



28
YEARS OF
SERVICE

APRIL 2023 – MARCH 2024

Annual Report 2023–24

Youth Unity for Voluntary Action (YUVA)

Girls leading change. Women claiming rights. Communities growing stronger — across the tribal villages of Kolhan, Jharkhand, since 1996.

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From the Secretary's Desk

Dear friends,

When a handful of young people in Makdampur began meeting every Sunday in 1994 to prepare for competitive examinations, none of us imagined where that small circle would lead. Twenty-eight years after we formally came together as YUVA on National Youth Day in 1996, I am proud to share with you our Annual Report for 2023–24 — a year in which girls and women across the villages of Potka stood up, spoke out, and led.

This year our work to end child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage reached 30 villages across 15 panchayats of Potka block. 514 adolescent girls met every month in safe spaces to talk about their bodies, their rights and their futures. They learned to play football on village grounds where girls were rarely seen before, to use cameras and computers, to perform street theatre, and to sit across the table from their panchayat representatives and ask for what they need — clean toilets in schools, sanitary pads, safe transport, and an end to child marriage.

Change did not stay with the girls alone. 616 parents, 102 community and religious leaders and 147 panchayat representatives joined the conversation. Village heads, teachers and block officials took part in our block and district workshops, and 24 organisations from across Jharkhand joined our state-level consultation in Ranchi. Through Women Gaining Ground and All Women Count, supported by CREA, we continued to strengthen the leadership of elected women representatives and women with disabilities. And through our partnership with Jiv Daya Foundation, young children in the poorest Sabar and tribal hamlets of Potka received daily nutrition support.

Behind every number in this report is a girl like Paromita, who wrote to the District Collector to stop her own marriage — and a community that finally stood with her. These stories remind us why we do this work.

Our audited accounts for the year show total income of Rs 74.90 lakh and expenditure of Rs 65.02 lakh, with a clean audit opinion from S. Sahoo & Co., Chartered Accountants. I thank our Board of Trustees, our dedicated team and community volunteers, and our partners — Girls First Fund, CREA, Comic Relief and Jiv Daya Foundation — for their trust. Most of all, I thank the girls and women of Potka, who teach us every day what courage looks like.

With warm regards,

Barnali Chakraborty

Secretary cum Managing Trustee, YUVA

The Year at a Glance

April 2023 – March 2024

Reach of our child marriage prevention programme

30 villages in Potka block	15 gram panchayats	514 adolescent girls in monthly groups	616 parents in quarterly meetings
147 panchayat members engaged (82 women)	102 community & religious leaders	60 girls trained in football	55 girls trained in computers & video

Across all programmes

~400 young children receiving daily milk & nutrition	24 organisations at our state consultation	4 funded programmes delivered	3 districts of Kolhan region
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Finances (audited)

Rs 74.90 L total income	Rs 65.02 L total expenditure	97.4% of spending through funded programmes	Clean audit opinion, S. Sahoo & Co.
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National Girl Child Day football tournament, Naga village



National Youth Day competitions for girls and women

Who We Are

A women-led, community-rooted organisation working for a society free of exploitation.

Our story

YUVA — Youth Unity for Voluntary Action — began as a study circle. From 1994, young women and men of the Makdampur area of Jamshedpur met every Sunday to prepare together for competitive examinations, holding quizzes, debates and mock interviews. Each member contributed Rs 10 a month to subscribe to magazines and journals, and a small community library took shape near Tatanagar Railway Station. The Information Department of Tata Steel, then headed by Mr. C. Ramaswamy, later contributed generously to the library, which still runs today.

On 12 January 1996 — National Youth Day — M. Rajiv, Arbind Tiwary, Sandip Sinha, Tushar Kant Mandal, Mamta Kumari, Barnali Chakraborty, Rajendra Prasad, Dilip Kumar and Arun Kumar formally founded the organisation and named it Youth Unity for Voluntary Action. Many founding members went on to secure good jobs, which drew more young people to join, and their interest turned steadily towards social action.

A turning point came when a member, Prafulla Tanti, died of diarrhoea because he could not reach a hospital in time. Shaken, the group decided to add health to its work. With the support of Jamshedpur entrepreneur Bailey Bodhanwala, who agreed to serve as its convener, and technical help from the Family Welfare Department of TISCO, YUVA opened a maternity and child welfare centre at Makdampur. From these beginnings YUVA has grown into a focused social movement — apolitical, rooted in the community, and dedicated to those living at the margins in and around Jamshedpur.

Our Vision

To contribute towards making society self-dependent and exploitation-free.

Our Mission

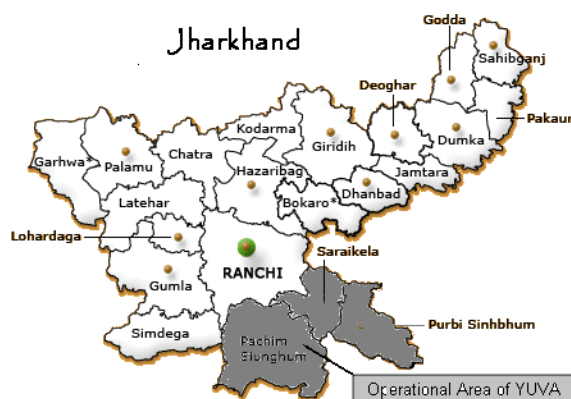
To empower local communities to become self-dependent and achieve physical, mental and social well-being.

