DREAM IT! DO IT!

BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF CHANGEMAKERS

INDIA

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IKEA Foundation
1. ASHOKA
   Familiarize yourself with Ashoka and our vision

2. YOUTH VENTURE
   Discover the program and meet the Youth Venturers

3. IDENTIFICATION
   Understand the Youth Venture selection and participate in identifying them

4. ENGAGEMENTS
   Learn more about the mobilization of the Youth Venture community

5. IMPACT
   Find out how the Youth Venturers spread their ideas
Imagine a world where everyone’s a changemaker.

Ashoka is the largest association of social entrepreneurs with system changing solutions for the world’s most urgent social problems, and a platform for the growing global network of people dedicated to creating an Everyone A Changemaker™ world.

Since its founding by Bill Drayton in 1980, Ashoka pioneered the field of social entrepreneurship and set up a global network of over 3,500 leading social entrepreneurs in more than 70 countries.

Ashoka creates opportunities for social entrepreneurs around the world to connect, collaborate, and provide value to one another, multiplying the capacity of each social entrepreneur to improve more lives and to change the world.
The Youth Venture program fosters the Ashoka vision of an Everyone A Changemaker™ world: a world that responds quickly and effectively to social challenges, where each young individual has the confidence and social support to drive positive change and to create opportunity for themselves.

After pioneering the field of social entrepreneurship and working with people who are bringing system changing ideas, Ashoka discerned that the individuals who create large-scale systemic change began their journey when they were young.

Thus, Ashoka works with the belief that one of the most effective ways to drive social change is to empower young people to realize their own ability to make positive social change.

"Having a dream, building a team, and changing your world in the teens gives you your power for life. In an everything-changing world, you have the master skill, being a changemaker. You will always be able to give and do so in important ways. What can be a greater source of happiness and health? And the world will always want you. (On LinkedIn, those who report they had this teen breakout experience are four times as likely to be C-level leaders and five times as likely to be founders.)"

-Bill Drayton
Founder & CEO
Ashoka: Innovators for the Public
THE YOUTH VENTURERS

100+

YOUTH VENTURERS IN INDIA
form a strong community of young changemakers
acting
to SOLVE PRESSING ISSUES in

Education
Economic Development
Civic engagement
Information/Media
Sustainable Tourism

Environment
Mental Health
Gender Equality
Health
Culture

Child protection
Contraception
Technology
Female Empowerment
Animal right
THE PERKS OF BEING A YOUTH VENTURER

- Space to identify the 4 changemaker skills: Empathy, Leadership, Creativity, Collaboration
- Guidance from experienced and seasoned entrepreneurs
- Access to the global Ashoka network (Fellows, Business and Educational Leaders)
- Community and network of 100s of other Youth Venturers
- Convening with insight for inspirational speakers
- Amplification platform to spread ideas
- Mindset shift and co-learning workshops
Piyush Ghosh founded The Optimist Citizen, an online and print media newspaper that focuses on presenting positive news ranging from inspiring stories, stories of unsung heroes to good governance, acts of courage, and everything that can create optimism and bring back hope in society.

- Founder of The Optimist Citizen
Media
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Ashwini, Priya and the Jazba team built a platform centering around art forms in Bangalore, which provide a platform for youth to cultivate their interest in creative fields. The funds raised by audience donations and registration fees are donated to philanthropic organizations. In this manner, Jazba integrates the competitive and responsible spirit in youth, by encouraging them to participate and creating awareness among them for the causes they donate to.

- Founders of Jazba
Culture
Bangalore, Karnataka

The goal of Shanti Murmu’s initiative is to change parents’ mindset in the tribal village of Odisha so that they send their daughters to schools to educate them, and to avoid teen marriage, but also to educate girls on menstrual hygiene. She integrated these awareness programs into AWW and ASHA, projects that were already established at the community level. To reach her goal, Shanti has created a core advocacy team comprised of Anganwadi workers. In September 2016, Shanti exposed her initiative at the Planet 50 - 50 conference organized by UN Women India.

- Founder of Parivartan,
Gender inequality
Bhubaneshwar, Odisha

To fight against water and food waste in households and restaurants, Garvita Gulhati and Pooja S Tanawade are conducting awareness campaigns for the public and helping restaurants identify the ways in which they can save resources. The venture has also created partnerships with local NGOs that collect restaurant and household waste and decompose it.

- Founders of Why Waste?,
Environment
Bangalore, Karnataka

Inderpreet Singh and his team work to ensure participation of elders in society by engaging them in building skills of youth of Punjab. He envisions a paradigm shift where social and economic participation of elders is common and where solutions are provided to the negative effects of aging populations in developing countries like India.

- Founder of SPEE,
Amritsar, Punjab
Community Development
Md Zabi Khan through his organisation A Place To bark engages in a variety of activities like adoption, rehabilitation, medical-assistance and rehoming of abandoned and sick animals. He has also been successful in changing the mindset of society towards abandoned animals and brought about a framework change. He convinced his college to become India’s first animal friendly institution runs a shelter for dogs. He also uses social media to run his crowd funding campaigns and also for adoption and rehabilitation.

- Founder of A Place To Bark Society
Animal Welfare, World’s Youngest Animal Rights Activist
Hyderabad,Telangana

Saranya and Aamiya understood that one of the reasons so many girls drop out of schooling is the lack of access to menstrual hygiene. They took matters to their own hands and began distribution of the organic sanitary pads in September 2016 and together they have decided to make sure that sanitary napkins are supplied to the women and girls all round the year. Another thing that the duo clearly understood was the need to educate and make these women aware of their own bodies and its functions. Therefore, they also conduct workshops to address the issues and stigma towards menstrual hygiene.

