Stay flexible and adapt to change... PRIA has a unique capacity to relate to a wide range of state and non-state actors. Have the courage to explore dialogue with them even if their position and stance is presently unacceptable to you.

India and the world of the poor need solutions that are operational locally, but scalable globally. Aim for scale, use new media, and the energy of young people to continue to fulfill PRIA’s role for its constituencies.

On 6th February 2017, PRIA completed 35 years as an independent civil society organisation working for participatory social change.

PRIA@35 has been an exciting journey.

For some of us, PRIA@35 is about sustaining an independent, forward-looking and energetic civil society organisation, in an otherwise rapidly disruptive and uncertain world.

For several of our former colleagues (numbering 800+ alumni), PRIA@35 is a benchmark for their own professional and personal learning and growth.

For our partners in rural and urban communities in India, PRIA@35 is refreshing an old relationship in a new era.

For fellow travellers of civil society in India and globally, PRIA@35 is a reminder of history of struggles in the journey together and many more ahead.

For development professionals, PRIA@35 is re-affirmation that participation still matters in everyday life and work.

For ‘comrades’ in social transformation, PRIA@35 is a reminder that knowledge democracy is key to sustaining such processes.

For me, PRIA@35 is a bouquet of joys and pains of a life well lived, and continuing!

In 2017, PRIA undertakes its work in an increasingly uncertain world, characterised by complexity, chaos and cacophony. There is growing, visible and troubling inequality of wealth, income, opportunity, access to basic services, well-being. Intolerance of diversity and disagreements in public spheres have increased; differences in language, dress, rituals, food, culture are demonised, with anger and violence against those who are “not like us”. Constitutionally mandated institutions to promote democratic governance, legislature, judiciary, law and order machinery, media, civil society appear irrelevant, fragmented and even decayed.

How will PRIA@35 respond to these challenges?

How do we meet the economic aspirations of the youth? They are ‘smart’, connected, mobile; yet information about economic opportunities are limited, particularly for urban poor youth. With awareness and safety, ‘new age’ adolescent girls and first generation, college-going boys and girls want to learn skills that can help them in securing sustainable livelihoods. Where can our strengths as an intermediary capacity building organisation be useful in meeting such aspirations?

How can we ensure gender matters in everyday life, not merely in public spheres and institutions? Reforming gender relations requires working with boys and men to change behaviour as vigorously as building self-confidence and agency in women and girls. Sustaining such behaviour change in every day life is contested.

A globalised economy, out-sourced service delivery, private business and digital tooling — these will continue to matter greatly in tomorrow’s India. But the numbers missing out from the benefits of these changes is increasing. We see the impacts of rapid urbanisation, formalisation, and resource extraction on the communities we engage with. The urgency to prepare them to participate, to influence these changes has never been greater. How do we scale our innovative participatory tools and interventions quickly enough to make larger impact?

PRIA@35 responds to these challenges by re-committing our efforts to make democracy work for all, in everyday life, and re-affirming the values that underlie our motto: Knowledge. Voice. Democracy.

- Of valuing diversity of knowledge cultures forms, languages, expressions
- Of listening, supporting and amplifying the voice of hitherto excluded dreams, hopes, frustrations, pains
- Of promoting practices and rituals of participatory democracy and making institutions transparent and accountable to citizens

We look forward to your continued support as we forge ahead, hopefully for another 35 years at least!

Rajesh Tandon
Founder-President, PRIA
August 2017
PRIA’s interventions help to ensure complete and total coverage of all households in accessing basic services (water, sanitation, health) by communities. Focus is on building capacities of poor households and adolescent boys and girls to demand such services. In Haryana, increase in awareness on maternal and child health among young brides will lead them to access primary health services; mobilised and organised urban poor in Ajmer, Jhansi and Muzaffarpur have gained access to sanitation services from their municipalities; mobilised rural households in Chhattisgarh are proactively taking steps to change sanitation behaviour and get access to water; in Andhra Pradesh, a pilot model of collaboration between governance institutions and the private sector seeks to create child friendly smart mandals; and in Sikkim, with strengthened capacities, decentralised planning will help integrate village level plans into district development plans in the coming year.
Anandapuram Mandal in Visakhapatnam district was selected as the pilot mandal for demonstrating participatory planning for child friendly smart mandals in Andhra Pradesh. Intensive engagement with partners and community leaders facilitated participatory processes for co-planning and collaborative actions to make gram panchayats in Anandapuram child friendly and SMART, based on the 20 non-negotiable development indicators of the Smart Village Smart Ward programme of the Andhra Pradesh government. Meetings to share and learn, build evidences, demonstrate innovations, mobilise resources and trigger processes of participatory planning helped make Anandapuram a learning lab for all stakeholders. Community mapping exercise in 108 hamlets of 26 gram panchayats in Anandapuram Mandal were carried out. “Do’s and Don’ts” for a model child-friendly gram panchayat, and a practitioner’s booklet for participatory visioning and planning were documented.

