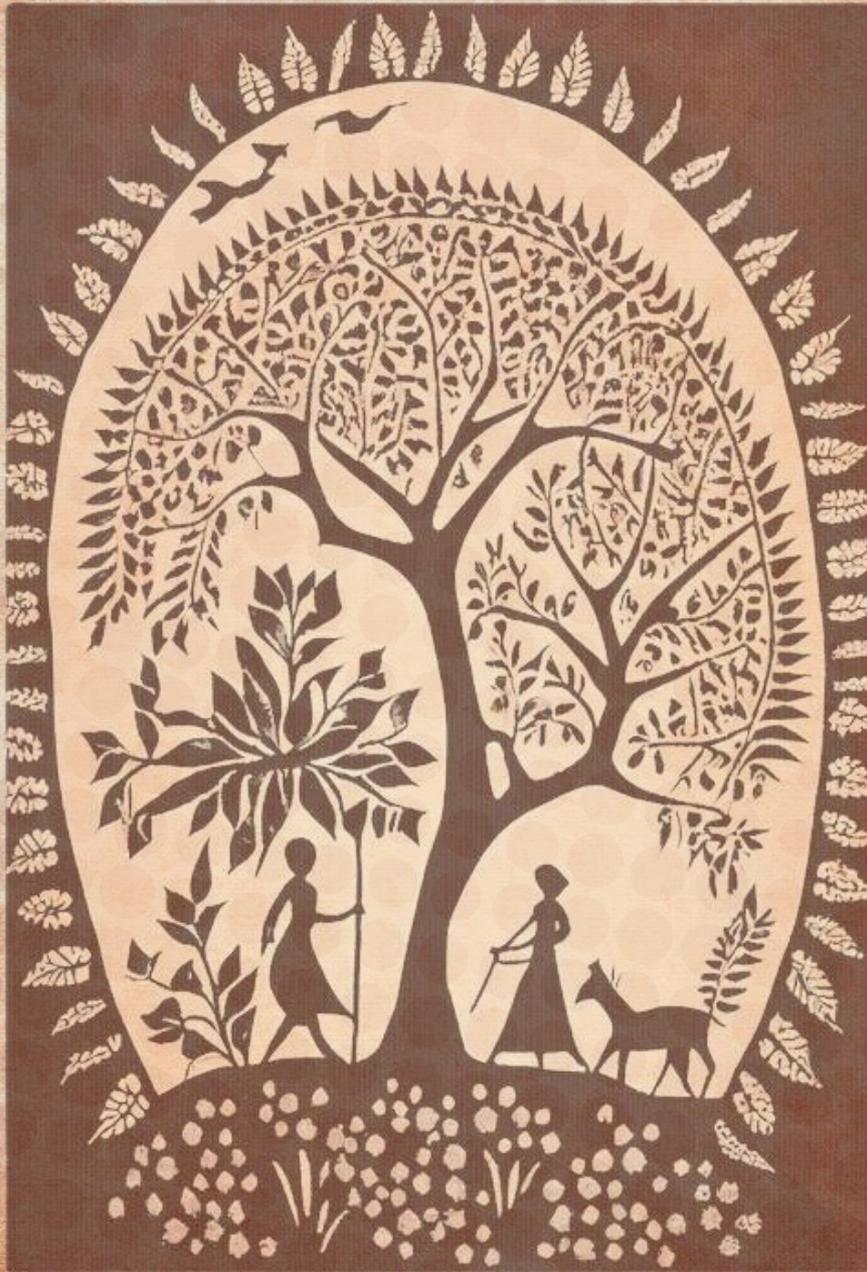


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Years of



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

“..Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of...social democracy. What does social democracy mean?

It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life...

They form a union of trinity in the sense that to divorce one from the other is to defeat the very purpose of democracy Without equality, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many.

Without fraternity, liberty would produce the supremacy of the few over the many.

Without fraternity, liberty and equality could not become a natural course of things. It would require a constable to enforce them.”

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar delivering his final speech in the Constituent Assembly November 25, 1949.



ABOUT SRUTI

SRUTI - Society for Rural, Urban and Tribal Initiative was founded in 1983 with the belief that individuals are powerful instruments of social transformation. Originally conceived by social sector leaders Tara Ali Baig, Bunker Roy, Ela Bhatt, Lotika Sarkar, Poonam Muttreja, Samir Chaudhuri, and Dr Ramalingaswami, the SRUTI Fellowship Programme supports individual and community action towards securing justice, rights, dignity and opportunity for some of India's most marginalised groups.