To work for the eradication of economic, social and sexual discrimination and ensure the all-round development of society.

Legal status

Registration	Details
Registered Trust (Indian Trusts Act)	No. 4480, dated 03.11.1997
Section 12A, Income Tax Act, 1961	AAATY1099BE20219, dated 14.10.2021
FCRA, 2010 (Ministry of Home Affairs)	No. 337820044 — renewed, valid till 30.06.2027
PAN / TAN	AAATY1099B / RCHY00011E
NITI Aayog DARPAN ID	JH/2017/0164557
Statutory auditor	S. Sahoo & Co., Chartered Accountants (FRN 322952E)

Where we work



YUVA's operational area in Jharkhand (shaded)

YUVA works in three districts of the Kolhan region of Jharkhand — East Singhbhum (Potka and Jamshedpur blocks), West Singhbhum, and Seraikela-Kharsawan (Gamharia and Seraikela blocks).

The area lies on the laterite hills of the Chotanagpur plateau: forested, rolling uplands with less fertile soil and a dry, drought-prone climate. Temperatures range from about 8°C in winter to 45°C in summer, and farming depends on the monsoon. Mining and industry have brought deforestation.

Scheduled Tribes make up 28% of the population, and most other families belong to backward communities. Literacy (50.7%) is below the state average of 59.6%, and many households depend on daily wage labour.

Who we work with

YUVA prioritises the most marginalised Adivasi communities — particularly the Sabar (a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group), Santhal, Munda and Bhumij — each with its own history, culture, language and geography. Over nearly three decades, our work has reached:

6,000

girls aged 10–25

6,600

women

12,000

children

700

persons with disabilities

...across 46 gram panchayats in three blocks, mainly in East Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharsawan districts.

Our Leadership

Arbind Kumar Tiwary — Founder

A teacher by profession, Arbind Kumar Tiwary founded YUVA on 12 January 1996 with a group of like-minded young people. He is Headmaster of Utkramit Madhya Vidyalaya (UMS), Tangrain in Potka block of East Singhbhum, where his innovative ideas have turned a small middle school in a village among hills and forests into one known across Jharkhand's education community. On 26 January 2018 he was honoured at the Republic Day function at Gopal Maidan, Jamshedpur, when his school was ranked among the top performers in cleanliness. He also serves on the JCERT textbook committee for Social Science (Classes 6–8) and is the author of the Hindi book “स्कूल में जेंडर” (2025). The school's work can be seen at www.tangrain.in.

Barnali Chakraborty — Secretary cum Managing Trustee



A founding member of YUVA in 1996, Barnali Chakraborty became its Secretary in 2003 and leads the organisation as its chief executive. A graduate in Arts and Law (B.A., LL.B.), she specialises in gender-based violence, domestic violence, and sexual and reproductive health and rights. She was honoured with the Kolhan Gaurav Samman in 2023 by the Hindi daily Prabhat Khabar, and is a former member of the Juvenile Justice Board.

Fostering young leaders

Built a strong network of young leaders within YUVA committed to gender equality.

Standing with the Sabar community

Three decades of work for the rights and well-being of the Sabar tribe, including four centres for Sabar children in Potka.

Keeping girls in school

Ensured educational continuity for many Sabar children, preventing drop-outs and enabling higher education.

Women's livelihoods

Established over 100 self-help groups with more than 1,000 women, and led livelihood work across 66 villages of Seraikela block.

28 Years of YUVA

From a Sunday study circle to a women-led movement for rights.

1994	Young people of Makdampur, Jamshedpur begin meeting every Sunday to prepare for competitive exams — the seed of YUVA.
1996	YUVA founded on National Youth Day, 12 January. A community library is started with members' own contributions.
1997	Registered as a Trust (No. 4480, 3 November 1997).
Early years	Maternity and child welfare centre opened at Makdampur with TISCO's Family Welfare Department; health joins education as a core area.
2003	Barnali Chakraborty becomes Secretary; YUVA's leadership becomes predominantly women-led.
2000s–2010s	Work with the Sabar community in Potka; 100+ women's self-help groups; livelihood programmes across 66 villages of Seraikela block.
2019	Partnership with Girls First Fund begins to prevent child marriage in 10 villages of Potka; 16 Days of Activism campaign with CREA.
2020–21	COVID-19 relief — ration and hygiene kits for adolescent girls and families; "It's My Body" and "Meri Panchayat Meri Shakti" programmes with CREA.
2021–22	Hunger & Rural Poverty Elimination initiative begins with Jiv Daya Foundation; Sabar football team and nutrition gardens with ASW.
2023	Secretary Barnali Chakraborty receives the Kolhan Gaurav Samman from Prabhat Khabar.
2023–24	Child marriage prevention expands to 30 villages in 15 panchayats; first state-level consultation on child marriage held in Ranchi.

