



## YP AHoy!

As the journey of Youth Power 2011-12 draws to a close, we delve deeper into the areas where our young YP contestants wish to make a difference. Come on board as we take you through a power packed and youthful journey with this special edition.

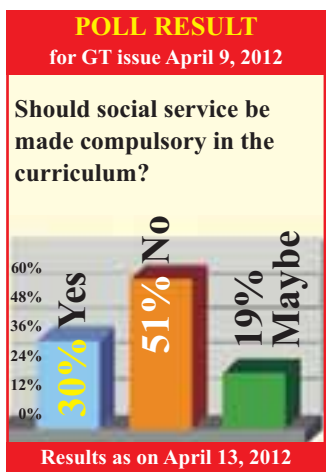
**AMITEpoll**

Can human values be taught?

a) Yes                      b) No

c) Can't say

To vote, log on to [www.theglobaltimes.in](http://www.theglobaltimes.in)



YP 2008-09 Ruchi Avtar, AIS V6



YP 2009-10 Simran Sachdeva, AIS PV



YP 2010-11 Kritika Dhawan, AIS PV



# WHO'S NEXT?

As Youth Power 2011-12 nears its grand finale, the adrenaline rush hits an all time high. The countdown for the next Youth Envoy has begun. Are you counting too?

**E**ight enthusiastic and spirited teams, each stronger than the other; a coveted trophy; the title of "YOUTH ENVOYS 2011-12"; a year of immense hard work and showcasing creative leadership skills...the drama is about to unfold as Youth Power 2011-12 hits its Grand Finale on April 23, 2012. As the clock ticks away to the big day, we bring to you the social challenges that ransacked the minds and souls of this year's YP contestants.

**CHALLENGE: Human trafficking**  
ACCEPTED BY: AIS Pushp Vihar  
Human trafficking has recently been described as the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world. Sexual exploitation, slavery, bondage...the aftermath of this heinous crime are plenty. It's time to tackle the terror.

*More on Page 4*

**CHALLENGE: Empowerment of the girl child**

ACCEPTED BY: AIS Saket  
53% of the girls in the age group 5-9 years are illiterate. Every sixth girl child dies due to gender discrimination. Every 51 minutes an incident of sexual harassment takes place. Enough done to her already!

*More on Page 5*

**CHALLENGE: Segregation of garbage**

ACCEPTED BY: AIS Mayur Vihar  
Put biodegradable waste in the green dustbin and non biodegradable waste in the blue dustbin. Period. Sometimes, small things can make a big difference.

*More on Page 6*

**CHALLENGE: Save the tiger**

ACCEPTED BY: AIS Noida  
More than 97,000 tigers have been killed.

The dwindling numbers seek revenge in the form of a disturbed ecosystem. Raise your voice before the roar of the tiger dies down.

*More on Page 7*

**CHALLENGE: Education for all**

ACCEPTED BY: AIS Vasundhara 1  
Each one, teach one. We have heard that but maybe ignored it enough to still have a literacy rate that staggers at 74%, a far cry from 100%. Make education contagious.

*More on Page 8*

**CHALLENGE: Cyber crime**

ACCEPTED BY: AIS Vasundhara 6  
Increase in number of internet users has led to an exponential increase in cyber crime. Being tech savvy is one thing being tech threatened is another. Time to persist for peaceful use of technology.

*More on Page 9*

**CHALLENGE: Upliftment of the unorganised sector**

ACCEPTED BY: AIS Gurgaon 43  
Hawkers, autorickshaw drivers, masons, artisans, cobblers...the unorganized sector in India has its roots spread wide. Their contribution to the GDP – massive. Their recognition – nil.

*More on Page 10*

**CHALLENGE: Nurturing the talent of the underprivileged**

ACCEPTED BY: AIS Gurgaon 46  
They can sing, they can dance...all they need is – a chance. Talent does not understand the divide between the rich and the poor. Unravel the latent talent.

*More on Page 11*

Join us in our endeavor to make the world a better place.

# YOUTH CLUBS FOR CHANGE

**Arjun Khanna & Ankita Ashwarya**  
M.Tech Biotechnology (Final Year),  
Amity Institute of Biotechnology

"Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind; it is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple kneed; it is a matter of the will, quality of the imagination, a vigour of the emotions; it is the freshness of the deep springs of life."

Samuel Ullman

**Y**outh symbolizes the spring of life, an age of discovery and dreams. The youth can change the future of the society, provided it knows how to. India has the largest youth population in the world today, a small section of which is already headed toward social reform under the ambit of youth organizations and clubs.

## Club. Organise. Act.

While the youth has immense potential to change the face of the country from a developing nation to a developed one; this potential needs to be channelised well. This is where youth organisations and clubs come into action.

## What are these organisations?

Look around and you're sure to find a bunch of young volunteers working towards a cause. These organizations are nothing but young people coming

under a banner to work towards the betterment of the society, albeit with a non political motive. From premier institutes like IIT and IIM to Amity's AYC, (AIB Youth Club), you can find them everywhere.

## What do they do?

Everything – to create a world free of poverty, inequality, unemployment and all other curses of political supremacy. Many of these youth



Pic: Deepak Sharma

organisations are already working in full swing, addressing local developmental challenges in the community, monitoring service provisions at different levels and building relation between state and government. These youth clubs work at the grass root level, some of them are even working at school level or college/university level.

## Grooms the society

The need of the hour is action at the grass root level. This is exactly what these closely knit youth organisations have to offer. They deal with the immediate challenges of the social environment, hence, shaping up the society for a better tomorrow. In addition, these organisations create awareness and work as a significant mobilization tool – a must for social reform.

## Grooms the youth too

While these youth clubs are aimed at building a better society, they in the process also help build a better youth, which forms the backbone of the nation. They help develop a mindset of working for the society along with inculcating strong leadership and managerial skills. An individual learns how to blend and mingle among multicultural and varied thinkers. Further on, these clubs also provide the budding leaders of tomorrow a platform to experience the organizational atmosphere at a micro level.





# A SMALL STEP A GIANT LEAP

Small steps can make huge differences. Youth Power stands true testimony to the fact. The initiative has spearheaded the will to change

*"That's one small step for man, a giant leap for mankind."*

Neil Armstrong

Armstrong said these words as he stepped on the moon. And a similar emotion can be echoed for Youth Power. Four years ago, when the Youth Power programme was launched, little did we know that what started as an initiative to create a socially conscientious youth would soon transform into a crusade to heal the world.

Youth Power has come a long way from being just another competition to a reformatory movement that gives the students an opportunity to explore their socially responsible potential. With an aim to nurture socially ethical leaders who can shape a better tomorrow,

the foundation of Youth Power programme was laid. And today what stands in front of me is a tall building with bricks of love and mortar of responsibility.

From an individual initiative to a group effort, the programme has undergone an evolution over the years. The attempt to give students a chance to work for a social cause soon transformed into a

hard to believe and absorb the sheer passion and dedication of students, who at this tender age have taken the mantle of building a better world.

But as they say, starting early is the best way to finish well. What started off as a program to nurture ethically passionate youth would culminate into building responsible adult citizens, who will soon take the mantle of global leaders. Dynamic

## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

planned effort to hone their creative leadership skills. YP contestants over the years, were taught not just to lead for the betterment of the society but also encouraged to think out of the box to offer creative solutions to stigmas and challenges that plague the world.

Year after year, I have seen my students come forward to work for a social cause; sometimes leaving me with sheer disbelief and astonishment. It is

leaders who are willing to be the change they want to see is the nation's need of the hour.

Youth Power is a small yet substantial step towards fulfilling the same. The programme is a significant move in our endeavour to nurture and develop responsible citizens who can make the world a better place to live in.

Let us all together take small steps. Let us all together heal the world. 🇮🇳

## FROM START TO FINISH

Grilling interviews, rallying for the cause, raising funds...there is more to Youth Power than what meets the eye. Let's trace the journey one final time



their proposal to a team of experts. The GT team evaluated the proposals through personal interview. The rubric for selection focussed on parameters like reasons for choosing the topic to work upon, contribution to the argument and general attitude towards the subject, plan of action and team skills.

### Phase III: Be the change

**Focus:** Spreading awareness about the cause  
Research is important in studying social relationships and in seeking answers to various social problems. Short listed participants; completed a research project on the topic chosen. The research concludes with a creative article published in this special edition of The Global Times to create awareness on the issue chosen.

