

THE YUVA EKTA FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



A GLIMPSE OF OUR WORK FROM
APRIL 2019 TO MARCH 2020

ABOUT THE ORGANISATION

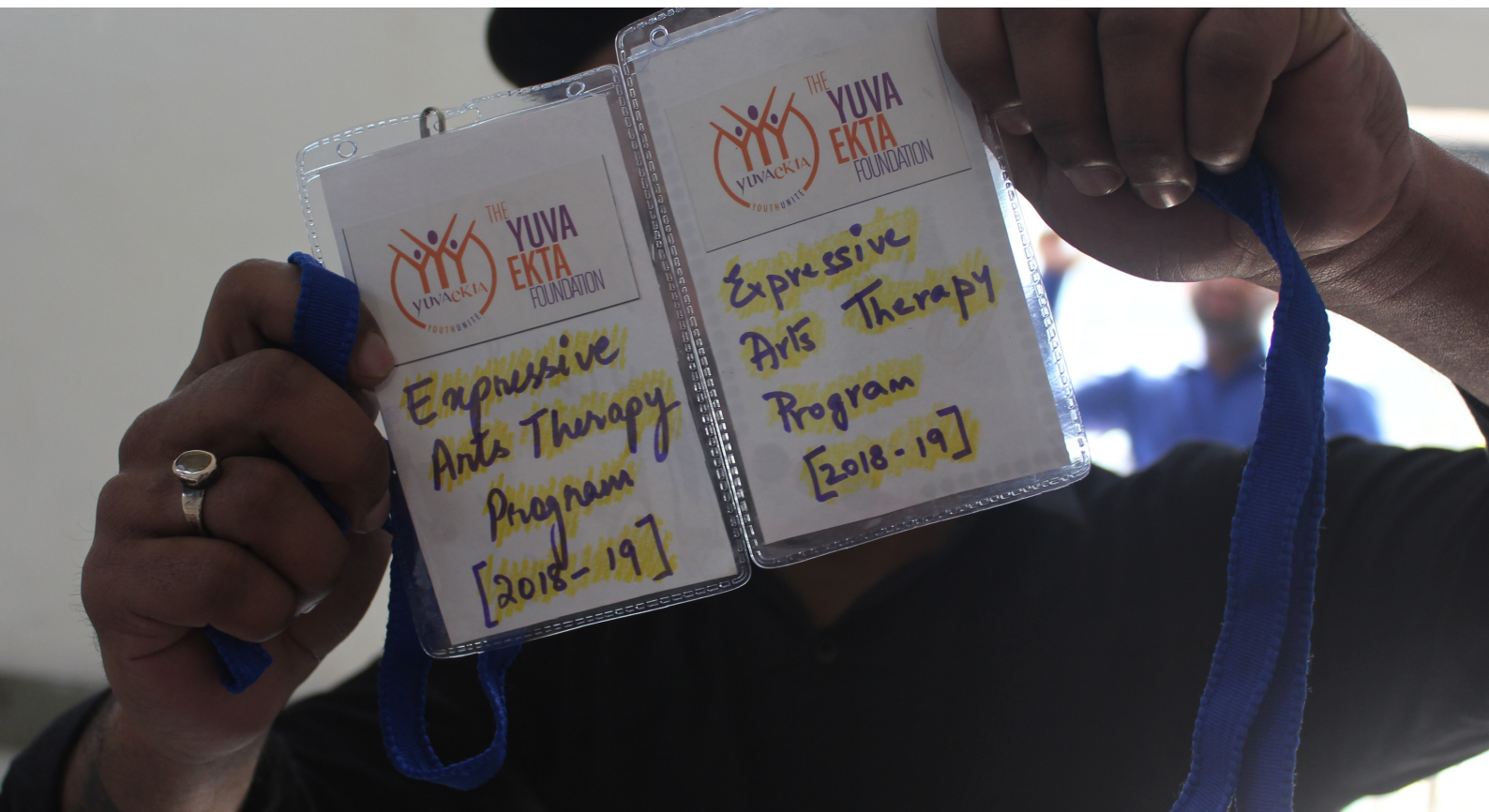
The Yuva Ekta Foundation is a not-for-profit Trust based in New Delhi, India. We work at the forefront of Expressive Arts and Youth Empowerment, spanning a canvas that seeks to integrate young people from different socio-economic backgrounds, using the Arts as a means for Self-Exploration and Social Awareness.