Partners who have supported us over the years

International

Girls First Fund · CREA · Comic Relief · Jiv Daya Foundation
· ASW (Germany) · Urgent Action Fund · Women's Fund Asia

Indian

Jharkhand Tribal Development Society · JSLPS · JSACS · Azim Premji Foundation · Centre for World Solidarity · Jharkhand Collective · Tata Steel

What We Work On

Women's empowerment

Combating gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Education, vocational training and leadership development for women.

Access to health care and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Child rights and protection

Access to quality education for children from marginalised communities.

Preventing child marriage through awareness, community mobilisation and legal action.

Counselling, support and advocacy for children at risk.

Community development

Sustainable livelihoods — agriculture, nutrition gardens, small enterprises.

Community participation in decision-making and local governance.

Health and nutrition for women, children and adolescents.

Environment

Forest conservation and afforestation.

Sustainable use of natural resources and eco-friendly practices.

Environmental awareness campaigns in villages.

How we work

- **Women-led:** women hold six of the seven seats on our Board, including President and Secretary, so women's voices shape every decision.
- **Grassroots and community-driven:** communities help design and run our programmes, which builds ownership and keeps the work relevant.
- **Holistic:** education, health, nutrition, safety and livelihoods are addressed together, because they are connected in people's lives.
- **Working with institutions:** we collaborate with panchayats, schools, the District Legal Services Authority, the Child Welfare Committee and government departments. Our peer leaders work alongside elected women representatives (EWRs) to advocate for change.
- **Apolitical advocacy for justice:** we work to stop violence, end discrimination, dismantle patriarchy, and ensure women's participation in every sphere of life — for a society that is safe, inclusive and non-judgemental.

Programmes in 2023–24

7.1

Preventing and Responding to Child Marriage and Early Union

Supported by Girls First Fund (GFF) · Potka block, East Singhbhum

Through this programme YUVA works in 30 villages across 15 panchayats of Potka block to prevent child marriage, early marriage and forced marriage; to build leadership among adolescent girls; and to help girls and young women continue their education.

Programme villages and adolescent girls engaged

Village	Panchayat	Girls	Village	Panchayat	Girls
Chakri	Chakri	26	Tiruldih	Tetla	13
Sidhirsai	Tangrain	14	Turi	Tetla	16
Jojodih	Tangrain	20	Tetla	Tetla	22
Tangrain	Tangrain	20	Bara Sighdhi	Hesalbil	12
Dhirol	Dhirol	21	Hesalbil	Hesalbil	16
Manpur	Manpur	19	Jhahatu	Hesalbil	17
Darusai	Gangadih	10	Khadeyasai	Hesalbil	21
Naga	Gangadih	13	Haldipokhar	Haldipokhar	27
Gomyasai	Gangadih	22	Sarse	Rasunchopa	16
Dukurdih	Podadih	14	Rasunchopa	Rasunchopa	10
Pukhuriya	Podadih	13	Kowali	Kowali	14
Champi	Podadih	22	Janumdih	Janumdih	20
Dholadih	Chandpur	16	Sangram	Sangram	16
Bingburu	Chandpur	16	Potka	Potka	13
Bara Badhua	Tetla	12	Tangarsai	Potka	23
				Total	514

What we did

The programme combined regular work with girls, training, sport and media, public events, and engagement with parents, community leaders, panchayats and government. Each activity is described below.

1. Monthly meetings with adolescent girls

Monthly group meetings created a safe space for 514 girls in 30 villages to talk about gender and patriarchy, bodily autonomy, menstruation, body image, consent, reproductive health, contraception, leadership and living without stigma. The aim was to challenge patriarchal norms, help girls understand their rights over their own bodies and lives, recognise violence and seek help, and give them the confidence to raise these issues in their families and communities.



Girls' group meeting, Tangrain



Monthly meeting, Chakri



Discussion circle, Chakri



Chart-making during a group meeting

2. Interface meetings between girls and panchayat members

In all 15 panchayats, adolescent girls and women met 147 panchayat (PRI) members — 82 of them women — to put forward their concerns and demands:

- Availability and safe disposal of sanitary pads; menstrual leave and clean toilets in schools
- Drinking water and electricity in schools; sports facilities and equipment
- Free bus service, reserved seats and accessible toilets for persons with disabilities; sign-language interpreters at police stations
- Employment, health care, ambulance services, road repair and waste disposal
- Registration of marriages to prevent child marriage, and access to government schemes

PRI members acknowledged their responsibilities and committed to act on these issues.



Interface meeting with panchayat members



Girls present their demands, Tetla

3. Training on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)

60 adolescents took part in interactive sessions on anatomy and physiology, menstruation and menstrual hygiene, puberty, consent and healthy relationships, reproductive health services, and pregnancy and childbirth — so that they can make informed decisions and advocate for their rights.