In the 40th year of its existence, the organisation has worked to raise resources from within the country to support 150 Fellows and several volunteers from communities who work together to sustain the process of change through community involvement.

SRUTI aims to harness the power of individuals working at the grassroots to attain its vision of a society that is based on the core values of justice, equity, compassion, respect, and dignity for all. Collective social action and local leadership at the grassroots form the crux of the SRUTI Fellowship. SRUTI and its Fellows believe that social change and sustainable economic development can be achieved by empowering oppressed and vulnerable communities to access justice, equality, and opportunity, and be true stakeholders in a vibrant democracy.

SRUTI's core mission, therefore, is to identify and invest in individuals armed with zeal and a vision to work towards a more equitable society within a democratic framework: individuals with idealism, staying power and the ability to mobilise communities at the grassroots and seek solutions for their most pressing issues through 'Sangathans' - people's groups that facilitate community social action.

Some key issues addressed by the SRUTI Fellows and the Sangathans include Access to and Ownership of Natural Resources - Jal, Jangal, Zameen; Land and Forest Conservation; Small Holder and Sustainable Agriculture; Right to Food; In-situ Livelihood; Panchayati Raj Institutions and Governance; Rights to the City; Education; Right to Information; Caste; and Gender.

SRUTI extends a mix of financial support and intermediary inputs to an individual Fellow or a group of Fellows through the Fellowship Programme that has evolved substantially over the decades. The Fellowship Programme is financed by resources mobilised, to the extent possible, from within the country, through support partnerships and a range of fundraising efforts. The Fellowship Programme, its related engagement and outreach efforts, and the Resource Mobilisation Programme form the key pillars of SRUTI.

For more information, please visit www.sruti.org.in

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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR: LOOKING BACK AT 2022-23

Emerging from the shadows of the pandemic, the previous year served as a testament to our resilience, while 2022-23 was dedicated to leveraging that resilience and directing it towards constructive alternatives. A key objective has been to unite communities through inclusive and participatory approaches, and what better way to accomplish this than by harnessing the abundant wealth of cultural expressions within these communities!! By channelling the energies derived from these cultural expressions, our endeavours successfully harmonised diverse groups, akin to the melodic unity of a finely tuned musical instrument.

Tapping into the youth who emerged as important stakeholders in responding to and being impacted by the pandemic years, SRUTI and the Fellows strived to organise innovative and engaging perspective and capacity-building workshops and camps. The School for Social Change (SSC) initiative resumed its pedagogical training in a full-fledged manner. Along with the Hindi school, smaller batches of Marathi, Odia and Tamil language schools also organised their regional SSC camps. Soaring high with its growing outreach to thousands of readers, Yuvaniya, the online reportage platform, continued with bi-weekly editions, encompassing diverse ideas, writing styles, and topics from contributors from over 10 states.

The year also marked the initiation of a comprehensive process to develop training modules and consolidation of several programmatic interventions following last year's national-level workshop on constitutional values. From setting up a mobile library in a children's school, and

organising children's fairs, regional-level workshops, Samvidhan Yatra, and solidarity football matches to promote constitutional values, SRUTI Fellows initiated several creative outreach efforts focusing on the core constitutional principles and relevant thematic issues. Foregrounding its inclusive ground-up approach, SRUTI's Safar-e-Aain (Journey of the Constitution) continues with its innovative ideas and initiatives based on grassroots articulations, rationales, and experiences.

The thematic interventions of SRUTI Fellows in strengthening the access of communities to and establishing their rights over forests, land, and natural resources as sustained over the years regained their momentum post-pandemic. This resulted in the community rights recognition of hundreds, securing their livelihoods and the opportunities to use, conserve, protect, and manage their forests and resources. The ground efforts to ensure active implementation of government schemes through facilitation and deliberations contributed to awareness building and effective enactment of policies.

The strength and resilience exuded by the Fellow groups and the flexibility with which they embrace the multifarious developments unfolding around them continue to keep SRUTI humble and firmly rooted in its values and association with the grassroots. As we prepare to enter our 40th year, the work of SRUTI continues to flourish and remain relevant to its vision. We look forward to celebrating and carrying forth the vibrancy of cultural expression and the colourfulness of youth while reflecting on the learnings of the past.