Over the last two years, The Foundation has begun to work deeply on issues of Emotional Intelligence and Self-Esteem, realising that these are core competencies that need to be developed in young adults. We firmly believe that it is only through a journey within oneself, that one can understand the relation between the Self, the Other and the Social.

Within the time frame of April 2019 to March 2020, we have explored these themes with varied groups of young people, coming from different parts of the country. This Annual Report is a documentation of our work during the financial year 2019-20.



THE
YUVA
EKTA
FOUNDATION



THREADS OF HUMANITY

Threads of Humanity has been a flagship program of The Yuva Ekta Foundation, as the program focusses on empowerment of At-Risk Youth and **Children in Conflict with Law (CICL)**. While our efforts with these young people have been intense and engaging, we began a pioneering research project in 2018, that looked at '**Building Emotional Intelligence using Expressive Arts and Psychodrama Therapy with Children in Conflict with Law**'.



A first of its kind endeavour in India, the project started at the Place of Safety and Special Home for Boys, Majnu ka Tila, Delhi (the Home). This is a judicial Observation Home that houses young offenders aged 16-21 years. We collaborated with experts from the fields of Expressive Arts, Psychodrama, Psychology and Research to create a comprehensive program for young offenders, aimed at their rehabilitation and repatriation.

'Bhavnao ki Nagri' (World of Emotions)

OUR SECOND OPEN DAY AT MAJNU KA TILA



April 2019 – as we completed nearly one year of our intervention at the Home, we hosted an Open Day titled **'Bhavnao ki Nagri' (World of Emotions)**, and invited members of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Judges, Magistrates and Superintendents from different Homes, along with family members, to view the journey of the boys over the past one year.

The first year was the assessment period of the program in which we conducted standardized tests to judge the efficacy of our intervention. As we compiled our research study, we also started working with other inmates at the facility, who did not get a chance to participate in the project earlier. Through smaller groups of 15 participants each, we started working more deeply on issues of 'Self-Image'.

Till March 2020, we have conducted 90 Expressive Arts and 10 Psychodrama sessions with nearly 50 participants at the Home.

"Saw the exhibition organized by Yuva Ekta Foundation along with the boys, who have participated in 10 month long workshop on drama and other therapeutic activities. Wonderful experience. I am sure the boys will go out as positive persons when they leave the institution. Keep up this good work."

- Ms. Nisha Agarawal, Deputy Director, Women and Child Development Department.



THEATRE FOR CHANGE

Theatre for Change has been the mainstay of our organization. Our Intent has been to bring marginalised youth and their privileged counterparts onto a common platform and create mutual opportunities for learning through Theatre.

As part of this project, we have partnered with the **Jaipur Literature Festival** for the last 13 years as their **Youth Outreach Partners**.

In what has become our largest audience outreach endeavour, we invite close to 60 participants from urban-elite schools in Jaipur and young participants from rural parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, to work with us for two weeks!





The idea is to enhance the scope of democratic participation among the youth through art, culture, and literature. In this format, our participants undergo a rigorous workshop process based on a theme relevant to our current times, steeped in tools of Forum Theatre and Theatre of the Oppressed. We develop an interactive theatre performance borne out of real-life experiences of our participants, which is then performed across schools and public spaces in and around Jaipur during the festival days. Over the last three years, our performance has become part of the Festival programming, making its way to the prestigious *Samvad* stage, in the Festival grounds.

Our theme for the Outreach Program at the festival this year (2020) was ‘Kahaaniyon ki Rahasyamayi Duniya: The Mysterious World of Stories’. With the country and to a large extent the world around us entering a conundrum of political turmoil and increasing intolerance, we ask ourselves this question: are we at the risk of losing our stories?