Group work during SRHR training



A participant presents her group's work



SRHR training session

4. Leadership training for adolescent girls

60 girls built skills in communication and public speaking, problem-solving and decision-making, teamwork and goal-setting. Sessions helped them understand how patriarchy works — how it concentrates decision-making and control over resources with men — and how they can challenge it as leaders in their communities.



Leadership training in progress



Girls present their plans

5. Training on gender

30 adolescents attended a one-day training at Imperial Resort, Tetla, conducted by GFF Project Coordinator Jyoti Pingua with resource persons Sumit and Pushpa from People for Change. Through games and discussion, participants explored gender, identity and sexual orientation, the LGBTQIA+ spectrum, and why every person deserves dignity and respect.



Gender training at Tetla



Participants in an energiser activity



Participants and facilitators of the gender training

6. Training on political participation

40 girls learned how local democracy works: the three-tier Panchayati Raj system (Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti and Zila Parishad) and the role of each; the Gram Sabha, which must meet at least four times a year (26 January, 1 May, 15 August and 2 October) with at least one-third women present; the Mahila Sabha held before each Gram Sabha so that women's issues reach the wider village assembly; and the role of elected women representatives. Through debates and activities, girls practised critical thinking and began to see themselves as future leaders.



Training on political participation for girls



Group exercise on local governance



Girls in discussion during the training

7. Theatre workshop

15 girls were trained in street theatre so that they can use performance to raise awareness about child marriage and gender equality, build their confidence in public speaking, and amplify their own voices on social issues.



Theatre workshop



Warm-up during football coaching

8. Football coaching camp

60 adolescent girls trained regularly in football. Sport gives girls the chance to claim public spaces, challenge stereotypes about what girls can do, and build teamwork and confidence — while showing whole villages that girls belong on the playing field.



Girls' football coaching



Training drills on the village ground



Coaching session



Team talk after practice

9. Celebrating special days

National Girl Child Day (88 participants). Held in Naga village of Gangadih panchayat, the day opened with a talk by Project Coordinator Jyoti Pingua on why 24 January is marked to highlight inequality faced by girls in education, health and nutrition. A girls' football tournament followed: Open Sky Girls Club of Naga won, with Gomayasai Girls Team as runners-up. Individual awards went to Urmila Sardar and Susari Sardar (best shooters), Pooja Sardar (best goalkeeper) and Urmila Sardar (best defender). Teen leaders Gudiya Nayak and Seema Bhumik refereed, and Jasmi Hembrom, Salge Tudu, Neha Uraon and Priyanka Sardar served as line judges. Gangadih Mukhiya Karthik Murmu, Deputy Mukhiya Kusnu Murmu and village head Shushen Sardar presented the prizes.



Prize distribution, National Girl Child Day



A player in action

National Youth Day and YUVA Foundation Day (86 participants). On 12 January YUVA celebrated its foundation day with girls and women through slogan, poster, poetry and essay competitions on child marriage and forced marriage. Winners included Kajal Sardar, Laboni Mandal and Anita Das (posters); Pinky Sardar, Lalit Sardar and Anita Das (slogans); and Devi Sardar, Mamta Sardar and Muskan Karmakar (poetry). Potka leader Laboni Mandal delivered the vote of thanks.



Poster competition on National Youth Day



Participants at work on their entries

World Day of Social Justice (92 participants). Resource person Preeti Murmu spoke about witch-hunting — how widows and childless women are branded as witches, beaten, humiliated, ostracised and sometimes killed, often on the word of a local ojha. Gangadih Mukhiya Karthik Murmu called for awareness and education to end the practice.



Street play on World Day of Social Justice



Community gathering on social justice

Menstrual Hygiene Day (68 participants). Girls and women talked openly about menstruation to break silence and stigma, learned about menstrual health and safe products, and discussed demands such as sanitary pad vending machines in public places, involving boys and men in conversations about menstruation, and encouraging sport and physical activity.



Menstrual Hygiene Day meeting



Discussion on menstrual health

10. Skill development — computers and video

55 adolescents received skills training: 32 girls completed a Diploma in Computer Applications (DCA), and 23 learned video-making and editing — camera shots by distance and perspective, framing, and headroom — so that they can document issues and change in their own communities. Girls are often kept away from digital technology; this training shows what they can do when given the chance.



Video editing training



Computer skills session

11. Quarterly meetings with parents

616 parents took part in quarterly meetings on the problems their children face, respecting daughters' decisions, making homes safe for girls, the harm caused by child, forced and early marriage, dowry and domestic violence, gender equality, and the roles of Sahiyas and Anganwadi workers.



Parents' meeting in the village



Mothers at a quarterly meeting

12. Quarterly meetings with community leaders

102 social and religious leaders discussed ending discrimination against girls, their role in preventing child marriage, involving boys in promoting gender equality, teaching children about safe and unsafe touch, the importance of girls' education, and the POCSO Act. Religious leaders were encouraged to refuse to conduct child marriages.



Meeting with community leaders



Leaders' meeting at Champi

13. Block, district and state workshops

Block workshop (76 participants). Held at SJVK, Sundarnagar, with village heads, club and ward members, school teachers and Block Education Officer Vinay Kumar Dubey. Secretary Barnali Chakraborty and Ajay Kumar of Pratigya explained gender, children's rights, the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 — under which everyone who takes part in a child marriage, from priest to tent-provider, is liable — and the POCSO Act, 2012.



