THE PULSE OF YOUNG INDIA

Voice of Youth from grassroot

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25 YEARS OF INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE
CYDA The Pulse of YOUNG India
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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Youth from CYDA leading recovery efforts in Wayanad after devastating landslides
- CYDA Youth helps Transgender Identity Registration Camp
- LGBTQIA+ youth provide vital support to Transgender Community
- Micro businesses and LGBTQIA+ Youth
- Youth brings Awareness on LGBTQIA+ community to promote inclusivity

STORY OF THE MONTH:

Youth from CYDA leading recovery efforts in Wayanad after devastating landslides"

Wayanad, Kerala – In July/August 2024 the aftermath of the landslide in Wayanad, a dedicated relief effort led by CYDA youth is bringing hope to affected families. They provided 500 pairs of gumboots to the Mullankolly and Pulpally Panchayats, helping residents navigate the challenging muddy terrain with greater safety and ease.

In addition to the gumboots, 100 tarpaulins have been distributed, offering much-needed shelter and protection during this critical time. Four families expressed their gratitude upon receiving essential kitchen utensils and groceries, underscoring the importance of community support in rebuilding lives. Father David, a local leader, voiced deep appreciation for CYDA's unwavering assistance to both panchayats. He highlighted that since the landslide, CYDA extended aid, to seven panchayats providing essential items like gumboots and various relief materials. The Panchayat President and members present at the distribution event emphasized their deep appreciation for CYDA's commitment, especially youth on ground. The women who received the gumboots, all actively involved in clean-up efforts in the flood and landslide-affected villages, grateful of this assistance. Panchayat members noted that while many organizations have come and gone since the landslide, CYDA remains a steadfast presence. They stressed that CYDA's ongoing support during this disaster showcases genuine care and commitment to the affected communities, fostering a sense of resilience and hope in these trying times.





CYDA Youth Helps Rebuild Lives: Journey from Adversity to Opportunity



At just 30 years old, Mr. Ravikumar's journey from Bihar to Wayanad was filled with dreams of a better life for his family. A few years ago, he made the brave decision to migrate, seeking new opportunities in Wayanad. But unfortunately, a devastating landslide disrupted everything he had worked for, turning his family's life upside down. Mr. Ravikumar felt a lot of emotional pain as he dealt with the losses and uncertainty they faced. With heartfelt gratitude, he shared how CYDA stepped in to support him during this challenging time. "They helped me secure a job as a gardener at WIMS Management Hospital here in Wayanad," he said, his eyes shining with relief and happiness. This opportunity not only provided Mr. Ravikumar with a stable income but also allowed him to rebuild his family's life and regain a sense of purpose.

Tragedy Strikes Migrant Families from Bihar: Youth from CYDA reaches to support

A tragic event has deeply affected the lives of four migrants from Bihar, as it resulted in the deaths of two people. While the bodies of Ms. Ful Kumari Devi and Mr. Bijaneshiya Paswan were recovered, two others remain missing, leaving their families in a state of uncertainty and grief.

CYDA held meetings with key officials such as the Meppadi Panchayat President, the District Disaster Management Authority, and the District Magistrate for availing death certificates for the two deceased migrants. Thanks to the efforts of Advocate Ms. Joyce and Fr. Sunny, for supporting the initiative. The migrants faced severe financial difficulties, reportedly lacking even the means to afford bus fare. Aware of their dire circumstances, CYDA stepped in to provide 20 days' worth of rations and vegetables. However, it became evident that the families also required urgent financial assistance. The CYDA youth engaged in intensive discussions with the government to secure compensation for the families of deceased migrants. Thanks to this collaboration, the families received Rs. 8 lakhs, providing them with much-needed relief. This incident shows the difficulties, migrant workers face and the need for quick help during tragic times. CYDA's sincere gratitude to Persistent Foundation, Shreyas for the unwavering support in these challenging times.





After the landslide in Wayanad, CYDA supported the people with essential aid and in collaboration with Kerala Government, Ms.Joyce and Fr.Sunny, a secured job was provided for Mr. Ravikumar, also Rs. 8 lakhs in compensation for the deceased. Local leaders praised CYDA's commitment to recovery.

CYDA Youth helps Transgender Identity Registration Camp

A series of successful Transgender Identity Registration and Certificate Distribution Camps were held at Rainbow Katta in Pune on 23 July, 23 & 31 August, and 24 September. In a significant step towards inclusivity and empowerment, Centre for Youth Development and Activities, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, launched an initiative by providing legal recognition to transgender individuals. Over the course of the camps, participants received guidance on form filling and document verification, through youth, enabling them to access essential government schemes and social services. Dignitaries from CYDA and the Social Welfare Department highlighted the significance of legal recognition for fostering social inclusion and empowerment within the transgender community. CYDA's youth also featured counselling sessions that emphasized the importance of obtaining a Transgender ID, while follow-up mechanisms were established to ensure timely distribution of the IDs. The September event was particularly poignant, showcasing rainbow-colored umbrellas as symbols of unity and protection, and allowing participants to share powerful testimonials about how receiving their IDs transformed their lives.





This youth initiative had a profound emotional impact on many attendees, instilling a renewed confidence and enabling them to pursue benefits that were previously out of reach. With this legal recognition, the 110 individuals can now improve their access to healthcare, legal rights, and social services, fostering a greater sense of empowerment and inclusion within the community. These efforts mark a significant step towards improving the lives of transgender individuals in Pune, paving the way for a more inclusive society. After receiving their third-gender identification cards, members of the transgender community shared their heartfelt reactions:

Karishma said - "Having this ID is like finally being recognized for who I truly am. It's not just a piece of paper; it's a symbol of my identity."