### Phase IV: Be the Change

**Focus:** Implementing my ideas  
The participating teams rallied around the subject in their school to create awareness on the topic. They were encouraged to make use of innovative mediums to spread the message which has a strong impact/ mass appeal/maximum reach out.

### Phase V: Just a Minute (JAM)

**Focus:** Exploring the technical creative streak  
The participants produced a one minute film that sensitized the viewers towards the issue. The aim was to mobilize the students to put to use various mass mediums to communicate their message effectively apart from helping them explore their technical streak, albeit creatively.



### Phase VI: Charity begins at Home

**Focus:** It's the MEAN and not the END.  
This encompassed formulating a creative practical model to generate funds for the social initiative undertaken. The focus was on the methodology adopted to generate money and not the quantity raised.

### Phase VII: Creative Communication

**Focus:** To use a medium beyond words.  
Dissemination of ideas through established means of communication as speeches, write-ups, seminars, formal and informal meetings is passé. YP leaders looked beyond conventional communication tools to spread awareness on the social issues through two minute creative communication.

### Phase VIII: The Grand Finale

**Focus:** Identifying the Youth Leader  
The event concludes with the finalists sharing their experience and learning's in the seventh round of the Youth Power Program. It also comprises interaction with the judges from diverse fields, distinguished panel and audience. One finalist team wins the coveted title of Youth Envoy 2011-12. 🇮🇳



## MEET THY CHIEF GUEST



Gerard is director of STEPP, educational communications. He is a member of the Young Reader Advisory Committee and member of the Young Reader Prize Jury of the World Association of Newspapers (WAN) in Paris. He is also the inventor of the Reading Passport, which is being used in over 30 different countries and the Children Photo Jury. He is also a consultant for WAN/IFRA and has worked with several newspapers worldwide including Lebanon, Sudan, Ghana, Tunisia, Morocco, Uganda, Namibia, Egypt, USA, Norway, Germany, Italy etc. 🇮🇳

“Does it create empowerment for the deprived? What's the motivation for participation-winning the coveted title or helping the needy? Does it inspire others? Is the solidarity shown really real? If you are able to answer the above mentioned in the affirmative, then a thumbs up it is.”  
Gerard van der Weijden

It has been a long road for the Youth Power contestants. As the journey draws to a close, it is time to revisit the road less travelled.

### Phase I: Headstart

**Focus:** I want to make a difference  
The Program was launched in Amity schools (8 branches) across Delhi and NCR through The Global Times newspaper, website, personal invitation and advertisement. All interested students (in group of 4) submitted a form communicating what 'Youth Power' means to them and a proposal on any one defined social area/field where they would like to make a difference.

### Phase II: Project Overview

**Focus:** Can I communicate my viewpoint  
Five best short listed forms from each school presented

Published and Printed by Mr R.R. Aiyar on behalf of Dr (Mrs) Amita Chauhan from E-26, Defence Colony, New Delhi 110024 and printed from HT Media Ltd, B-2, Sec 63, Noida (UP). Editor Ms Vira Sharma.

■ Edition: Vol 4, Issue 13 ■ RNI No. DELENG / 2009 / 30258

Both for free distribution and annual subscription of ₹ 600.

Opinions expressed in GT articles are of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors or publishers. While the editors do their utmost to verify information published, they do not accept responsibility for its absolute accuracy.

Published for the period April 16-22, 2012





### AIS Vasundhara 6

**The Team:** Sarina Mulchandani, Karishma Malhotra, Tarunika Gaur, Bhavya Mehta  
**The Cause:** Stop cyber crime

**What YP means to us?**  
Youth Power is a perfect platform for those who feel for a social cause. Of course, it means working up to exhaustion, but its all worth it at the end of the day. The fact that it enables us to exploit our



creative side to the fullest, makes it a dream project to be a part of.

Read more about our cause on Page 9

### AIS Gurgaon 46

**The Team:** Angad Singh, Sheffi Tiwari, Gautam Gupta, Vathul BS  
**The Cause:** Nurturing the talent of the underprivileged

**What YP means to us?**  
Youth power defines our generation, the Gen Y. It channelizes our energy, puts our tendency to take risks to constructive use, gives us the chance to influence our surroundings and make the world a better place. What we learn in this youthful phase of our lives shall re-



main with us forever and YP ensures that we take with us just the right things.

Read more about our cause on Page 11

# POWER TO US

### AIS Saket

**The Team:** Kashish Minocha, Ramisha Jain, Mehak Goyal, Kriti Chopra  
**The Cause:** Empowerment of the girl child

**What YP means to us?**  
To us, Youth Power is the biggest WMD - weapon of mass development. It is a state of mind, a matter of will and a strong flow of emotions. It's a moment, a spark that one always carries in the heart and which truly has the power to change. Kudos to Youth Power!



Read more about our cause on Page 5

### AIS Gurgaon 43

**The Team:** Tanvi Kusum, Pallavi Vemuganti, Iyce Malhotra, Sakshi Goel  
**The Cause:** Upliftment of the unorganised sector

**What YP means to us?**  
Youth Power has enabled us to stretch our boundaries and discover new limits. The programme reinforces values like team spirit, confidence and kindness. It has given us the chance to work for people who cannot bring themselves to notice. YP is truly a great platform to represent the voice of the youth.



Read more about our cause on Page 10

### AIS Noida

**The Team:** Bhuvan Ravindran, Vishaal Rathee, Tanmay Jain, Gautami Raju  
**The Cause:** Save the Tiger

**What YP means to us?**  
Youth Power is an opportunity to pursue your passion, your mission, albeit in a systematic and streamlined manner. It teaches you to shape your efforts and direct them towards making this world a better place. Having passion is one thing and having direction another; Youth Power teaches you both. It serves as the perfect means to reach the end.



Read more about our cause on Page 7

### AIS Mayur Vihar

**The Team:** Dhvani Chawla, Mayank Singh, Shashank Singh, Ishani Ghosal  
**The Cause:** Segregation of waste

**What YP means to us?**  
Youth has all the power to bring any change in the society, country or world. Youth Power gives us – the youth the chance to bring in that be the change we want to see. It gave us an opportunity to step forward and make the change happen. It opened up numerous avenues, where



we could express our opinion, be heard and make a difference to the society as well.

Read more about our cause on Page 6

### AIS Vasundhara 1

**The Team:** Sargam Chhabra, Swati Prasad, Shivangi Tyagi, Prachi Jaiswal  
**The Cause:** Education for all

**What YP means to us?**  
A supportive programme that facilitates the will to work for a social cause...YP is all that and much more. It gives you a chance to explore the sensitive and conscientious side of you that otherwise remains unnoticed. The experience and memories it has left us with, will be cherished forever.



Read more about our cause on Page 8

### AIS Pushp Vihar

**The Team:** Simran Sachdeva, Kaveri Modayil, Stuti Kathuria, Vagisha Pruthi  
**The Cause:** Anti Human Trafficking

**What YP means to us?**  
Youth Power is an inspiration. It lends us the faith to believe that we have the potential to make the universe bow to our cause. It gives us the courage to sail into uncharted waters and take the road less traveled. It strokes the little sparks of ingenuity which in turn forges the conceiving an idea that would set a new milestone in his-



tory. It helps us rekindle the faith that all semblance of humanity has not perished.

Read more about our cause on Page 4







The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime aptly defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons: by threat or use of kidnapping, force, fraud, deception or coercion, or by the giving or receiving of unlawful payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, and for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labour.” The definition has been aped

by the likes of Wikipedia and the rest of the academic world. But this definition however, successfully eclipses what human trafficking is actually all about, and does not even begin to come to terms with reality. The victims of this heinous crime lose their identity, their home, their parents, their hope, and above all, their will to live. They lose themselves because of subjugation by their apparent “masters”, who are nobody else, but fellow humans.

THE DARK SIDE

A LONG ROAD AHEAD

Beneath the world of ignorance lies, a world of cruelty, a world of cries. A world where lives are bought and bodies sold, a world where humanity loses to gold. This world of darkness has blinded eyes, and not a sun rises to light up the skies. Ever tried to look beyond a prostitute’s grin? Ever tried to weigh her feelings to her skin? Ever tried to even know the truth? The hardships she faced and the ruth? Is it not time to focus on the truth with actual clarity?