Block-level workshop, Sundarnagar



Group work with teachers and village heads

District workshop (30 participants, including 22 village heads). Village heads examined why old customs persist, the health, educational and social consequences of child marriage, and how the Gram Sabha and School Management Committees can create child-friendly villages and support young people.



District-level workshop with village heads



Village heads in discussion

State consultation, Ranchi (48 participants from 24 organisations). Held at Hotel Genista, Kantatoli, with a panel on preventing child marriage through feminist leadership and creating youth-friendly villages, featuring speakers from ICRW, CSS, Pratigya and ASES. Key conclusions:

- Working only with women and girls is not enough — boys, men and the whole community must be engaged.
- Panchayats and government officials must be partners in prevention.
- Schools need SRHR and emotional education sessions for Classes 8 and 9.
- School drop-out, child labour and poor-quality education feed early marriage and must be tackled together.

YUVA President Usha Sabina Deogam thanked participants; team members Chandmani Sawaiyan, Reela Sardar, Abanti Sardar and Kiran Sardar helped run the event.



State-level consultation on child marriage, Ranchi



Panel discussion at the state consultation



Participants share experiences from their districts

Women Gaining Ground

Supported by CREA · 15 panchayats of Potka block

Women Gaining Ground (WGG) is a Global South-led initiative with CREA, in which YUVA is the partner in Jharkhand. It works for the rights of girls, young women and women with disabilities — whose problems are too often hidden even within their own families, and whose wishes, health, livelihoods and political rights, including the right to vote, are overlooked. The programme builds their leadership and connects them with panchayats and government services.

WGG was YUVA's second-largest programme in 2023–24, with expenditure of Rs 22.45 lakh. Its main activities during the year were:

Advocacy with elected representatives

Quarterly outreach and advocacy meetings in the panchayats, including meetings with elected women representatives, on services for women and girls with disabilities.

Legal and social advocacy

Young women, girls and women with disabilities supported to take up legal and social advocacy on their own issues.

Campaigns

International Women's Day (8 March) and the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, plus an online campaign.

Rethink events and reviews

An annual Rethink evening meet and an annual review workshop to reflect with partners and communities.

State-level engagement

A state-level cross-constituency consultation process to bring these issues to policymakers in Jharkhand.

Research and fellows

Research and documentation, and action plans developed by community fellows.

All Women Count: Rethink Power, Reimagine Agendas, Reboot Strategies

Supported by CREA with Comic Relief · 10 panchayats of Potka block

This initiative examines and transforms power structures, agendas and strategies within the feminist movement in India, building practice that is inclusive and intersectional. In Potka, YUVA reorganised 10 adolescent groups in 10 panchayats — Hesalbil, Dhirol, Tentla, Chandpur, Haldipokhar, Tangrain, Chakdi, Gangadih, Podadih and Manpur — with 200 adolescents (140 continuing from “My Body, My Rights” and 60 new members; 70% Scheduled Tribe and 30% OBC). Workers were drawn from the earlier “Meri Panchayat Meri Shakti” and WGG teams, and contact was made with newly elected panchayat representatives.

Panchayat-level sessions explored “our body, its power and politics, and sexuality”: understanding the body and speaking comfortably about it; feelings of power, pleasure, pain and shame; how gender roles shape social norms and the lives of girls, women and disabled women; and taking these issues to the panchayat. Activities during the year included:

- Training for 30 elected women representatives on leadership and governance, and capacity building for PRI members
- SRHR training for 10 girls' groups, and a leadership and “self” training for 30 young leaders

- Interface meetings between elected women representatives and women's collectives; block-level meetings with PRIs and other stakeholders
- A sports camp and video screenings with young girls
- Women's Day celebrations, an SRHR day, community public events, wall writing and two street-play teams

7.4

Hunger and Rural Poverty Elimination Initiative

Supported by Jiv Daya Foundation • Potka block

This programme supports the nutrition of young children in families facing hunger and extreme poverty, including the Sabar community. Every day except Sunday, children up to five years of age receive milk (150 ml) and biscuits at five centres in the villages of Tangrain, Karadkocha, Dhengam (Nagasai), Dhengam (Kundru Ghutu) and Lango, reaching about 400 children. Children's growth is monitored through regular weight and height checks and health check-ups. During the year, children also received clothing and shoes, and the centres were equipped with gas, utensils and steel glasses. The programme, which began in 2021-22, has also provided rice to poor Sabar and tribal families in times of need.



Children at a nutrition centre



Daily milk distribution



Families receiving support under the initiative

YUVA Library

The library where YUVA began in 1996 — built from members' Rs 10 monthly contributions and later supported by Tata Steel's Information Department — continues to serve readers and students at Makdampur, keeping alive the spirit of learning and discussion from which the organisation grew.

Stories of Change

The real measure of our work is in the lives of the people we work with. (Names of adolescent girls have been changed to protect their identity.)