'Kahaaniyon ki Rahasyamayi Duniya'

THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF STORIES



The performance was a collection of personal stories and memoirs, crafted carefully to bring out the rich cultural traditions of Indian storytelling. Two 'Sutradhaars' (narrators), one modern and one traditional, bound stories from Rural and Urban India, in a tale that spoke about how we need look beyond the loud cacophony of dominant voices to find our own Truth. An apt commentary on today's national media, the politics surrounding it, seen through the eyes of young people growing up in this over-hyped 'Social Media' world! The performance was well received and the discussions that followed at every step were enriching and heartwarming.

This year we performed at 10 locations, of which 8 sessions were done for Senior Students at different Jaipur schools. On January 25th, 2020, we went beyond the city limits for a community performance at Bassi Village. Aided by our NGO Partner Doosra Dashak, we also interacted with students of a government school in the area.

Following this, our special Republic Day appearance came on the Samvad stage at the prestigious JLF grounds, as we reached out to over 500 audience members visiting the festival. An excellent audience interaction followed the performance.



KAHAANIYON KI Rahasyamayi DUNIYA

THE MYSTERIOUS WORLD OF STORIES

Facilitated by



Outreach Partner



15-27 January 2020

कहानियों की रहस्यमयी दुनिया

GET IN TOUCH WITH US
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OR MAIL US AT
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JLF IN NUMBERS
THE LAST 5 YEARS

53

THEATRE PERFORMANCES
Across schools, communities
and JLF Festival Grounds

25,000

PEOPLE REACHED
Students, young adults,
educators, community
members and JLF visitors



"I BELIEVE IN ME"

AN INTERACTIVE
PERFORMANCE WITH SECOND
CHANCE SCHOOL, RITINJALI

In August 2019, we collaborated with Ritinjali, an institution that works towards integrating alienated youth into society. The Second Chance School in Mahipalpur, Delhi, houses urban deprived young adults (aged 18 years and above) from across the country, to provide education, vocational training and apprenticeship.

November 2019 - Showcased at the World Wildlife Fund Auditorium, the performance received huge applause.

We were invited by Ritinjali to work with 15 boys on a performance for their Annual Day. Our intent was simple - use tools of Expressive Arts and Theatre to garner personal stories. In that vein, the performance titled 'I Believe in Me' was stitched together from stories of the boys that emerged through the workshop process, and heightened their sense of Confidence and Self Esteem. The Foundation's efforts at integrating music, arts and theatre into this interactive performance, left the boys with a sense of pride and achievement.



'JAADU KI NAGRI'

The World of Magic

In September 2019, we were invited by the Centre for Advanced Research and People's Engagement (CARPE) and Civic Response Team (CRT), Aurangabad, Maharashtra to work with 'Children under Care and Protection' at the Government Observation Home in Aurangabad.

This was our first project in the state of Maharashtra. Our facilitators set out with a clear intent to showcase a stage production for the city of Aurangabad. Within a span of 10 days, they worked with the boys inside the facility through Expressive Arts and Theatre. The play **'Jaadu ki Nagri' (The World of Magic)** was based on the lives of these young boys, their struggles and the innocent need for unconditional love. The boys at the Home spoke with gratitude of their present circumstances in the Home and how thankful they were to be fed, schooled and given access to resources that had been a distant reality till now.





THE PERFORMANCE

THE PLAY 'JAADU KI NAGRI' (THE WORLD OF MAGIC) WAS PERFORMED AT GOVINDBHAI SHROFF LALIT KALA ACADEMY, AURANGABAD, ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2019.

The story revolved around the lives of Manas and Shakti, two strikingly different personalities. Manas is a good-natured boy whose father leaves him in Aurangabad's Observation Home because of difficult circumstances. Shakti hides his loneliness and need for friendship with anger and aggression. There is obvious conflict when the two meet. Both need love and affection. We explore deeper to find this expression of love in their everyday lives and how the Home transforms into a 'safe-space', where positive energies can be harnessed and spread. The boys invite the audience into their world, opening their hearts to generously share this love with everyone.



**THEATRE BASED
CORPORATE TRAINING**

Mirror Image is our Corporate Training module wherein we use arts-based tools for Team Building, Communication and Workspace Boundaries, as we focus on Emotional Well-Being.



The Foundation facilitated a workshop on '**Emotional Intelligence at the Workplace**' at the Head Office of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi in November 2019. The participants left with radiant Sun-Catchers made from up-cycled CD's, each with a personalised message of positivity and joy.

