Knowledge. Voice. Democracy.
PRIA

YOUTH-N-DEMOCRACY

Youth Led. Youth Engaged. Youth Designed.
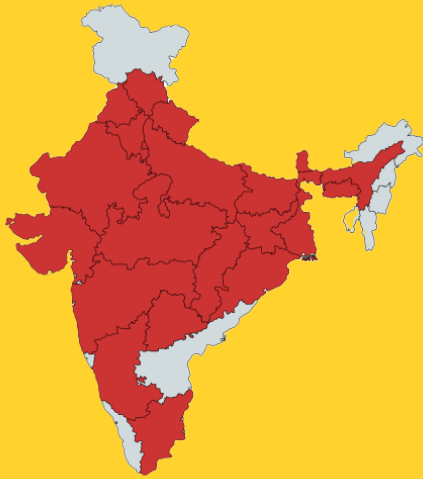
Contact:
nikita.rakhyani@pria.org

Overview

The Youth-n-Democracy (YnD) is the flagship programme of PRIA Youth. It was started in February 2017 as a pan-India campaign wherein PRIA (Society for Participatory Research In Asia) began its dynamic journey of engaging with youth in India.

The YnD programme has the following objectives:

- Creating safe spaces for conversations in colleges and universities.
- Introducing **Democracy in Everyday Life (DIEL)** and deepening its understanding with youth, both individually and collectively.
- Strengthening peer to peer relationships in a variety of spaces and creating a pan-India network of youth promoting and working towards the idea of DIEL.

OUTREACH:

50,000 individuals
(College Students & Young Professions)

78 Colleges

50 Cities

What is Democracy in Everyday Life?

As aware, active and engaged citizens, we make democracy function in our lives, everyday, in various ways. This is the true essence of Democracy in Everyday Life (DIEL). Some of the democratic acts through which DIEL functions include:

- Listening to different opinions and views.
- Respecting different views, even if expressed by a few.
- Valuing other's knowledge, even when ignored by authorities.
- Encouraging others to share their views, and speak up on what they like and do not like.
- Encouraging conversations across people with different views and opinions.
- Facilitating agreements to be, act, work and live together, despite differences.
- Constantly questioning our attitudes towards differences in views of others, and different others.

Innovative and Creative Methodologies

The Youth-n-Democracy (YnD) programme utilizes innovative and creative methodologies to engage with young people on the issue of DIEL. This allows young people to effectively engage on a variety of issues.
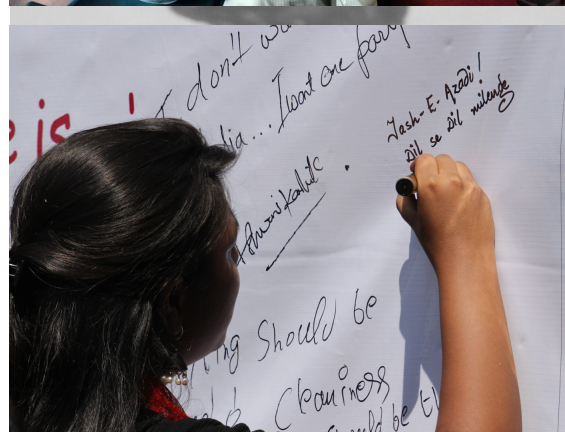
Participatory Research Survey

An anonymous electronic polling device used for facilitating group discussions around a range of sensitive, social topics like identity, sexuality and diversity.

Art-based Methodologies

Popular and contemporary forms of writing (slam poetry and slogan writing), art (poster and rangoli making) and discussions (debates and round table discussions) are extensively used for engaging with the youth.

Youthra - Street Theatre Competition

Youthra is an annual street theatre competition which celebrates the spirit of Youth-n-Democracy through creative expressions. Organized in open public spaces, Youthra is a platform for young people to have open, fearless and non-judgemental conversations on issues that matter to them.

Interventions

Youth-n-Democracy Fellowship

Objective: A fellowship designed exclusively for college students with the objective of making young people aware about self and society.

- Carefully crafted 9-month fellowship program.
- Immersive journey for young people to witness the diversity and democratic ethos around them.
- Offers skills and perspectives to youth that aid the building of a more resilient democracy.
- Enables young peoples' capacities of research and social action.
- Entirely youth driven in its mandate - For youth, By youth!

Youth-n-Democracy Workshops

Objective: Need-based capacity building workshops and trainings for college youth and young professionals on a range of issues to strengthen Democracy in Everyday Life.

Get in touch with Nikita @ nikita.rakhyani@pria.org to learn more.

Youth for Democracy Forum

Objective: National-level residential forum to get together a diverse group of young people to network, learn facilitation and advocacy skills, and understand the nature of diversity and inclusion.

- The 1st edition of the Forum took place in New Delhi in November 2018.
- 34 youth, including college students and young professionals, from 15 states in India participated in the Forum; they were selected from a pool of over 150 applications received.

Online Course
Youth, Democracy & Everyday Life

Course Objectives:
- Systematize the understanding of youth and democracy in India and its manifestation in everyday life.
- Define the 'Identity of Indian youth' and substantiate it with anecdotes and stories from field-based engagement.
- Advocate on the need of engaging with youth.
- Demonstrate different, innovative methods of engaging with youth.
- *Sign-up now at: https://www.pria.org/courses-details.php?cid=12*

STORIES OF CHANGE

Pratyay Malakar, Chennai

Pratyay co-founded Project Embrace with the aim of creating a safe environment for the Queer community in social spaces in Chennai. Currently, he is conducting workshops on gender, sexuality and social inclusion.

Sumedha Dey, Kolkata

Sumedha is a passionate advocate against substance abuse. She conducts talks and discussions in colleges and public spaces to raise awareness amongst the youth about issues relating to substance abuse.

Ankita Mitra, Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh

Ankita is championing the cause of providing free education to young boys and girls in her hometown of Mau village in Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh.