently in the state of Maharashtra since 1995 when a project office was set up. Range of programmes has been taken up with a variety of partners spread over several districts of the state. EE was held in over 500 schools in 8 districts and 2 municipal corporations, through 19 Environmental Orientation through School Education (EOSE) projects, 4 National Environment Education Program for Schools (NEEPS) clusters, Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE), Environment Education in School System (EESS), among other programmes are undertaken by CEE Central Regional Office. Besides, EE publications in Marathi were also developed.

Some of major projects undertaken by the regional office include:

Education for Children

Leadership and Natural Resource Management Course for Youths working in tribal area

EE Material development for Maharashtra State Board

Environment Education in School System (EESS)

Experiencing Nature

Bio-cultural Camping in Sahyadri

Sustainable Urban Development

Regional Centre of Expertise

Development of Pune Coalition

Waste Management

Study of Informal Sector Integration in Municipal Systems

Assessment of Kirloskar Foundation's Clean and Beautiful School Scheme

Organization Profile – CoEvolve

CoEvolve is a community for people who want to realize their greatness and enable greatness in others. CoEvolve is intended for business leaders and social entrepreneurs, for teachers, trainers and facilitators, for health professionals and for anyone interested in living a life of passion and purpose while inspiring others. The founder of CoEvolve is Kiran Gulrajani. His singular contribution has been facilitating profound learning for over 500 leaders at senior levels of the corporate world, professional training, education, health and social initiatives in India, Singapore, USA, and other parts of the world.

Among **CoEvolve's activities** belongs to Connects People with their Purpose through conversations and programs that are designed for introspection, insight and action through books, movies, poems, experiences, internet links and the myriad connections between all of these. Since 1996 CoEvolve Connects People with CoCreative Possibilities, community has grown to a few hundred people, which want to meet others like them, and work together for synergistic results.

CoEvolve Enables Businesses in the new world. Dynamics of business are profoundly shifting, companies that demonstrate a new level of win-win thinking are clearly outperforming others. CoEvolve works with companies to develop leaders who can ease the transition from creating shareholder value to creating multi-stakeholder value. Through this collaboration, there is an aim to help organizations to bring together leaders, shareholders, partners, investors, customers and employees into a synergistic partnership.

Besides, CoEvolve works with youth in area of Conscious Youthpreneurship. An ecology of young people with ideas that can change the world, brought together to learn, support and celebrate with each other. The Community has been also active in bringing together an amazing group of thirty people from across India working to raise consciousness individually, and in business, health and education (Chittasangha) and in setting up a community of leaders, coaches, mentors and more, passionate about touching the lives of the financially under-privileged (Bhumi).

Through the Conscious Capitalism Institute comes a great vision of inspiring the business world to shift from an excessive focus on shareholder wealth to honoring all stakeholders. CoEvolve has been actively engaged in enabling this ecology.

Organization Profile - Kagad Kach Patra Kashtakari Panchayat (KKPKP)

KKPKP is part of a global network called Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing & Organizing (WIEGO). WIEGO is focused on securing livelihoods for the working poor, especially women, in the informal economy. WIEGO creates change by building capacity among informal worker organizations, expanding the knowledge base, and influencing local, national and international policies.

KKPKP is a trade union of waste-pickers and itinerant scrap buyers registered in 1993, based in Pune. In 2014, organization had approximately 10,000 members, both women and men. KKPKP uses the twin strategies of peaceful non-violent protest and resistance together with developing of alternatives, to raise awareness of some key issues that waste-pickers are facing.

This includes: campaigning for waste collectors to be regarded as "workers" and waste collection as "work" by local, state and national government, organizing of social protection (e.g. medical insurance and co-operative credit / savings schemes), and integrating waste-pickers into the doorstep collection and management of urban solid waste.

KKPKP also mobilizes against the exploitation of waste-pickers – redressing grievances, organizing boycotts against moneylenders, and fighting for compensation in cases of harassment. KKPKP has also established cooperative scrap stores to service the waste-pickers and ensure better returns for them on the sale of scrap.

Another field where is KKPKP active, are social issues. Campaigns or struggles are held against rape and sexual violence, child marriage, and child labour by promoting education among children of waste-pickers.