TWO CRITICAL ENGAGEMENTS

August 2019 - A presentation on '**The Importance of Emotional Intelligence**' with scholars at The Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS), Shimla, was followed by an Expressive Arts activity that combined elements of self-reflection, storytelling and drawing. The session brought to light, the importance of developing an Emotional Quotient that is at par (if not better) than our Intelligence Quotient.



Yuva Ekta Playback Theatre Group

FIRST ACTIVE PLAYBACK THEATRE GROUP IN DELHI



We have registered the first active Playback Theatre Group in Delhi called the **Yuva Ekta Playback Theatre Group**. An improvisational theatre tool where actors perform audience's stories on the spot, Playback opens up spaces for sharing and healing. Playback Theatre has been an integral part of our work in several programs.



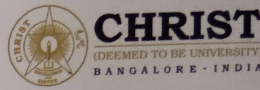
In 2019, we used Playback Theatre to explore themes like 'Sexual Harassment at the Workspace' and 'Stress Management and Well-Being' with Teamwork Arts Pvt. Ltd, an Arts-Management company.



Our session on 'Sexual Harassment at the Workspace' explored the urgent need for creating safe-spaces within the office, breaking through hierarchy and judgement.

An Exploratory study: Playback Theatre with Children in Conflict with Law

Rijul Kataria, Puneeta Roy, Bhanu Mehta



PLAYBACK THEATRE AROUND THE WORLD

Diversity of Application

OUR FIRST PUBLICATION AS A FOUNDATION

Our most successful application of Playback Theatre has come in the field of Juvenile Justice. Since we started our training in 2016, we have used it as an integral tool to bring out powerful stories and connect different stakeholders onto one humane platform.

Our experiences have been published in a book called **'Playback Theatre Around the World'**. Our chapter titled **'An Exploratory Study : Playback Theatre with Children in Conflict with Law'** is an attempt to encapsulate four years of experience using Playback Theatre in our work with Juvenile Offenders.

It was a moment of pride and honour for The Foundation when the book was launched at the **International Playback Theatre Network Conference** in Bangalore, December 2019.

The book has been edited by Mr. Brian Tasker and Mr. Baiju Gopal and published by Christ (Deemed to be University), Bangalore. It collates Playback Theatre experiences from around the globe.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Yuva Ekta Foundation in FY 2019-2020, raised funds through voluntary contributions from individuals and organisations. Most of the funds generated went towards implementing the second phase of our workshops at the Place of Safety and Special Home for Boys, Majnu ka Tila. Projects like Theatre for Change and Mirror Image, helped create a traction amongst corporates about our programs.

72%

of last year's donations

came from voluntary contributions to The Foundation

28%

of our donations

were generated through fundraising



Key Highlights:

- Expanded the use of online integrated donation platform
- Added more individual donors than the previous Financial Year
- Continued monthly patronage maintained
- Our work in the field of Juvenile Justice continues to attract donors

THE WAY FORWARD

We ended the year with a partial shutdown of our activities due emergent restrictions because of Covid 19. Our physical visits to the Place of Safety and Special Home for Boys, Majnu ka Tila, stopped completely and so did our weekly Playback Theatre Rehearsals.

In a month's time though we had figured a way to resume connectivity through various online platforms. At the moment, our team connects with all stakeholders through calls and video conferences, figuring ways in which we can shift our work online.

This last year was marked by promise and improvement as we expanded our work into different cities and collaborated with more organisations.

As we write this report, we have seen glimpses of what the new normal would be like in these times, and are now laying out plans on how best to execute our projects during the lockdown.



Our first project during this lockdown will be the launch of an Online Interactive Platform called 'BREATHE'. We plan to share tools of Expressive Arts to promote Emotional Health and Well-Being with the online community.



**WITH
GRATITUDE
AND WISHES...**

The Yuva Ekta Foundation is gearing up for yet another year of rigorous and intense work in the field of Expressive Arts and Youth Empowerment. While the lockdown has been imposed and certain plans put on stand-still, we will focus on re-crafting our work based on the emergent needs of young people.

We look forward to your continued patronage and support.

With Warm Regards

***Puneeta, Bhanu, Rijul
The Yuva Ekta Foundation Team***