That in this world sex stands higher than humanity. Yes, in this world tender hands are burnt, yes, why do we shun them and are least concerned? Why do we kill a child’s childhood? Why observe and not speak when we should? Do ask these questions to yourself, and answers do seek, Do not let anymore tears, from innocent eyes leak. Improve your deeds, your sins at peak. Wake up, act for the cause, and help the voiceless speak.  

6th July, 2011, Dubai

Dear Diary

I've been trying to hold myself together for almost an hour now, but the tears still continue to leak down my bruised face. Last night was horrible again; the man I went with touched me, with the fire to hurt me dancing naked in his eyes. I was gagged and blindfolded and brought back soon to the dark dungeon I now call home. As I heard the ominous sound of the padlock being put back into place, I sank to the ground, knowing that there was no hope. Maybe there never was any to begin with. I reached out for the numbness that I knew would bring me solace as it had for the past three years. I touched my scars over and over, some that I had etched with a shard of glass, and the others that the man who first brought me here had made with cigarette butts. Those were but physical reminders, the turmoil within was what had caused my soul to shatter. The only thing I want, or maybe even need, is death; that is the only thought that will forever comfort me in these dark times.

There is a long way to go before human trafficking is eliminated...feels Cristina Albertin, Representative for the Regional United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for South Asia. Her UN career spans 18 years where she has served in different capacities including creating awareness on the risks of human trafficking. She was also the main speaker at the “Film Festival on Human Trafficking” in Cochabamba.

Do you think human trafficking has increased over the years?

I have been working against human trafficking since 2003 when the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime entered into force. Thanks to the Convention, human trafficking was placed again on the international agenda. Human trafficking has existed for such a long time and not much action was taken to effectively address it. Now, there is more awareness, but there is still a long way to go to eliminate this cruel crime.

When the victims are rescued, what is their mental situation?

Victims of human trafficking are mostly in a state of trauma, shock or even depression, which varies depending on how



YP Team of AIS PV interacts with Cristina Albertin, UNODC, South Asia



long they have been held in the hands of the traffickers. The victims feel a mixture of relief at being rescued and also worry whether or not society would accept them, when they go back home. Countries need capable teams of social workers, health workers, lawyers and police who can take good care of the survivors.

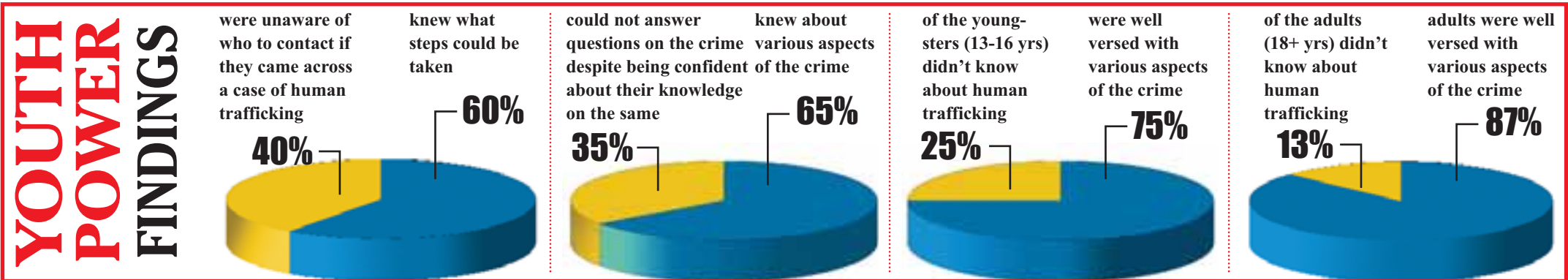
Does India have proper legislation at present to tackle human trafficking?

India has good legislation that allows law enforcement and the judiciary to take action against human trafficking

and this forms a very important basis to tackle the crime. After India has ratified the afore-mentioned Convention, a specific law to handle human trafficking as an organised crime should be drafted.

How can we as school children do our bit to eradicating this crime?

Look around and see how you can help as a volunteer. Some families also sell their children out of poverty. Spreading the message that each person deserves a decent life, building values and walking the talk is very important.  







# SHE IS THE ONE

All illustrations: Parmita Mukherjee, Alumnus, AIS Saket

## Eye openers

1. 53% of the girls in the age group 5-9 years are illiterate.
2. Every sixth girl child's death is due to gender discrimination.
3. Out of the 12 million girls born in India, 1 million die before the first year of life.
4. Every 51 minutes an incident of sexual harassment takes place in the country and there has been an increase of 67.8% in such cases since 1953.
5. 45% of girls get married before the age of 18 and nearly 60% of the girls bear children before the age of 19.
6. 1 out of 4 girls is sexually abused before the age of 4.
7. Female mortality exceeds male mortality in 224 out of 402 districts in India.
8. More than 50% of girls fail to enroll in school; those who do are likely to drop out by the age of 12.
9. 8391 cases of dowry deaths were reported in 2010.

## Eye openers

1. School drop out rate is less in girls (25.42%) as compared to boys (31.81%).
2. Female literacy growth rate (9.54%) is more than male literacy growth rate (7.76%).
3. Literacy rate among females has increased from 53.7% (Census 2001) to 65.46% (Census 2011).
4. Sex ratio in Kerala is 1058 females per 1000 males.
5. The two highest IQs ever recorded (on a standard test) belong to women.
6. Institutional deliveries have risen from 39% in 2006 to 78% in 2009.
7. The number of girls in schools in the age group of 5-14 years has increased from 79.6% in 2004-05 to 87.7% in 2009-10.
8. The constitutional amendments for reservation for women in Panchayats has brought more than 1 million women into positions of leadership and governance.



## SPEAK UP



YP team from AIS Saket interacts with members of Sappler

**S**appler is a group of 21 girls, which stages street plays to generate awareness and highlight the importance of the girl child. The founder of this group Parul, comes from a conservative family. Her experiences disturbed her and she realised that there must be hundreds of girls like her, which in turn led to the foundation of the group. Sappler is also a part of the programme- 'Let girls be born' sponsored by- 'Plan India'.

**Why is empowerment of the girl child necessary in the present day scenario?** Discriminating girls threatens the very idea of a good democracy. Empowerment of the girl child is important in order to usher a better world, to progress at a faster rate, to bring women and men at par in the society.

**While a lot is being done for women empowerment, we are still far from achieving the desired goals. What do you think could be the reason?**

Even though the government has initiated several schemes, the implementation of these schemes is not as effective. The society still remains unaware at large due to ignorance. Thus, awareness

and campaigning should be carried out on a larger platform; especially in the ignorant parts of our country. This will help more people understand the importance of the change, and enable them to lend a hand to build a better and brighter future for women.

**What do you think is the biggest problem that women have to face today?**

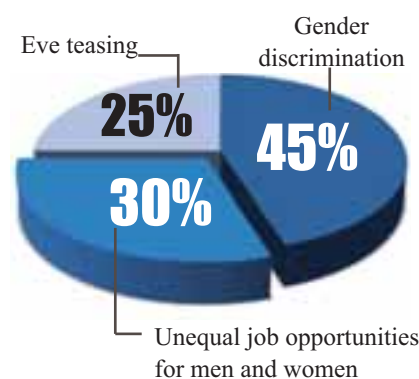
In this male dominated society, it is very difficult for a girl to live her life independently. Sexual harassment is the biggest problem that the woman of today is confronted with. And what makes things worse is that many a times the girls are blamed for choosing the wrong place, for travelling alone or dressing up in an improper manner.

**Who is responsible for the present condition of women- the society for making it happen or the girls for letting it happen?**

Society is the major culprit. It is due to the orthodox approach of the society towards girls that the situation of girls continues to be deplorable. But, the girls themselves are responsible too somewhere. They remain quiet and meek about the problems they are facing.

## YOUTH POWER FINDINGS

**What is the most difficult challenge that women have to deal with?**



### The deprived

I have suffered a lot just because I'm a girl. I had to give up education in class V so that my brothers could study. Earlier, I used to stay at home and look after them but then I had to start working in order to support my family. And the series of sacrifices never came to an end. At times, I wish was a boy. Something needs to be done about the problem.