Sangrama said - "This card empowers me. I no longer need to explain myself to others. My identity is officially acknowledged."

Mallika said - "Now that I have this ID, I feel more confident in accessing services and benefits that were previously difficult for me due to my gender identity."

Rozi said - "This identification gives me a voice. For the first time, I feel like I have proof of my existence in society."

Transgender Identity Registration Camps at Rainbow Katta in Pune granted legal recognition to transgender individuals, improving access to government services. This initiative allowed 110 attendees to share their experiences with third-gender IDs and promote inclusivity and hope.

LGBTQIA+ youth provide vital support to Transgender Community



Pune: On 26 July, CYDA's Rainbow Katta Initiative successfully brought over 30 individuals from the transgender community under one roof, in response to the heavy rainfall that severely affected the areas of Yerwada, Vishrantwadi, and Hadapsar. This highlighted the crucial significance of supporting marginalized communities during times of crisis. Participants received immediate relief in the form of essential items, including 30 blankets, mats and dry snacks, to help them cope with the aftermath of the flooding. CYDA volunteers were on hand to assess the damage and provide assistance with rebuilding efforts, ensuring that the community received the support they urgently needed. It provided them with a renewed sense of hope and solidarity. This initiative underscores the importance of community support and collaboration in addressing the needs of marginalized groups, fostering a spirit of inclusivity and resilience in the face of adversity.

Voices from ground

• "With the help of the CYDA organization, we found a starting point, which provided us some relief during this tough time."

• "The actions of the helpers have lifted a significant burden off our shoulders, allowing us to focus on our needs."

• "Receiving mats, blankets, and dry snacks has brought a little light into our lives. It has given us some comfort."



Pune: On 26 July, CYDA's Rainbow Katta Initiative gathered over 30 transgender individuals after heavy rainfall in Yerwada, Vishrantwadi, and Hadapsar. They received essential relief items like blankets and snacks, while volunteers assessed damage and aided rebuilding efforts.

Micro businesses and LGBTQIA+ Youth

Pune: The Entrepreneurship Development Program for the LGBTQIA+ Community," held on 25 & 26 July and 30 & 31 August, successfully equipped 51 individuals with vital entrepreneurial skills and information. This initiative, organized in partnership with local government officials, community members and diverse stakeholders, sought to empower LGBTQIA+ individuals to pursue their entrepreneurial goals and succeed in their business endeavours. Participants engaged in a comprehensive curriculum that covered essential topics like legal documentation, financial literacy, digital literacy, business ideation, market research, and effective communication strategies. The program featured practical sessions on SWOT analysis, marketing strategies, digital payments, and available business support programs, equipping attendees with vital tools to navigate the entrepreneurial landscape. They also gained valuable skills in financial management, including cash flow monitoring and profit calculations, enhancing their overall understanding of business operations.
Each participant received a certificate of completion, highlighting their achievement in the program. The attendees departed feeling empowered and equipped with the skills necessary to begin their entrepreneurial journeys.





Local government representative said - "This initiative underscores the importance of fostering inclusivity and providing marginalized communities with the resources they need to thrive"
As the LGBTQIA+ community continues to gain support, programs like this play a crucial role in promoting economic empowerment and inclusivity, paving the way for a more equitable future.
Siddhi said – "The CYDA training gave us valuable insights on starting and succeeding in our own businesses. The CYDA team also emphasized that both men and women can thrive, reminding us that we all are capable. The teachings on efficiency and professionalism, even with limited resources, were truly empowering. The unique challenges faced by our third-gender community, were also addressed encouraging us to create our own identities and move beyond just survival. I am sincerely grateful to CYDA for their wonderful support and guidance.

Pune: The Entrepreneurship Development Program for the LGBTQIA+ Community, held on 25 & 26 July and 30 & 31 August, equipped 51 individuals with essential business skills. Participants learned legal documentation, financial literacy, and marketing strategies to empower their entrepreneurial journeys.

Youth brings Awareness on LGBTQIA+ community to promote inclusivity

On 5 September, an awareness workshop was held at the Social Welfare Office Hall, Pune for 72 participants from various government sectors. The event featured prominent dignitaries, including Ms. Manasvi, a respected transgender leader, CYDA staff and representatives from

the Department of Social Welfare, The workshop served as an important platform for discussing the challenges faced by transgender individuals, such as social stigma, legal recognition, and mental health issues. Ms. Manasvi led engaging discussions that clarified critical distinctions between sex, gender, and sexuality, underscoring the importance of understanding and respecting diversity in creating a fair and inclusive society.

Organized by CYDA, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, the event aimed to deepen the understanding of the LGBTQIA+ community among government employees and promote inclusivity in policy-making. The outcome of the workshop marked a positive step toward fostering a more inclusive approach among government stakeholders, with plans for ongoing workshops and training sessions in the future. This initiative highlights the commitment to ongoing collaboration between government agencies and community organizations to ensure a supportive environment for all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Dhanashree Vijay Kamath, Female Police Constable, Pune City said - Today's session was insightful and highlighted the potential for fostering understanding and reversing gender biases. It reminded us, that true progress occurs when everyone works together—just as one hand cannot move forward without the other. The discussion on gender differences, aptly described as a "gender shower," was thought-provoking and delivered with clarity. There is no shame or discomfort in engaging with such conversations; instead, they offer valuable perspectives. The explanation of gender distinctions was excellent. Best wishes for your continued success and progress!





On 5 September, an awareness workshop at the Social Welfare Office Hall in Pune gathered 72 government participants to discuss challenges faced by transgender individuals. Led by Ms. Manasvi, the event aimed to enhance understanding of the LGBTQIA+ community and promote inclusivity in policies.

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