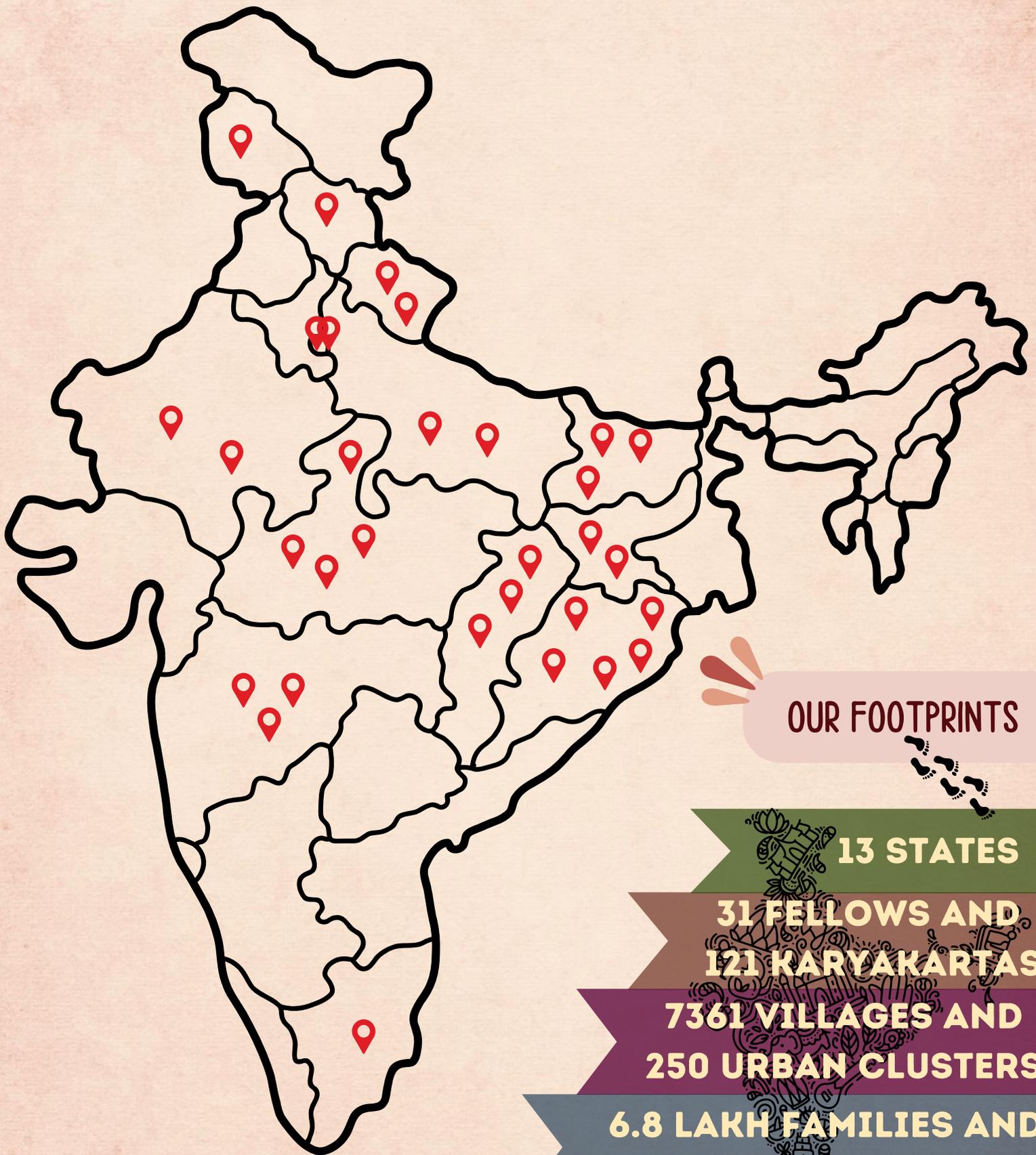
With best regards to all our friends and supporters,

Shweta, Executive Director

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FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME REACH



OUR FOOTPRINTS



13 STATES

**31 FELLOWS AND
121 KARYAKARTAS**

**7361 VILLAGES AND
250 URBAN CLUSTERS**

**6.8 LAKH FAMILIES AND
34 LAKH PEOPLE.**

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THE YEAR THAT WENT BY

In 2022-23, SRUTI embarked on a rejuvenated journey with renewed enthusiasm and a collective commitment to its mission. The organization's integration of constitutional values into the SRUTI Fellowship Programme marked a significant step towards celebrating, internalizing, and implementing the Indian Constitution's principles. This approach fostered collective learning, the sharing of experiences, and collaborative activities, reinforcing SRUTI's dedication to empowering vulnerable and marginalized communities nationwide, as well as supporting Sangathans in their diverse initiatives.