**Nisha, 14 years**  
**Domestic help**

### The orthodox

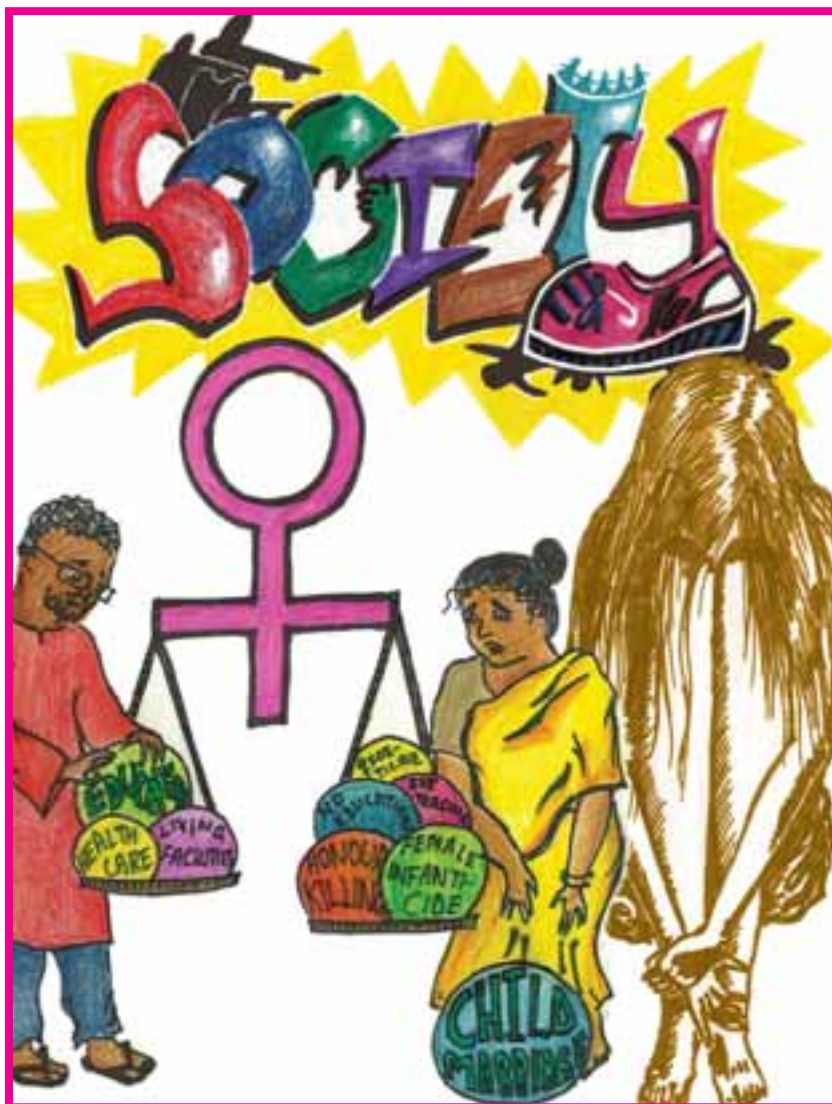
Girls do not need any kind of empowerment; independence to girls in anyway is simply inviting trouble. Girls cannot handle independence. In fact, girls from respected families don't even need to ask for empowerment because they get good food, medical facilities, clothes etc. Most cases of harassment happen due to misuse of independence.

**Mr SK Behl,**  
**Retired official from DESU**

### The supporters

We have freedom of expression, universal adult franchise and track record of holding elections with reasonable regularity. Yet, simultaneously we are witness to the growth in inequalities. Without empowering the girl child, India is not going to "lead" anywhere. No nation can be called civilised if it doesn't treat women well.

**Ankur Bhatia, 21 years**  
**College student**





# DON'T WASTE THE WASTE



Manila, Phillipines, July 2000 - after a weekend of heavy rain, a mountain of garbage collapsed, burying hundreds of homes. Later, due to a dangerous mix of methane gas and downed electrical utility poles, fire spread across the dumping site. The bodies of 205 people were recovered and, reportedly, hundreds more missing. A tragic situation that could have easily been avoided provided WASTE MANAGEMENT was practiced. With increase in the global population, there has been a rise in the amount of waste being generated daily by each household. Some 1,500 tons of garbage is dumped everyday on private lands, rivers etc, according to an estimate. Delhi alone generates a waste of 11,558 tons per day. Holding your nose tightly and passing by stinking by-lanes, is what most Indians experience everyday. But the misery goes way beyond; causing many people in the country to die each day due to unhygienic conditions. And the ecological balance of course has gone for a toss. While a lot can be done to tackle these 'waste' issues; starting with something as simple as 'segregation of waste' could be a concrete step in the direction.

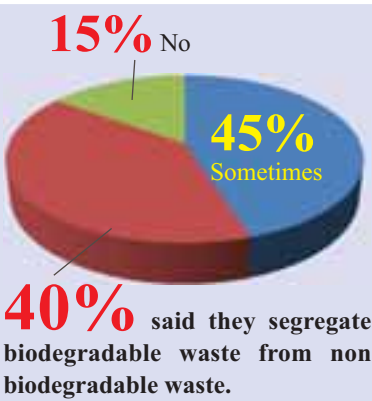


## YOUTH POWER FINDINGS

100% feel that the hygiene and sanitation condition in India is not good.

25% feel that the waste in their locality is not treated properly.

100% feel that a contribution is needed on part of the society to improve sanitation conditions.



# CLEAN UP



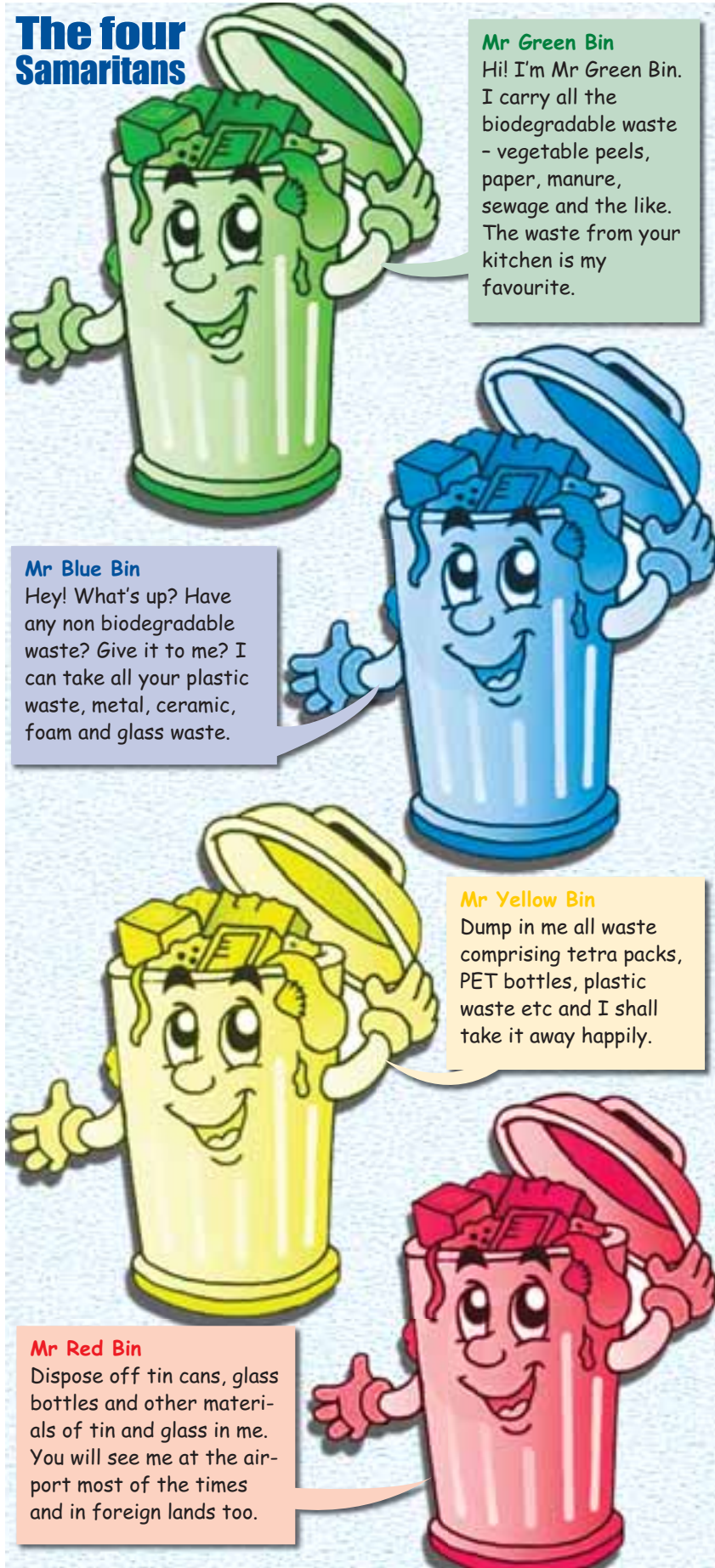
Waste management – a simple task, challenges – numerous. But ahead of every challenge lies a solution. Saurav Bardhan offers just that. A waste management expert, he is the co-founder of Greenbandhu, a Gurgaon based NGO that works for waste management. Join him as he offers green solutions.