Organization Profile – MANTHAN

Manthan Adhyayan Kendra is a centre set up to research, analyze and monitor water and energy issues from the perspective of justice, equitable and sustainable development. Manthan was set up in 2001 at Badwani (M.P.). The activities of Manthan including analysis and advocacy are now being run from two locations, Badwani and Pune.

There are **four broad components** of Manthan's work:

- *Overall monitoring of developments in the water sector, including policies, laws, regulations, projects and programs.* This theme involves taking a wider look at the water sector, examining and engaging with macro issues, broader ideas, trends and directions. Organization analyze the way water sector is being managed, including important new developments in policy, law, regulation, institutions and implementation at the national as well as state and local levels.
- *Privatisation, commodification and reforms in the water sector, and alternatives to privatisation.* By privatisation is meant any mechanism that gives any private player a control of any part of the water system. By commodification is meant any arrangement where water is a commodity that is bought or sold, and where profits can dominate other concerns. Manthan has been studying various aspects related to these and in particular all the processes going on in the name of water sector reforms. Other activities concerning the theme are maintaining the database of privatized water projects in India and water sector reforms in various states, case studies and mapping of water sector reforms.
- *Water, growth and development, exploring how much water will be needed for the current aspired growth and what are the implications for water resources.* This theme involves studying the impacts of coal based electricity generation on water. Given the large magnitude of coal based generation in India and the massive proposed capacity additions, implications for water resources and competing uses of water are enormous. The study looks at three broad impact categories – (a) Disruption of surface and ground water sources for e.g. by mining (b) Actual withdrawal and consumption of water by all these processes in the entire chain, and (c) Pollution and degradation of water resources.
- *Rivers, Dams and Environmental flows, looking at happenings in river basin development, dams, hydropower and irrigation projects and the impacts of these on people's lives, livelihoods and ecology.* This theme involves monitoring, research and analysis of happenings in river basin development, dams, hydropower and irrigation projects and the impacts of these on people's lives, livelihoods and ecology. It involves case studies of major projects like the Bhakra-Nangal, on-going monitoring of large interventions like Inter Linking of Rivers and hydropower projects in the Himalayas etc.

Apart from these four broad theme, Manthan also looks at several other related issues like environmental governance, land acquisition etc.

Organization Profile – MASUM

MASUM was founded by Dr. Manisha Gupte and Dr. Ramesh Awasthi in 1987 during their five year stay in the drought-prone Purandar block of Pune district. It evolved out of a commitment to women's rights within and outside the home, working with a feminist perspective and a human rights approach. MASUM's primary belief is that people can resolve their own problems collectively with some amount of external support; thus, rather than create dependence on itself, MASUM focused on strengthening people's perspectives on democracy, equality, secularism and social justice.

MASUM's goals are:

- To strengthen women's self reliance and consciousness of human and constitutional rights.
- To empower women to put pressure on the state for fulfilling its obligations towards its people.
- To nurture women's physical and emotional health.
- To provide vocational training and credit facilities to women for self-employment.
- To create a sustainable and humane mode of development through people's active involvement.
- To create a progressive space in society for all subordinated groups, and to specifically resist casteism, sexism, religious chauvinism, homophobia and able-ism.
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MASUM's programs:

- *Program on Women's Right to a Life Free of Violence and Discrimination*
MASUM's counseling centre Samvaad (dialogue) located at Saswad reaches out to women who are victims / survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation. The centre was set up in 1992 and provides counseling services, emotional support and legal aid by trained and experienced social workers and a senior lawyer from Pune. Immediate support is provided by para-legal and first contact counsellors (Saathis) at the village level. The aim is also to create awareness against VAW through meetings in the village and motivate women to form support groups in order to support women facing domestic violence. Working with young men and husbands has also been initiated for a better dialogue between men and women and for women's right to maintenance and property.
- *Program on Women's right to health*
Program was initiated in 1991 and its aim is to enable the most deprived sections in the community to access and demand health services. MASUM is the district nodal agency for Community Based Monitoring (CBM) of public health services, under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Women's health issues don't get the necessary priority within the household, thus the program tries to empower women to speak out and

negotiate their health needs and rights. Village health workers (Sadaphulis) use self-examination techniques to enable women to understand their own bodies and to encourage them to participate in the process of diagnosis and treatment.