STORY OF CHANGE

A letter to the Collector: a community stops a forced marriage

Paromita, 15 · Bara Bhumi village, Potka panchayat

Paromita's family had fixed her marriage despite her refusal. In despair, she wrote to the District Collector's office asking for help. YUVA stepped in. When our worker Jyoti Pingua approached the local panchayat head, the Mukhiya declined to intervene, citing family pressure. YUVA's Secretary then went directly to the community, which refused to support the marriage.

Our workers Jyoti and Abanti faced hostile looks and threats on their visits, but they persisted, gathered information and involved the District Child Welfare Committee. The marriage was stopped. Paromita's story shows how girls are now asserting their rights — and how, with community support, those rights can be protected.

STORY OF CHANGE

Finding her voice at home

Sunita · Gomayasai village

Before joining the programme, Sunita knew little about her rights. Through the girls' group she developed leadership skills and began to state her choices at home — including her wish to choose her own life partner. Her family first refused, insisting they would decide. Sunita calmly explained her reasons again and again, and eventually her family agreed to respect her choice.

Her story shows what empowerment programmes make possible: girls who can make informed decisions and have them heard.

STORY OF CHANGE

Choosing school over marriage

Kavita · Champi village

Under pressure from her family to marry, Kavita held firm to her goal of continuing her education and building a career. She persuaded her mother to support her, and refused to give in. Today Kavita lives in a hostel and continues her studies — a powerful example to other girls in her village that education can come first.

STORY OF CHANGE

An adolescent champions change at home

Rupa · Sidirsai village

When a marriage proposal came for Rupa, both her family and neighbours urged her to accept. She resisted and asked to delay marriage. When her family would not listen, she turned to a YUVA community worker, who counselled the family and helped stop the marriage. The worker then held a village meeting on the importance of delaying marriage and educating girls. Rupa's courage saved her from early marriage, and she is now pursuing her education and her dreams.

From our journey: livelihoods with the Sabar community

These stories come from YUVA's earlier ASW- and CWS-supported work on nutrition gardens and vegetable cultivation with Sabar families in Potka, which continues to shape our approach to livelihoods and nutrition.

Farmer & village	Land	Produce	Sold in local market	Income
Budhia Sabar, Dhengam	6 decimal	Tomato 180 kg, brinjal 40 kg, onion 50 kg	Tomato 155 kg, brinjal 30 kg, onion 40 kg	Rs 2,150
Singrai Sabar, Otejhari	6 decimal	Tomato 80 kg, brinjal 25 kg, onion 30 kg	Tomato 55 kg, brinjal 10 kg, onion 25 kg	Rs 1,150
Lutu Sabar, Dhengam	4 decimal	Tomato 100 kg, brinjal 10 kg (cost Rs 310)	Tomato 70 kg @ Rs 10/kg	Rs 700

Budhia Sabar

The extra income helped Budhia buy clothes and shoes for his children's schooling — income he had “never thought of”.

Lutu Sabar

After YUVA's NTFP and vegetable training, Lutu's kitchen garden now gives his family pumpkin, ridge gourd, bitter gourd, beans and bottle gourd every day.

Singrai Sabar

Selling surplus vegetables let Singrai support his family and pay for his children's school clothes and shoes.

Gurba Sabar, Lango

Without resources to farm, Gurba's family often fell ill. With seeds and encouragement from YUVA he now grows leafy vegetables and plans to farm on a larger scale.

Impact and Learnings

What has changed

- **Girls are saying no to child marriage — and being heard.** Girls in our groups are delaying marriage, staying in school and seeking help when they are at risk, and families and communities are increasingly standing with them.
- **Girls are occupying public space.** Football teams, street theatre, video-making and competitions have made girls visible and confident in places where they were rarely seen.
- **Panchayats are listening.** Interface meetings have put girls' and women's demands — from school toilets to marriage registration — on the agenda of elected representatives.
- **Women are leading.** Elected women representatives and women with disabilities are more confident in governance and advocacy.
- **Families are more secure.** Nutrition support and livelihood work have improved children's health and household incomes among Sabar and tribal families.

What we have learned

Community engagement is key

When communities help design and run programmes, the work becomes theirs — and lasts.

Work with boys, men and institutions

Change for girls needs parents, community and religious leaders, panchayats, schools and government on board.

Address root causes

Poverty, drop-out, harmful norms and lack of services must be tackled together to end child marriage.

Stay flexible

Adapting to elections, the pandemic and changing needs has kept our work relevant.

Collaborate

Partnerships with government, NGOs and funders multiply what a small organisation can achieve.

Persist

Limited resources, cultural resistance and bureaucratic hurdles are real — perseverance and planning overcome them.

Governance and Accountability

Board of Trustees

YUVA is governed by a seven-member Board of Trustees, six of whom are women. The Board meets four times a year; minutes are recorded and circulated. The Board approves programmes, budgets, annual activity reports and audited financial statements, and ensures that the organisation complies with all laws and regulations.