Despite being educated, many people don't know the difference between biodegradable and non biodegradable waste. What could be the reason? Lack of awareness. As far as uneducated adults are concerned, awareness can be spread through theatre, advertisements, dance groups etc. As for the youngsters, school can help in making them aware.

What about the government, doesn't it play a part in the cause? Certainly, the government should not just create awareness about the problem and encourage people to work towards it; but it must also provide systematic resources to them so that the issues can be solved at a decentralized level.

At a local level, what advice and solution would you like to give? You can talk to the contractor of your area who manages the garbage collectors of the societies. Instead of dumping all the garbage together in an open field, the garbage collectors can be taught to segregate the garbage.

As school students, what steps can be taken by us? Students can segregate waste in school, paper, pencil shavings, thermocol waste, plastics and leftover food separately. Do not hesitate to get up and throw the garbage in the bin. Pick up and throw any garbage you see on the floor. Last but not the least; generate as less garbage as you can.







# THE CRY OF THE BIG CAT

More than 97,000 tigers have been killed till the turn of the 20th century, leaving less than 4000 to survive in the wild. Added to this, the tiger has been forced to now live in less than 5% of its former habitat. Wake up before the endangered national animal faces extinction...

## TIGERS FIRST OR NO HUMANS

Sanctuary Asia has recognized him as India's number one wildlife photographer. A key conservationist in Ranthambore, he has been closely associated with various NGOs like Tiger Watch and Kids for Tigers. Meet Aditya Singh as he gets into some serious talking about the endangered species.

Is it tigers first or humans?

It is not really 'tigers first or humans' - it is more like 'tigers first or no humans'. Saving the tigers implies saving our natural wild heritage, our forests and our ecological security. If we destroy our ecological security, our future itself would be in danger.

Why are we not able to save the tiger with the same success as in the 1980s?

In 1970s (the early years of Project Tiger), India managed to stop the rapid decline of tigers.



Aditya Singh, Wildlife photographer & tiger conservationist

However, at that time, the pressure on the forests and tigers was far lower. Since then, the human population has more than doubled which has added to the pressure.

Are tigers hyped, considering that there are several species fewer in number than the tiger?

Tiger is a "symbol" of conservation in India. Since, it is an apex predator, saving the tiger is akin to saving the forests and all the life that is associated with it. You just cannot save the tiger alone, you have to save the entire habitat and its residents. This is why apex species, especially apex predators, have been the symbol of conservation efforts.

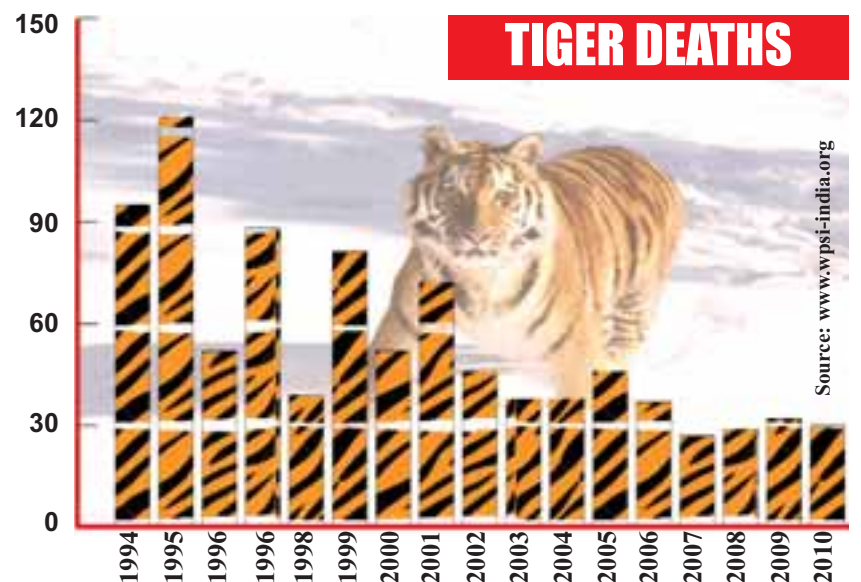
At present, what is the most urgent threat to tigers?

Destruction of habitat and loss of prey species is definitely the most urgent threat to tigers. Primary industries, infrastructure projects, deforestation and demand for forest produce is taking a toll on tiger habitats around the world. Once the habitat is gone, it's gone for a long time and local extinction of the wildlife living in that habitat is guaranteed.

Are you and us, even though we are not directly killing the tigers, contributing to their extinction?

Yes, we are indeed! The biggest threat to tigers is from us. We have the resources (read budgets) and we create the demand. For instance, the demand for construction material from Delhi is being met from tiger habitats in north and central India, Indonesia, Borneo and Burma.

We may not realize it but we do consume a lot of forest produce and a lot of it is illegal. [G.T](#)



## THE DIVA'S FULL CIRCLE

She attracts the gaze of millions with the unique 'fish' mask outlining her eyes. Her snarl shunning off a male in defence of her cubs still sends shivers down the spine of people who stand witness to the glory of this diva. Meet Machli, who has earned herself the title of the queen of Ranthambore. A photographer's delight and a tigress' envy; Machli is the world's oldest documented tiger alive. In the prime of her hunting youth; she bared her fangs to oust her mother, the original Machli, from her 40 sq km domain around the fort and lakes in Ranthambore. It was she who had had the privilege of a long 11-year reign

since; anything that moved—wild boar, sambar, chital deer, crocodiles or even porcupines—was hers and her cubs' to feast on; a rare feat for any tigress.

A very wise person once said 'history repeats itself.' Not long ago, the aging

Machli had to face this herself. Her own ouster. She has been dethroned by her very own daughter, Sundari. It started as a territorial skirmish, but

beaten Machli found herself banished to the far side—an area that's barely a fourth of the territory that was once hers. Life has indeed come a complete full circle for the diva who once dethroned her mother and now lies dethroned herself by her own kids. [G.T](#)



## IN BAAGH SINGH'S CLASSROOM

Hello! I am Baagh Singh. You can save my friends. Take a cue.

● Be aware of the problems that the tigers of our country are facing, along with the possible solutions. Start by subscribing to conservation journals or joining online conservation blogs that will keep you updated.

● Spread the word using your core skills. If you are a good speaker, then mobilize the public towards the cause through your eloquence. If you have the power of the

pen, make full use of the print media and if you are good at drawing, the best way for you to help save me and my friends could be through your art work.

● Making a web page can be helpful, but make sure that you update it every day and that it's not just a one day affair.

● Form a 'Watchdog' group and use the Right to Information Act [RTI] to check on government's environmentally detrimental policies and actions. Write to policy makers and follow up with them. [G.T](#)



### YOUTH POWER FINDINGS

54% did not know that tiger is the apex predator

72% did not know that tiger is endangered

24% could give the estimated population of tiger

18% could state reasons to save the tiger







## YOUTH POWER FINDINGS

**100%** parents (slum dwellers) agree education is important.

**90%** parents (slum dwellers) know about the free educational schemes offered by the government.

*What stops you from sending your child to the school?*

The child can help me at home 60% Lack of financial resources 40%

**83.3%** kids (slum dwellers) want to study.

**100%** kids (slum dwellers) didn't want to become domestic help.

*Why are you not studying?*

We have not got a chance 66% Parents do not allow studies 34%

# READ, WRITE, LEARN

25% of the Indian population is still illiterate; only 15% of Indian students reach high school, and just 7% of them graduate. India needs a literate youth to become a superpower

### Idiot box gets educated

The idiot box has now gone intelligent. The crying *bahus*, now lead the enlightened road in their new found 'educated' avatar. Shows like 'Balika Vadhu' and 'Afsar Bitiya' underline the significance of education, albeit with the conventional dose of drama. The demure *bahu* Anandi in Balika Vadhu has already shown the reformatory route that education can chalk, inspiring many in the rural lands to 'padho aur padhao'. Taking an educational turn on the entertainment route is certainly a positive development.