“A water connection for the household means less work for us” this is what a child-friendly Smart Mandal means to the girl children of Anandapuram Mandal
PRIA’s project in Haryana is creating a **Community Model of Engagement to Improve Health and Well being of Adolescent Girls**

- Resource centres in the five target villages have become safe spaces for adolescent girls
- Learning about gender through participatory games and sports has helped girls break stereotypes and take on the challenge of influencing social attitudes
- 20 youth groups are being mentored by select youth leaders
- Participatory Rural Appraisal, medical camps and Nukkad Natak (street theatre) have played a vital role in initiating conversations about child marriages in communities
- Posters, mobile games, a mascot and jingles have spread awareness in the general public on reducing/stopping child marriage
- Linkages with the media and government schemes like 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' have enhanced visibility of the issue

**Adolescent girls in Sonipat and Panipat are saying:**

*We Are #MoreThanJustBrides*

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My name is Neetu. Boys harass us when we go to school, so my father made me drop out of school after Class 10. Meeting other girls like me in PRIA’s resource centre in my village Mahra has given me the confidence to voice my opinion – in my family, with friends and now in the community.

See videos of Neetu and many others like her on PRIA's YouTube channel
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGktKrQnEblqgawCYSlyINdyZ8eLWP2L
The strong awareness about hygiene and sanitation that has been instilled in Dadiyapura (Ward 45, Jhansi) has taken hold of the youth of the settlement in a big way. Nazim Hussain proudly asserts that he attends all meetings and accompanies the SIC on all their visits to Jhansi Municipal Corporation.

Supported by European Union (EU), Engaged Citizens, Responsive City project is being implemented over four years (2016-19) in three cities – Ajmer in Rajasthan, Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh and Muzaffarpur in Bihar. In the past year

- Settlement Improvement Committees (SICs) have been formed in 130 informal settlements across three cities
- Over 700 meetings and capacity building sessions, SIC members gained knowledge about their rights, organised themselves, developed strategies as a group, and sought approaches to interact with government agencies
- Profiles of 1346 citizen leaders as SIC members are the basis for providing further training
- 966 SIC members and community youth (of which 42% are women) trained to carry out mobile-to-web based survey
- PRIA was invited and is now a member on the Task Force constituted for AMRUT in Muzaffarpur

Settlement Improvement Committees (SICs) as a form of community organisation fosters empowerment of the poor and has provided community members the required space in which they can reflect on their settlement’s problems, identify community needs, and find solutions to their problems by working with other institutions. Through the creation of SICs, community-led participatory planning has been successful in acquiring services-construction of roads, drains, community toilets, improved access to drinking water, and more efficient solid waste management from local government in all the three cities.

Multi-stakeholder platform and new actors converge to provide access to safe and clean drinking water in Jharkhand

Over three years, supported by Arghyam, PRIA facilitated decentralised participatory planning processes in six arsenic affected blocks in Sahibganj district of Jharkhand. The participatory planning processes led to the preparation of participatory village plans, which have subsequently been implemented.

Based on the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) prepared by the communities, a mini water scheme worth INR 19 lakh was installed in Mohanpur to provide safe drinking water through pipe line.

An overhead tank of 20,000 litre capacity was constructed in Rampur (Naya Tola). This tank caters to the needs of each and every household of the village. Two community spare parts banks were established.

Government of Jharkhand issued a letter to bring rural drinking water connections under the Right to Service Guarantee Act. Nearly 195 activities for promotion of water security have been incorporated under Yoajana Banao Abhiyan (a Government of Jharkhand initiative). These activities became part of the Annual Plan of gram panchayats for the year 2016-17.