#	Name	Position
1	Usha Sabina Deogam	President
2	Barnali Chakraborty	Secretary cum Managing Trustee
3	Narendra Kumar	Treasurer
4	Nita Bose	Trustee
5	Chandra Kala Munda	Trustee
6	Ruby Parveen	Trustee
7	Devla Tudu	Trustee

Accountability and transparency

- Accounts for 2023–24 audited by S. Sahoo & Co., Chartered Accountants, with an unqualified (clean) opinion dated 25 September 2024. The auditors also issued Form 10B under Section 12A(1)(b) of the Income Tax Act.
- The auditors reported that no Trust funds were applied for purposes other than the Trust's objects, and that no irregular expenditure, loss or misapplication was identified.
- Surplus funds are invested in fixed deposits with scheduled banks, as required under Section 11(5) of the Income Tax Act.
- FCRA registration renewed and valid till 30 June 2027; FCRA and Income Tax returns for 2022–23 filed before the due dates.
- No legal cases are pending against the organisation.

Representation and recognition

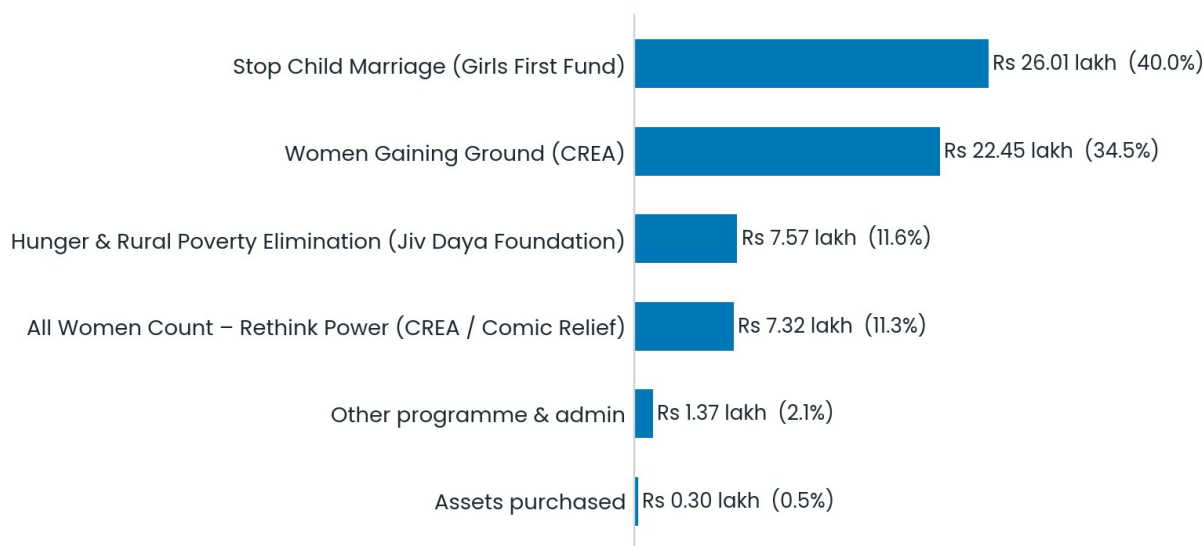
- Kolhan Gaurav Samman 2023 (Prabhat Khabar) — conferred on Secretary Barnali Chakraborty
- Former member, Juvenile Justice Board
- Member, Women's Cell, East Singhbhum
- Member, PCPNDT Act Implementation Committee, East Singhbhum
- Member, Urja Sanrakshan Committee, East Singhbhum
- Life member, Indian Red Cross Society

Financial Summary 2023–24

Figures from the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (amounts in Rs).

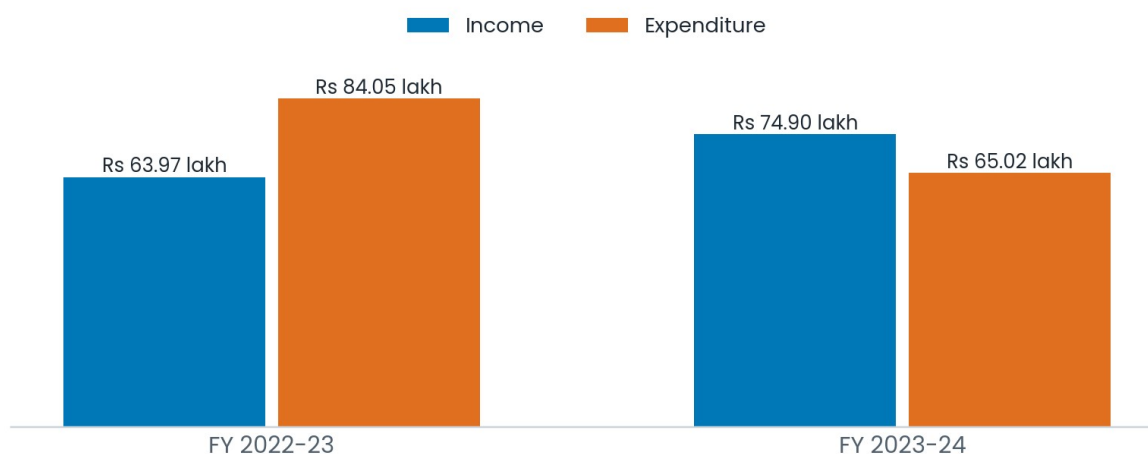
74,89,549 Total income	65,02,066 Total expenditure	9,87,483 Surplus, carried to project and general funds	36,44,799 Balance sheet total
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Where the money went



Expenditure by programme, FY 2023–24 (total Rs 65.02 lakh)

Income and expenditure compared with last year



In 2022–23 YUVA spent more than it received, drawing on balances from earlier grants; in 2023–24 income exceeded expenditure.