After all, what we practically see is more appealing to us than theoretical matter. More importantly, a medium like TV has a deeper impact in a nation where illiteracy is rampant and mediums like newspapers fail to caste an impact. Besides, the reach of television in the country is something that cannot be sidelined. Even the remotest of villages, these days, are equipped with a TV set. The tendency to identify with the characters one sees on television is higher in rural areas, which further facilitates spreading the message of education.

# INTENTIONS MATTER

**I**ntentions are all that count, for anyone who wishes to spread the word of literacy. Ram Niwas Sharma stands as a true testimony to the statement. An engineer and retired Director of a PSU, he runs a school - 'Shikshanjali' for the underprivileged in rural Bihar.

*What inspired you to start this endeavour?*

I am a retired person. Two and a half years back, I moved to a backward district - Sitamarhi in north Bihar. There are a number of primary schools run by the govt. here, but the quality of education offered is poor. So, I along with my wife, decided to start a school for them. Currently, we have 75 students in our school who hail from diverse backgrounds.

*Have you observed any changes in the kids after they got into the routine of a regular school?*

I have seen them change from unruly to well behaved kids. Everything including their habits, behaviour, way of talking...all of it has undergone a transformation. There has been a change in the mindset of the people living in the village too.

*What are the problems that you encounter on a day to day basis?*

Parents play a significant role in the development of the child. Lack of interest in the child's studies on part of parents, hence becomes a major challenge. Another issue that we face is low attendance levels. Often, children have to be called from their homes.



Ram Niwas Sharma with the students of his school

*What, according to you, is the ideal solution to deal with these problems?*

To succeed in a mission, more than power, it is the intention that matters. And I believe, my intentions are strong enough to help me overcome these challenges.

*How can we as students contribute to the cause?*

Right now, you need to concentrate

on your studies so that you can grow up as educated individuals and contribute to the nation. Apart from that, there are several simple things that you can do like teaching the children of your own domestic help. If you cant manage time, teach them only on Sundays. If there are students who have already joined a govt school, you can help them in their weaker subjects. 🇮🇳

## GOVERNMENT IS AT IT

The Government of India is doing its bit to free the country from the shackles of illiteracy. Take a look at some initiatives taken by the government in the direction.

### Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

SSA is Government of India's flagship programme that aims to achieve Universalization of Elementary Education (UEE) in a time bound manner. The programme was introduced in a bid to make free and compulsory education to the children in the age group of 6-14 years, a fundamental right.

### Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya

This new scheme, approved by the Government of India aims at setting up upto 1180 residential schools with boarding facilities at elementary level for girls. This programme is primarily targeted at girls belonging to SC, ST, OBC and minorities in difficult areas.

### Mid Day Meal Programme

This programme involves providing school children free of cost lunch on all working days. Targeted at the students of class I to V in government schools, this initiative aimed at increasing classroom attendance and enrolment.

### Navodaya Vidyalaya System

This initiative is directed at the selection of talented rural children and the attempt to provide them with quality education comparable to the best in a residential school system. 🇮🇳

**Are you?**

## Let's Make Education Contagious







# VIRTUAL TERROR

The internet or cyber space is a borderless environment unlike a brick and mortar world. It has no boundaries when it comes to providing unlimited information and avenues. But as every coin has two sides, this miracle called internet too has a dark side and houses the maximum opportunities for one with a criminal bent of mind to use it to its maximum advantage, giving birth to what we call 'Cyber Crime'. Wikipedia defines cyber crime as "Of-fences that are committed against individuals or groups of individuals with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly, using modern telecommunication networks such as Internet and mobile phones."

## A BROAD WORLD

Over the years, cyber crime has increased to encompass a range of activities. These can be broadly categorized into: crimes that target computers directly and crimes facilitated by computer networks to advance other ends. While the former includes computer viruses, denial-of-service attacks and malware; the latter comprises of cyber stalking, cyber bullying, harrasement, offensive content, fraud and identity theft.

## MEANS NOT THE END

Who would want to break into my computer? Most of us shrug off the question with "not us" as an answer. But you need not be a VVIP to be a victim of cyber crime. Apart from being vulnera-

**42% in the age group of 3-17 yrs. spend 1-2 hours online in a day.**  
**64% in the age group of 9-12 yrs. are on social networking sites.**  
**62% of the children have shared personal information online.**  
**53% have shared their address and contact details online.**

ble to cyber crime, you could, well be even the means used by hackers and intruders to act against someone you may not even know. Hackers could get hold of your system and use it to hide their own location. And mind you, cyber criminals are not always high-tech computer buffs, they range from old enemies, ex-lovers, virus writers to members of foreign intelligence and even terrorists.

## IT'S ON THE RISE

The growth in the number and variety of technology-related crimes, particularly computer-related crimes, echoes the exponential increase in the number of internet users and the expansion of e-commerce globally. Organised crime groups are broadening their exploitation of technological vulnerabilities by targeting individuals and businesses that rely on technology, e-commerce and on-line storage of valuable personal, financial and intellectual property data. For example, spam has evolved from a time and resource-wasting nuisance to a medium through which individuals can distribute malicious software programs, also known as 'malware'.

## STAY PROTECTED

They say prevention is better than cure.

You can stay protected, provided you follow these tips:



- ✔ Select a good password. Obvious passwords make you more vulnerable to cyber crime.
- ✔ Having a good anti-virus program installed on your machine protects you from the virus that may reach you through executable files downloaded from the internet.
- ✔ It is good practice to erect a "fire-wall" between parts of a computer system that an external user can access
- ✔ If you happen to be a victim of cyber crime, lodge a complaint in a cyber crime cell. 🇮🇳



Graphic: Pankaj Mallik

## YOUTH POWER FINDINGS

- 5.55% have fallen prey to cyber bullying**
- 47.05% feel that hacking for fun is absolutely fine**
- 36.8% leave any incident of cyber crime unnoticed**
- 84% have lost important data due to virus encounters, and yet**
- 21.73% of them feel that they are well protected against cyber crime.**

Newspaper clippings on Cyber Crime put up by YP Team of AIS Vas 6



Love letter is a virus everyone learned to hate in 2000. The worm sent copies of itself via Microsoft Outlook's address book entries. The mail included an executable file attachment with the e-mail subject line "ILOVEYOU". The worm had the ability to overwrite several types of files, including .gif and .jpg files. It modified the Internet Explorer start page and changed registry keys. It also moved other files and hid MP3 files on affected systems. **PS I Love You.**

Graphic: Pankaj Mallik



## STAY AWARE, STAY SAFE

**A**wareness is the primary step to protect yourself from cyber crime, says Shweta Bashani, Senior Manager, Oracle India. Having worked closely with various computer related firms, she is well acquainted with the nuances of cyber crime.

**What according to you is cyber crime?**

According to me, the term "cyber crime" is a misnomer. This term has not been defined and perhaps cannot be defined in any specific way as the face of this latest form of crime is changing every minute. Still, any criminal activity that uses a computer either as an instrument, target or a means for perpetuating the crime further comes within the ambit of cyber crime.

**How has the cyber crime ecosystem evolved during the recent past?**

The last year has seen a quantum jump



Shweta Bashani, Senior Manager, Oracle India

not only in the quantity and quality but also the nature of cyber crime. A perceptible trend being observed is that cyber criminals are moving from 'Personal Victimization' to 'Economic Offences'.

**Is the current law effective for combating cyber crime?**

In India, the judiciary has always been

working at its own slow and steady pace. But it is surprising that in the case of cyber crime, we can find various instances of quick and efficient action from the cyber cells as well as the courts.

**What is the biggest challenge in eradicating this problem?**

Hesitation to report offences! The victims are not ready to come up with the full picture of the trap they have fallen into, till they are counselled and assured that this is for their good and not instead.

**Some tips to combat cyber crime?**

Don't make personal information public, think before opening suspicious mail, don't engage in conversations with unknown people on the web and access the internet on a safe connection. Keep your eyes and ears open because you never know when you can be of help to others and to yourself. Stay aware, stay safe. 🇮🇳





# UNORGANISED PROWESS

**Cobblers, ragpickers, domestic help, masons, artisans, farmers...400 million workers that we call the unorganised sector; still struggle to get their due**

India is becoming an increasingly urbanized and globally recognized nation because of its growing GDP and growth rate. But what most fail to understand is that the rising GDP figures of the Indian economy are not the sole contributions of multi-national companies and corporate sector, as many would like to believe. The real nation builders are the 400 million workers belonging to the unorganised sector that includes the likes of municipal workers, cobblers, rag pickers, labourers and the like.