The year saw a heightened focus on youth engagement, leadership development, and capacity-building initiatives. Following nearly two years of online and offline interactions in the post-COVID period, the School for Social Change (SSC) initiative resumed its activities. The Hindi-regional school attracted 45 participants spanning ages from 17 to 60, with 80% comprising young Karyakartas and Sangathan volunteers. These individuals also played essential roles in contributing to the Yuvaniya magazine. SSC training programs extended to regions like Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra, emphasizing the importance of nurturing leadership qualities and building confidence among adolescent girls and women.

Throughout the year, SRUTI organised a wide range of activities, campaigns, conventions, and discussions to commemorate various occasions including Republic Day,

International Labour Day, International Women's Day, and World Environment Day. The fellow groups also celebrated the birthdays and anniversaries of influential figures such as Mahatma Gandhi, Birsa Munda, Babasaheb Ambedkar, and others, fostering solidarity, awareness, and focused action at the community and regional levels. Collaborations with government departments and ministries, along with participation in national and state-level consultations and learning events, remained vital components of SRUTI's work and that of its Fellows.

The year 2022-23 placed significant emphasis on taking the Constitution's rights, values and duties to a broader audience. Cultural expressions within communities took centre stage, with music, songs, and dance playing a prominent role in SRUTI's activities, from musical Fridays to cultural evenings and beyond. Other forms of artistic expression, such as theatre, film festivals, painting, debate competitions, sports events, and community libraries, also experienced renewed interest within the wider community.

As SRUTI enters its 40th year, it does so with a sense of wholeness and purpose. The organization's efforts throughout the year were directed towards strengthening grassroots associations, prioritizing community needs, and fostering unity and solidarity. SRUTI continues to evolve and learn, driven by the love and vision of its Fellow groups, as it strives to positively impact society and the nation as a whole.

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SOME GLIMPSES OF THE YEAR

School for Social Change



Sathi
Milan



Chalo Geet Gaayein



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SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (SSC)

School for Social Change initiative involves an innovative approach of perspective building of young volunteers in the working areas of SRUTI Fellows. After a gap of 2 years, SSC finally resumed with great vigour and zeal in 2022. The Hindi-Regional School convened five shivirs for its batch of 42 participants hailing from 11 states (Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, HP, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and UP).

The camps relied extensively on group discussions, presentations, film/documentary screening, games, role plays, and theatre to engage participants through different subjects. A USP of the residential workshops has been the bonding and learning exchange opportunities these shivirs hold for youth hailing from different geographies and communities. Some of the skills imparted in the process of sowing seeds of critical, articulated and scientific thinking and rationality include improved presentation of one's thoughts and inherent values, the ability to rationally observe instead of merely accepting things at face value, and collaborative engagement with developments around...



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SRUTI SATHI MILAN - ANNUAL FELLOWS' MEET, 2022-23

Held at Dehradun from 20-23 November. The theme this year was focussed towards strengthening the grassroots organisations (Sangathans) and discussing effective ways of youth engagement. SRUTI Fellows from Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, HP, Jharkhand, Kashmir, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, TN, Uttarakhand, and UP.

Sharing stories of the Sangathan building, including the inspiration behind it, challenges, learnings, and success stories. was a key highlight of the Annual Meet.

It proved to be a successful platform for young SRUTI Fellows to learn from the organisational and individual journeys shared by the experienced SRUTI Fellows. The event also helped to encourage teamwork, strategic thinking, and effective ways of youth engagement among the participants. The activities were designed to facilitate cross-learning among the SRUTI Fellows and Sangathans.



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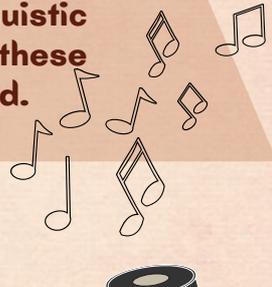
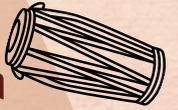
CHALO GEET GAAYEIN



A vibrant three-day music workshop, Chalo Geet Gayein, was held from 14 to 16 March 2023 in Jhiri village, Jhalawar district, Rajasthan. Around 70 participants from 10 different states, including Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, TN, Uttarakhand and UP partook in the workshop.