- Founders of Project Sasakth
Menstrual Hygiene
Delhi

Rumi Kumari works to eradicate child-marriage, child labour and as an advocate for child rights in rural Jharkhand. She herself experienced trafficking as a domestic worker at the age of 8. She motivated herself to work towards ending the suffering caused by this problem. She promotes girl child education over marriage. She’s gone door to door convincing people not to sell their child and also works with local NGOs and local authorities. With their help she organises on ground awareness.

- Founder of Empowering girls ,
Female empowerment and girl child education
Jharkhand

Nimish through his initiative, The Magical Lens, shows the daily lives of the women working in red-light areas. Through stories and pictures he hopes to reduce the stigmatization of the people working in red light districts. He feels that better understanding will reduce discrimination. As he grew up in the red light district himself, he started off with his co-founder Arjun, documenting the stories of her mother and many more in pursuit to reduce stigma that sex workers hold. He plans to publish a book depicting the story of a woman living in a brothel, how she takes care of her young child, her notions on friendship and her reflection on society. he says “jaise tu ho, vaise hum hai”

- Co-Founder of The Magical Lens
Female empowerment at Red light area
Delhi

Nishanth aims at achieving complete re-cycling of dry cell batteries. These cause landfill fires and leak harmful chemicals that lead to disease like bronchitis, which nishanth has suffered personally. He has re-cycles 350+ kg of dry cells and he operates in over 23 schools, offices and housing complex around mumbai. The raw materials obtained after re-cycling are introduced back to industry.

- Founder of E-Waste Recycling, Recycling
Mumbai,Maharastrat
THE SEARCH & SELECTION PROCESS

Ashoka is always looking for young changemakers in India regardless of their ethnicity & background, coming from all social backgrounds, coming from all environments, and all parts of the country. We are interested in the teenager’s projects and the impact they have in their community.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.

3 steps must be followed to apply.

1. **Online application submission**

   If the aspirational Youth Venturer fits the selection criteria, he/she must fill in the nomination form on [http://www.india.ashoka.org/youthventure](http://www.india.ashoka.org/youthventure). Teachers, parents or other individuals can also nominate a project holder they know.

2. **Review and shortlisting**

   Ashoka team will review and shortlist the ideas which match with the criteria. The shortlisted candidates will be contacted by the team and informed about the next steps.

3. **Selection panel**

   Selected candidates will be invited to pitch their initiative to a panel of leading social entrepreneurs and thought leaders.
ELIGIBILITY

A Youth Venture candidate:

1. Is between 12 and 20 years old (as of 31st December of the year in which they are applying)

2. Has an innovative idea for creating positive change

3. Has built a team

4. Has implemented the idea and impacted their communities

5. Has an action plan for greater impact

Successful candidates are those who have, through their initiatives, demonstrated mastery of essential skills for Changemakers - empathy, creative problem solving, teamwork and collaborative leadership. Having adult advisors is an added benefit, but the initiative has to be created, led and managed by teenagers.
We believe that society as a whole will benefit from an expanded and self-aware group of such talent, drawn from all segments of our populations and focused on innovations that address the full range of our social and environmental challenges. Moreover, by recognizing these future leaders, we can enhance their educational and career opportunities. Colleges and universities will compete to enroll proven changemakers, including providing scholarships for those who need them. Later on, employers will seek to hire future leaders who are demonstrated innovators. And as Youth Innovators become leaders, they will help to transform their communities, their organizations, and their countries.
Prateek, Founder of Green Strips
engaged with Ashoka Fellow and founder of eKutir Agriculture, Krishna Mishra, to work for the progress of small and marginal farmers and improve their socio-economic state.

Divyank, Founder of Wings: Umeedon ke Pankh
built an alliance with Ashoka Fellow and founder of SELCO, Harish Hande, on water purification in rural areas of Karnataka.

Olivia, co-founder of Finderbridge
represented India at the Changemaker Xchange program’s gathering of twenty-five Asian Changemakers in the Philippines.

Chethan, founder of Khoon
engaged with Ashoka Fellow Neelkanth Mishra and Nilesh Sinha to get funding for his organization and was able to expand to start a new chapter in Guwahati in August 2017.

Garvita, founder of WhyWaste
Ajay, founder Hands on Agriculture
special guest speakers at the Thirteenth India Innovation Summit in Bengaluru inspiring industry leaders to cultivate a culture of change starting young.
Influencing Masses

Through their initiative, the Youth Venturers play the role of role models in their community, proving that it is possible to be actively engaged and to lead young.

Beyond their immediate surroundings, they also convey their message of change by participating in large outreach events in India.

Tedxyouth@aisgurgaon46
Akshat Mittal, Founder, Oddeven.com

Described how he matches individuals to potential carpool in the direction of their commute. The site was launched in December 2015, anticipating the odd-even vehicle rule implemented by the Delhi government in January this year, to control pollution in NCR.

Shared Value Summit 2016

- Piyush Ghosh, Founder, The Optimist Citizen
- Aditi Parekh, Director, Student Think Tank of India
- Pritish Bhavnani, Founder, A Cry for Help
- Shanti Murmu, Founder, Parivartan
- Priya Radhakrishnan, Co-Founder, Jazba

Answered to the following questions “How young entrepreneurs are looking at the diverse social issues and making a difference? What kind of interventions are identified and how those interventions are making an impact?”, to share their experience with the public.

Tedxpune
Anju Ran, Initiated Komal HATH Kalam Ke Sath

Described how to build a youth movement by bringing all stakeholders together, how to change the mindset of young people and the importance of practicing skills at a young age. Her talk conveyed the idea that even small efforts can lead to a big change.