## What it is?

The sector consists of casual workers that are not eligible either for paid, sick or annual leave. Their employers do not guarantee any social security or benefits to the workers. In 2004-05, informal employment accounted for 95.5% of the total employment. Out of the 25 million jobs in the public sector, as many as 84 lakh jobs were in the informal sector. Their presence is even more glaring in the private sector, where they account for 62.6% of total jobs.



## The problem

Workers under this sector lead a life of poverty and are often exploited by their employers. They get no leaves, no concessions and no facilities. Workers in this sector are usually subjected to indebtedness and bondage since their income is not enough for survival. As the unorganised sector continues to suffer from cycles of excessive seasonality, majority of workers that constitute this sector do not have stable and durable employment.



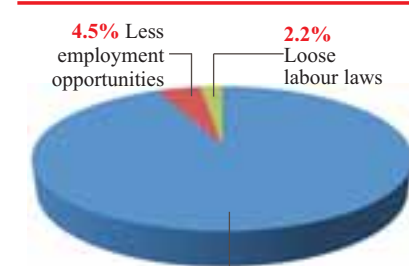
## The solution

While several Acts like the Minimum Wages Act (1948) and Payment of Gratuity Act (1972) have been in practice for workers of both organised and unorganised sectors; their contribution for workers of the unorganised sector can be termed negligible. The need of the hour is a more comprehensive act, catering to the various needs of the unorganised sector such as food, nutrition, health, housing, employment, income, life and accident and the like.

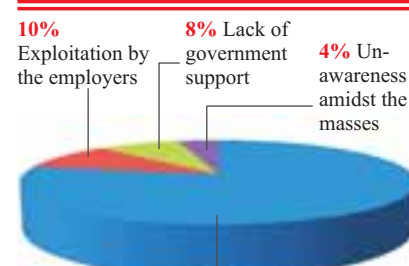


## YOUTH POWER FINDINGS

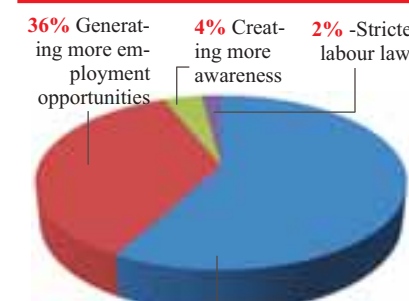
**18%** people are still unaware about the unorganised sector



**93.3%** feel that lack of education is responsible for a thick unorganised sector in India



**78%** feel lack of education and training is the biggest challenge that lies ahead of people working in the unorganised sector



**58%** feel education is the best solution for upliftment in the unorganised sector



**98%** would like to see a change in this sector

## THEY BENEFIT YOU TOO

**SD Gupta is a volunteer with Goonj, an NGO for the last 8 years. He runs a collection centre where he collects books, utensils, clothes and distributes them to the underprivileged sections of the society. Join in as he sheds light on the plight of the lifeline of the Indian economy.**

### Is the unorganised sector important?

The unorganised sector is the lifeline of the Indian economy. They not only provide jobs and services but are also responsible for keeping the cities and many villages running. They constitute about 92% of the Indian economy.



SD Gupta, Volunteer, Goonj

### Why is there an urgent need to organise the unorganised sector?

Organising these people will enable them to come together to address the problems confronting them. They will also then be able to participate in decision making and policy formulation that directly affects them.

### What can be done to deal with the problem?

Forging partnerships between organised and unorganised sector will have a positive impact. Advocating policies, upgrading work and formalising their work will also work wonders.

### What initiatives are being taken on part of the government for the unorganized sector?

Several acts like the Minimum Wages Act (1948) and Payment of Gratuity Act (1972) have been passed by the government, but there has been little improvement. A larger share of the resources needs to be allocated for the betterment of unorganised sector.

### Who should take the responsibility, private sector or government?

All those who benefit from the work of the informal sector should step up and work for the cause.

## RICKSHAW V/S AUTORICKSHAW



**Name:** Kashi Madn Ali

**Age:** 35

**Monthly income:** Rs 5000/-

**On a centralized union:** No, I am not part of any. But I think that if one is established, then it will go a long way in working for our betterment. Our financial situation would improve once standardized rules and fares are in place. It will provide us a forum to discuss our problems and come up with better solutions; which could also be brought into the notice of the right authority.



**Name:** Om Prakash

**Age:** 40 years

**Monthly income:** Rs 15000/-

**On a centralized union:** Yes, I am part of a local union which includes mostly auto drivers from many sectors of Gurgaon. Being an active part of a union has definitely made our condition better. We are able to represent our problems better, our grievances are heard and we can protest if anything works against us. Besides, it gives you the platform to discuss the issues we come across.

## WHAT DID OLD SAY TO NEW?

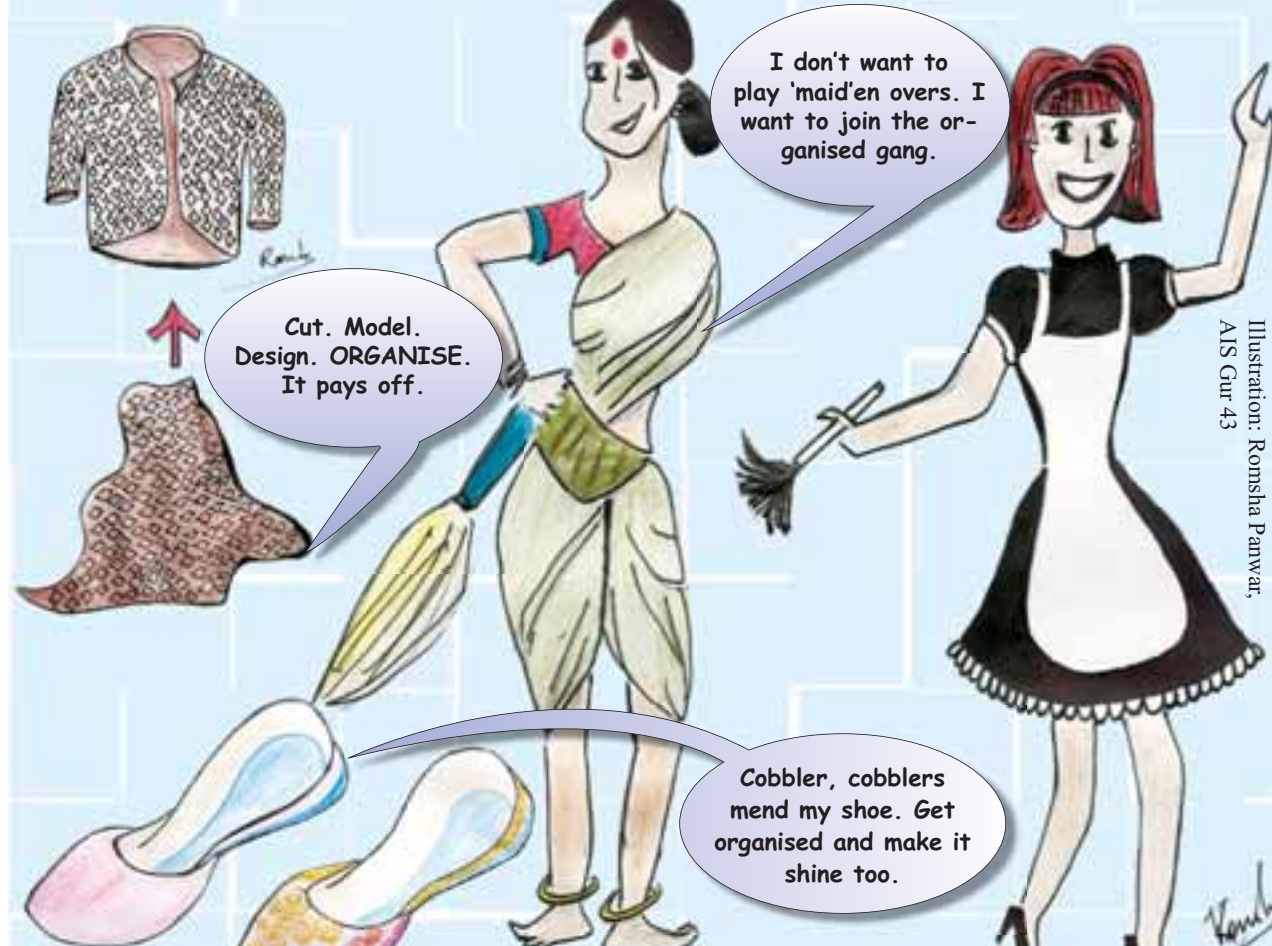


Illustration: Romsha Panwar, AIS Gur 43





# WE'VE GOT TALENT

They can sing, they can dance...all they need is a chance.  
Tap the potential that lays hidden in the underprivileged