The workshop was designed to recall, reinstate and revive such cultural expressions that have been the most significant tools of the Sangathans in their journeys of 'Sangharsh and Nirman'. Keeping camaraderie and collectivism as the cornerstone, the three days involved familiarising with each other, regional musical performances, and creating songs and music in the respective languages of the participants.

This exercise demonstrated the power of music to transcend linguistic and cultural barriers, uniting people through a shared vision and message. The music at the workshop was composed with folk musical instruments, performed collectively, and recorded. The incorporation of multiple languages into a single composition enabled participants to gain a deeper appreciation for the linguistic and cultural diversity of our country. The workshop sought to blend these languages seamlessly, resulting in a unique, multi-layered, and emotive sound.



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**SRUTI
THEMES**

**LABOUR RIGHTS,
LAND RIGHTS
RECOGNITION,
AND SOCIAL
SECURITY**

**PANCHAYATI RAJ
INSTITUTIONS
AND
GOVERNANCE**

**FOREST RIGHTS
RECOGNITION
AND
CONSERVATION**

**CONSTITUTIONAL
VALUES**

**EDUCATION
AND YOUTH
LEADERSHIP
BUILDING**

**AGRICULTURE
AND
LIVELIHOOD**

**GENDER, CASTE,
AND
SOCIAL
INCLUSION**

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CONSTITUTIONAL VALUES



Strengthening work and perspectives around constitutional values continued to be one of the central themes of SRUTI and its Fellow groups. Engaging in dialogue with children, women, students, youth, Dalit, Adivasi, and other marginalised communities, participatory activities like the children's fairs, mobile libraries, and sports have been organised across the areas of various Fellows.

- 1100 village-level meetings; 5 state-level workshops (MP, Uttarakhand, HP, Odisha and UP) were organised.
- A National-level workshop (in Delhi) was organised on the values of the Constitution.
- A campaign called 'Har Ghar Samvidhan' was organised in Jaunpur (Uttar Pradesh) to build awareness of constitutional values.
- 'Ghumantu Pustakalay' (mobile libraries) was organised in Jharkhand to engage school and college students on the Constitution.
- 09 modules based on values enshrined in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution were prepared in Hindi and English
- Awareness programmes promoting concepts of 'dignity of life' and 'equal opportunities for all' were also initiated.



Fraternity and Solidarity in Sports: Lessons from Aman Trophy Football Tournament, Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh)



- Sports provide a platform for individuals to showcase their talents, build their confidence, and develop a sense of identity and belonging.
- Sports have the unique ability to bring people together, especially among marginalised communities.
- It can bring attention to the issues faced by them by raising awareness and promoting social change while fostering a sense of community and support.
- A football tournament - Aman Trophy was organized by SRUTI and Awadh People's Forum at Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- It aimed to spread the message of peace and harmony in society while promoting a sense of fraternity among the youth.
- Attracting over 150 players under the age of 16, the two-month event served as a powerful platform to instil constitutional values and spread the message of unity, diversity, and equality, touching the lives of over 2000 individuals.

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SECURING ACCESS AND OWNERSHIP OVER TRADITIONAL FORESTS

Tribal Settlements Regain Access to their traditional Forest Resources, Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu)

- After years of efforts, 13 tribal settlements, located in the Pilloor and Palamalai forests of the Coimbatore district, have received community forest rights (CFRs). A comprehensive and long collective process was undertaken here, through various activities such as surveying the areas, holding regular Gram Sabha meetings, managing disputes, etc.
- Rights recognition has resulted in Gram Sabhas regaining power and getting access to 29 temples and 03 traditional burial grounds, apart from securing livelihood through collecting minor forest produce such as arappu, honey, tamarind, broom-making grass, shikkakai, kadukkai, pochakai, and mango.