- *Program on Women's Right to Economic Empowerment*

Program has started in 1990 as a savings and credit program that works through self-help groups (SHGs) towards strengthening the economic self-reliance of rural women in 18 villages of Purandar taluka and 10 villages of Parner taluka. MASUM's interventions have resulted in the abolition of high-interest small scale money-lending in the villages and got 9000 houses in Purandar block converted to joint ownership of husband and wife.

- *Programme on Women's Right to Political Participation*

As a result of consistent empowerment efforts, women have overcome their initial reluctance to step into the public space of village governance. The mahila gram-sabha (general body meeting of village women) is held regularly prior to the gram-sabha. Women have started taking decisions about the utilisation of the 10% panchayat budget as well as dalit women and men. In spite of resistance, they have raised difficult questions about violation of women's rights and have encouraged women from subordinated groups to participate in decision-making and governance.

- *Rights of Children and Right of Adolescence and Youth*

(no more info available)

Organization Profile – Samvedana

Samvedana organization has been established in 2000. The main activities of the organization concerns issues of livelihood, education, gender issues, and community empowerment of traditional hunting nomads ('Phasepardhi' community) in Akola and Washim districts of Vidarbha region. Second is the Conservation of the grasslands to save endangered bird species. Among the biggest achievements belongs lobbying for the Nomadic Community and their rights towards the government of India. With the efforts of Samvedana GOI has started to consider enhancement of the community all over India, by setting aside huge sum related Government projects. As well as, All India Conference has formed to help such nomadic communities all over India.

Main **Samvedana's thematic areas** are:

- Participatory studies and documentation
- Empowerment
- Advocacy and lobbying

Organization Profile - Vidarbha Nature Conservation Society

To build ecologically sensitive and responsible society.

Vidarbha Nature Conservation Society (VNCS) is a registered charitable organization dedicated to the cause of the protection and management of natural resources through community involvement, conservation of biodiversity, sustainable rural development, environmental education and awareness, scholar & research oriented studies & documentation etc. VNCS came into action in 1978 through a group of school and college going students engaged in the study and protection of birds and wildlife. The group realised the need and started Environmental Education Programme in selected 69 school and colleges of Chandrapur, Wardha and Nagpur district without any financial support of the outside agencies. VNCS is pioneering group of the region which get involved in the study of environment and also train others to adopt environment as their lifestyle. VNCS was formally registered as the non-profit organisation under Mumbai Society and Trust Act in 1986.

Organization's **Vision and Mission** is to promote of Ecological Balance through Nature Conservation for equal and peaceful life to all.

VNCS's objectives are:

- Environmental awareness of the community members through education & training
- Conservation and management of Biodiversity through community participation for sustainable future
- Research & study of the threatened species of flora, fauna and Biodiversity to prepare conservation oriented management plans
- Promote natural resource based sustainable livelihoods through community participation
- Integrated Rural Development

VNCS'S projects:

Organization has successfully demonstrated its abilities in the areas of Grassroots level implementation of various projects related to NRM, Research and Documentation, Networking and Advocacy on issues related to JFM and Biodiversity.

- Natural Resource Management (NRM) through education and awareness (Young Environmentalist Project). This project involved working with 5000 students and more than 40,000 villagers in 5 protected areas of Eastern Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.
- Capacity Building for Participatory Conservation of Biodiversity and NRM around Nawegaon National Park. The work comprised capacity building of community

members in biodiversity conservation and related livelihoods in 5 villages around Nawegaon National Park.

- Community Access over Natural Resources. Working with 7000 people in promotion of participatory natural resource conservation, forest and land based sustainable livelihoods to bring reduction in poverty in 15 villages in Armori CD Block of Gadchiroli Dist.
- United Tribal Transformation through Advocacy Intervention in Vidarbha” Project/programme. People in the proposed project area are facing numerous problems as a poverty, illiteracy, poor health and poor infrastructure. Education doesn’t meet their livelihood requirements. The main source of income is rain fed agriculture and collection of Non Timber Forest Produce. Due to several reasons of poor agricultural system people are facing food insecurity. The income earned from NTFP collection is severely restricted because their traditional rights are being denied. These problems are further exacerbated by the fact that there is no local leadership that can take the people’s issues ahead, people are ignorant of their own rights, they are not united and hence cannot form a pressure group strong enough to be listened to.
- Advocacy for addressing forest issues-III, Maharashtra
- PACS. PACS Programme covers youth groups and women’s self-help groups in villages across Gadchiroli.
- Natural regeneration in the community forest of village Noroti Chak.