Elected representatives of gram panchayats, mukhiyas, jal sahiyas and local community leaders have been trained on monitoring and evaluation of community-led gram panchayat plans which are currently being implemented.
PRIA supports the building of capacities, across India and in other developing countries, of civil society organisations, development practitioners, elected representatives, governance institutions and students. Through its capacity building programmes and participatory research studies PRIA catalyses an engaged community of practitioners. PRIA International Academy (PIA) conducts online and customised learning programmes for staff from civil society organisations across India and the Asian region. In 2016-17, 55 students undertook courses offered by PIA. In the past year, PRIA spearheaded studies on the challenges of civil society, civil society and governance, and India’s development cooperation in Bangladesh. Case studies from Andhra Pradesh were documented to help Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) officials learn in real-time the impact of SBM on the ground, and the State Finance Commission in Sikkim was supported in preparing its report. Through the UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education, established in 2012 with Dr Rajesh Tandon as Co-Chair, PRIA supports initiatives in India and internationally to establish mutual knowledge engagements between grassroots and institutions of post-secondary education through community-university partnerships.

To know more about the UNESCO Chair, visit http://unescochair-cbrsr.org/
Putting gender on the agenda of institutions and demanding their accountability to ensure safety and security of women and girls is a priority focus area of PRIA’s work. Interventions focus on youth, both boys and girls, to bring about attitudinal changes at individual and collective levels. Actions promote participation, partnership and sharing of experiences as learning tools to enable them to take personal responsibility for actions and speak out against gender discrimination and violence against women. In the past year, interventions were carried out in 12 locations across India under the Kadam Badhate Chalo campaign, work has begun to organise women domestic and construction workers to raise voice against sexual harassment at their workplaces, and capacity building on gender mainstreaming was continued.
Kavita belongs to Shakti Youth Group in Baba Ramdev Basti, Jaipur

“After joining this youth group, I don’t feel afraid of going out on my own. When they ask me, ‘Why don’t you feel afraid?’ I answer: ‘Kadam Badhate Chalo. Join the campaign and you will learn to overcome your fears.’ Even if one girl is free from fear, then all girls feel confident. We can work together to end violence against women and girls in our community.’”

In Seeking Institutional Accountability to Reduce Violence Against Women in Public and Private Spaces, 11 youth groups, comprising boys and girls from four wards, six schools, seven colleges and two departments of University of Rajasthan in Jaipur, are now part of the Kadam Badhate Chalo campaign.

50 boys and 83 girls from the community and educational institutions are active youth leaders, raising voice in public on issues around violence against women and girls.

Kadam Badhate Chalo in Jaipur has been successful in reaching out directly to over 4,000 individuals, with a near equal gender balance. Indirectly, the campaign would have reached out to 20,000-25,000 individuals across different sections of society.
The Making Workplaces Safe programme was formally launched in June 2015. The programme envisages that all workplaces in every district, block and city in the country are safe for all women. It also envisages that every complaints committee (internal as well as local) have trained and sensitive individuals as committee members.

Raising awareness on the definition of sexual harassment and issues around the compliance and non-compliance of the Act is a key challenge which the Making Workplaces Safe programme addresses. In the past year, more than 5000 individuals were oriented through various seminars, round table discussions, open forums, trainings and workshops. These were conducted across sectors (education, corporate, garment, brick-kilns), institutions (labour institutes, trade unions, schools, factories, etc), and for workers, especially migrant, women workers.
The Martha Farrell Award for Excellence in Women’s Empowerment honours gender equality, women’s empowerment and feminism in everyday life – the legacy of Dr. Martha Farrell, who devoted her life to promoting these ideals. The Award is co-sponsored by Rizwan Adatia Foundation (RAF) and Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). The Award of Rs 1.5 lakh each is given in two categories: Most Promising Individual and Best Organisation for Gender Equality. On Friday, April 7, 2017, winners of the inaugural Award were announced and felicitated at the Martha Farrell Award Ceremony at Teen Murti Bhavan, in New Delhi.

Majlis Legal Centre wins the Best Organisation for Gender Equality for 2017

Rakhi Gope wins the Most Promising Individual category for 2017

Dr Martha Farrell’s commitment and work is being taken forward by the Martha Farrell Foundation. To know more, visit www.marthafarrellfoundation.org
Across states and communities...

Women and men come together/
To share and learn from experiences/

226 sites
624 sites

22,420 community members
18,392 community members

2015-16 2016-17

Men (55%) Women (45%)

Participatory trainings (48.28%)
Multistakeholder dialogues (42.57%)
Campaigns (9.15%)
Financial summary

Income
(year ended 31.03.2017)

- Programme (81.09%)
- Administration (16.39%)
- Other Non-cash Expenses (2.52%)

Research and Training Grants
Other Income
Total

Expenditure
(year ended 31.03.2017)

- Programme (81.09%)
- Administration (16.39%)
- Other Non-cash Expenses (2.52%)
PRIA is a global participatory research and training centre

1 week  9 cities  20+ activities  5,500 people

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