Recognition of Tenurial Rights: A Trailblazing Example from the Kanker Ghati National Park, Bastar (Chhattisgarh)

- With efforts from local groups, the state of Chhattisgarh and its concerned departments involved in the implementation of the FRA 2006 have from time to time facilitated and supported communities in new initiatives. 29 households located in Gudiyapadar, a small hamlet inside the Kanker Ghati National Park in Chhattisgarh's Bastar, constitute one such pioneering example. They have received CFRR entitlements for a forest area spread across 403 hectares, divided into four reserved forest compartments.
- This hamlet has become the first village with recognised CFRR titles inside a national park. Chhattisgarh became the second such state to facilitate this important process by ensuring claims to their land and placing resource rights in the hands of the Gram Sabha.





WOMEN AND FOREST

Sustaining Livelihoods and Rejoicing with Nature, Munsiyari (Uttarakhand)

The Fellow group working in Munsiyari block of Pithoragarh district has been working resolutely towards establishing creative and innovative livelihood activities in the region. They have initiated activities to protect and promote their traditional and local knowledge systems and practices. Throughout the year the group actively organised several workshops, training and cultural activities to engage with the locals and tourists.

Reinforcing the need for responsible ecotourism

In the annual Himal Kalasutra Utsav, the group brought together a visual gallery on themes like relationship with natural resources, building a scientific temperament, pollution and waste management, nature and children, traditional and cultural practices of the communities, and flora and fauna and its rejuvenation taken up by the group.



Engagement with a larger audience

- Birdwatching festival: Engaged 142 students and teachers engaged from 7 schools in 35 villages.
- Conducted butterfly and moth observing workshops with students.
- 4,700 saplings were planted across the working area during the Harela festival.



ENGAGEMENT WITH WOMEN: Understanding the importance of engaging women, the leadership group has promoted livelihood opportunities by running homestays and local eateries for the last several years.



- Engaged more than 150 women in vegetable farming and wool production.
- Women run the shops where both produce and products (handicrafts, shawls, Pahadi topi, etc.) are sold.
- 172 farmer and weaver families has successfully sold agricultural produce worth Rs. 48,000 and woolen products worth Rs. 4,48,000 online.

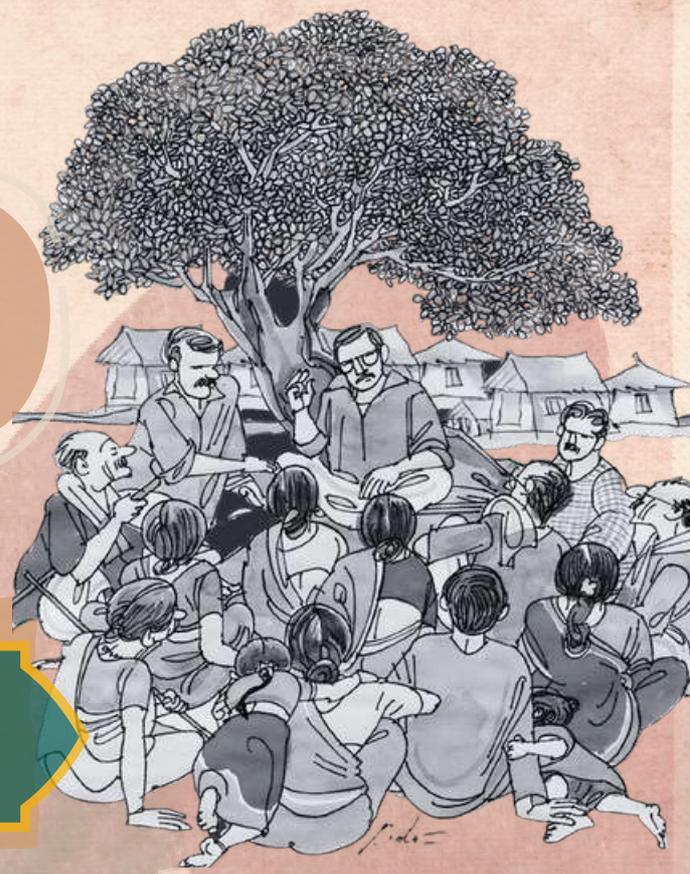
Promotion of Constitutional Values through Tele- Help portal



The group has initiated a unique Tele-Help portal: using keypad mobiles, where women can connect to the portal to gain awareness about the rights, acts, laws, and welfare schemes concerning them.