Income and expenditure account

Particulars	FY 2023-24	FY 2022-23
INCOME		
Grants	74,00,376.00	62,83,132.00
Interest income	89,173.00	1,08,997.21
Other income	-	4,790.00
Total income	74,89,549.00	63,96,919.21
EXPENDITURE		
Stop Child Marriage (Girls First Fund)	26,00,755.72	29,04,916.06
Women Gaining Ground (CREA)	22,44,871.96	18,33,824.78
Hunger & Rural Poverty Elimination (Jiv Daya Foundation)	7,56,969.42	9,98,827.00
All Women Count – Rethink Power (CREA / Comic Relief)	7,31,987.00	7,06,744.08
Strengthening Feminist Leadership among EWRs (CREA)	-	7,46,415.00
Social & Legal Empowerment of Sabar (ASW)	-	4,67,392.00
It's My Body Project, 2nd year	-	2,51,462.00
Annual Cross Movement Dialogues (CREA)	-	1,01,026.94
Social Action Project (CREA)	-	74,000.24
JTELP	-	42,000.00
Other programme & admin expenses	1,36,981.68	2,33,232.93
Non-recurring (assets purchased)	30,500.00	45,500.00
Total expenditure	65,02,065.78	84,05,341.03
Excess of income over expenditure	9,87,483.22	(20,08,421.82)

Depreciation of Rs 44,764 (2022-23: Rs 46,574) is adjusted against the Asset Fund. Of the 2023-24 surplus, Rs 11,01,830.90 was transferred to the Project Fund (unspent restricted grants) and Rs 1,14,347.68 was drawn from the General Fund.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2024

Particulars	31.03.2024	31.03.2023
SOURCES OF FUNDS		
General Fund	3,35,770.71	4,50,118.39
Project Fund	31,50,554.06	20,48,723.16
Asset Fund	1,58,474.00	1,72,738.00
Total	36,44,798.77	26,71,579.55
APPLICATION OF FUNDS		
Fixed assets (written down value)	1,58,474.00	1,72,738.00
Cash and bank balances	33,97,027.39	24,09,544.17
Other current assets	68,570.00	68,570.00
Grants receivable	63,856.38	63,856.38
Less: current liabilities	(43,129.00)	(43,129.00)
Total	36,44,798.77	26,71,579.55

Grants received during the year

Programme and donor	Received (Rs)	Unspent balance, 31.03.2024
Women Gaining Ground — CREA, USA	30,85,044.00	8,40,172.04
Preventing Child Marriage and Early Union — Girls First Fund	26,09,638.00	13,00,038.32
Hunger & Poverty Elimination — Jiv Daya Foundation, USA	9,73,707.00	5,18,654.58
All Women Count: Rethink Power — CREA / Comic Relief	7,31,987.00	-
JTELP (local project, balance brought forward)	-	4,91,689.12
Total	74,00,376.00	31,50,554.06

All grants received in 2023-24 were foreign contributions, received and used in accordance with FCRA, 2010. Unspent balances are held in the Project Fund for use as directed by each donor.

Our Partners

With gratitude to those who made 2023–24 possible.

Girls First Fund

Preventing and Responding to Child Marriage and Early Union — 30 villages, Potka block

CREA

Women Gaining Ground, and All Women Count: Rethink Power, Reimagine Agendas, Reboot Strategies (with Comic Relief)

Jiv Daya Foundation

Hunger and Rural Poverty Elimination Initiative — nutrition for young children in Potka

Government and community partners

Panchayats of Potka block, the Block Education Office, District Legal Services Authority, Child Welfare Committee, schools, Sahiyas and Anganwadi workers

We also thank the resource persons and organisations who shared their expertise this year — People for Change, Pratigya, ICRW, CSS, ASES and Preeti Murmu — and every volunteer, parent and young leader who gave their time to this work.

Stand with the girls and women of Jharkhand

Your support can keep a girl in school, stop a child marriage, or give a young child a healthy start. To partner with YUVA or make a donation, please write to yuvajamshedpurnew@gmail.com or call +91 94303 91875.



We Listen. We Learn. We Share. **We Care.**

Thank you to every girl, woman, parent, panchayat leader, volunteer and partner who walked with us this year. Every change in these pages is yours.

HEAD OFFICE

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SUPPORT OUR WORK

Donations are eligible for tax benefits under
Section 80G of the Income Tax Act.



Youth Unity for Voluntary Action (YUVA)
Awakening the youth for tomorrow's India