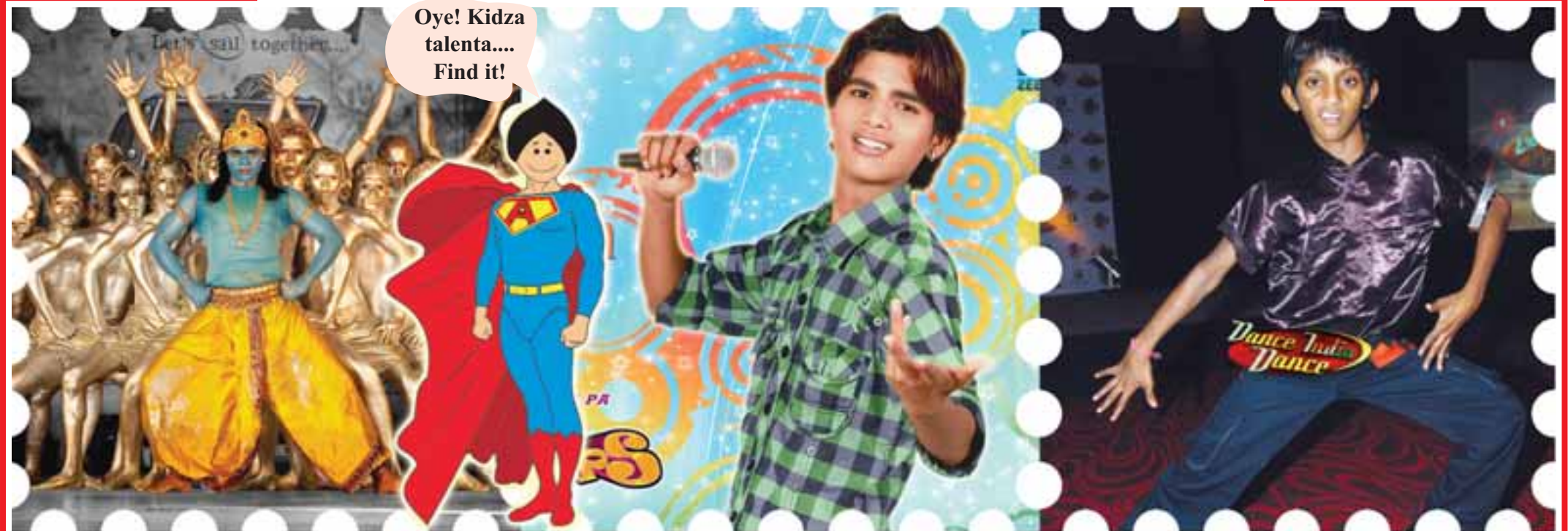
**R**ubina Ali and Azharuddin Mohammed Ismail... do the names ring a bell? Starring as Latika and Salim, in the Oscar winning 'Slumdog millionaire'; these two kids traced the journey from slumdogs to slumgods. But the talent that lays waste in the slums is not just restricted to these slum-turned-star kids.

Dancers, singers, artists...you name it and the underprivileged section of the society offers it all. The sad part, however, is that this talent struggles its way to

face the world. Of course, there is much being done about the underprivileged section of the society, but the emphasis still lays on providing education and health facilities.

A little nurturing and this untapped talent that lies in the backward and poor strata of the society could transform the face of the nation, breaking the vicious cycle of poverty. India's got talent; even in the remotest corners. It's time we acknowledge and nurture them.

## THEY GOT THEIR CHANCE OTHERS ARE STILL WAITING



### Prince Dance Group

Winner, India's Got Talent

A group of daily wage labourers including a few underprivileged kids, who did not have the money to buy their costumes. They are now one of the most sought after performers.

### SALMAN ALI

Finalist, Zee Lil Champs

Hailing from a poor family in Haryana, this young boy did not even have the money to make it for the auditions, until a friend offered help. The Haryana government later awarded him Rs. 21 Lakhs.

### MANOJ

Finalist, DID Lil Masters

One of the top four finalists, the talented dancer earned a living by dancing on the streets. With the platform provided; looks like his aim to be a choreographer will be accomplished soon.



Mamta Karwal  
Founder Member, Bagia school

## TELL THEM THEY HAVE IT

**M**amta Karwal is a social activist helping poor kids with their education. She is a founder member of Bagia, a school for the underprivileged and has been teaching them for four years now

**Do you believe that the underprivileged kids have talent?**

Definitely! When it comes to dance and music, these children are very fast in grasping Hindi film songs and also

choreograph them on their own. They have the creative knack of reviving old and broken toys, recycling old boxes to create fun games and devise modes of entertainment of their own.

**What initiatives can be taken to create awareness vis-a-vis their talent?**

I think before we spread awareness amongst the masses, we need to make them aware that they have talent. Once the kids are themselves aware of their

talent, spreading a word about the same will help.

**Do you think that their talent can be misused?**

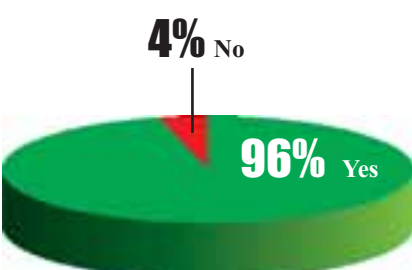
If you are talking about misuse in context of child labour, then yes this talent can be misused. Besides, they could well be exploited at the hands of their employers. To prevent misuse, we should ensure that these children do not end up in the wrong hands.

**What are the challenges that lie in the process of tapping the potential in the underprivileged?**

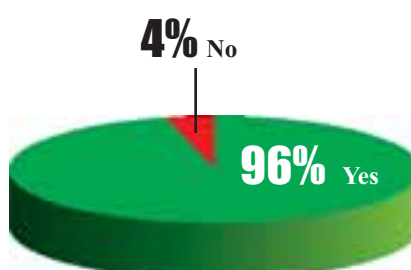
To convince these kids that they have talent can be quite a task. Lack of awareness and sensitization is another challenge. Also, it gets difficult to convince the family members, who want their children to work and support the family earnings than waste time on learning dance or music. Attendance is another major issue. [GTA](#)

### Youth Power Findings

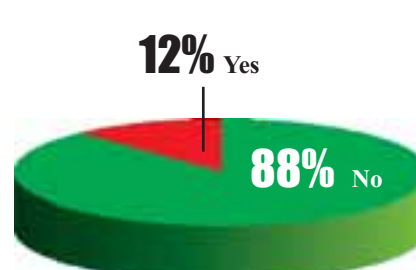
Do you think the underprivileged kids have talent?



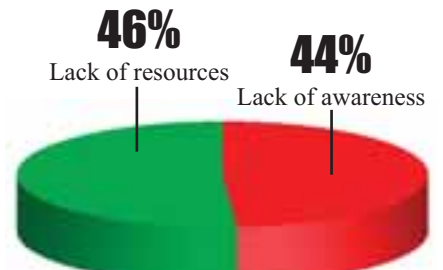
Can this talent be converted into a future source of income?



Are sufficient efforts being made to tap the talent of the underprivileged?



What is the reason for the talent of the underprivileged remaining untapped?







# SEE US IN ACTION

They believe and they act too. Catch the eight Youth Power teams in action as they go about in full zeal and spirit, spreading a word for a cause dear to their hearts



Forward march say students of AIS Vasundhara 6



YP contestants from AIS Saket wear the cause on their sleeves

AIS Noida on its 'Paw Print' campaign



YP Team, AIS MV raises funds with 'Best out of waste' products



Youth leaders from AIS Gur 43 donate old shoes to a cobbler



'Save the tiger' scream students of AIS Noida



AIS Noida colors tiger in festive hues



YP Team, AIS Vas 6 on their mission to teach the underprivileged



AIS PV raises funds with some 'food' for thought



YP Leader, AIS Gur 46 nurtures talent



AIS Saket team 'chip' messages to create awareness on their cause