**123 GRAM SABHAS HAVE FORMED
COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEES (CFMCS)**



**SECURED RECOGNITION OVER 196332.73
HECTARES OF FOREST LAND UNDER THE
268 CFRS RECEIVE**

**1,100 RAGPICKERS
IN DELHI WERE ASSISTED IN
OBTAINING THEIR E-SHRAM
CARDS.**



**LABOUR WELFARE BOARD
ISSUED 1,000 LABOUR CARDS,
ENSURING IMPROVED BENEFITS
FOR WORKERS.**



**12,311 READERS FOR
YUVANIYA MAGAZINE**

**ARTICLES FROM
140 YOUTH
ACROSS THE COUNTRY**



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Gender sensitization through Art and Activism

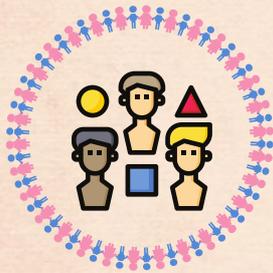


16-day campaign, DYAF, Delhi

The Delhi Young Artist Forum (DYAF) hosted a 16-day campaign against gender discrimination in Bhalaswa and Bawana, the resettled colonies in Delhi. The campaign was designed from 25 November to 10 December 2022. It included various activities, aimed to raise awareness about the different types of gender discrimination faced by women and promote gender equality.

AWARENESS MEETINGS

Public meetings focussing on educating people about the different forms of gender discrimination, such as gender-based violence, workplace discrimination, and limited access to education and healthcare.



PERSPECTIVE BUILDING

It encouraged participants to view gender equality from different perspectives, including those of men and children, and understand the impact of gender discrimination on society.

CAPACITY BUILDING

This workshop includes leadership skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship. Aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of women they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives.



FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Provided a platform for women to share their experiences of discrimination and ideas for overcoming it, resulting in building their confidence and creating a support network.

The campaign had a significant impact, helping the community women to empower with skills and knowledge and to build a strong community of activists and advocates who are committed to promoting gender equality.

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Empowering the migrant community

Samudayik Adhikar Kendra (Malanpur, Madhya Pradesh)

SRUTI Fellows in Gwalior and Shivpuri worked closely for the rescue and transit of migrant laborers during Covid-19. Drawing from the learnings and experiences of that work, the Fellows decided to expand their scope of work by establishing Samudayik Adhikar Kendra (Community rights centre) in the Malanpur area, near Gwalior.

The team extends support to avail basic entitlements such as Aadhaar, PAN, e-Shram, Ayushman Bharat, and Provident Fund. All support extended to the beneficiaries is done free of cost. Depending upon the need/s of an applicant, the team members also assist them in the offices of government departments. Awareness, information, and application for government schemes are also facilitated by the team members and regular follow-ups are ensured.



1,200 families have been assisted to avail their government documents and welfare schemes by working in tandem with local PRI representatives.



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EDUCATION & YOUTH LEADERSHIP

A total of 700 meetings and training sessions were organised in 12 states, 550 at the village level, 147 at the regional level, and 3 at the state level. These meetings were focused on the topic "Education and Youth Leadership". Through these activities, close to 20,000 youths were reached and engaged.

PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTION

SRUTI Fellows undertook sustained initiatives to organize outreach activities that promote effective and accountable working of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in their respective working areas. Through meetings and workshops, attempts were made to enhance community participation, foster transparency, and advocate for the rights and welfare at the grassroots level. Like in Bhalugaad (Nainital), through strong PRI liaising, 3 Van Panchayats in Uttarakhand are now managing an eco-tourism spot and the revenue generated from this initiative is being used by the Panchayat for their local development.

A total of 200 meetings/trainings took place this year. Of these, 180 were conducted at the village level, 18 at the regional level, and 2 at the state level. The meetings successfully reached out to a total of 8,440 individuals.

AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOOD

SRUTI Fellow groups consistently strive to promote and actualise the concept of 'Sangharsh and Nirman' (Struggle and Development) within communities. They extend support to forest-based livelihoods and agrarian communities while emphasising on preservation and promotion of traditional and local knowledge systems. They actively work towards the development of creative and innovative livelihood opportunities, including ecotourism and organic farming. Fellow groups conduct training programmes and workshops for communities that focus on traditional as well as non-conventional methods of agriculture-based livelihoods.

A total of 500 meetings and training sessions aimed at creating awareness and providing guidance have been organised. 375 meetings took place at the village level, 120 at the regional level, and 5 at the state level, covering a wide range of stakeholders.

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SNAPSHOTS FROM 2022-23



SRUTI



Years of



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New Delhi - 110016**

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