







LIGHTHOUSE COMMUNITIES

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY YOUTH NETWORK
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GOYN Youth Success Stories



Being A Life Saver

Few days back Tanuja proudly shared over the phone, “I am now a first generation college graduate.” She has been applying for jobs and using her time to build her skills during the free hours during the day. In the evening, she gets busy with her tuition classes which she conducts for the children near her community.

“Do you see that crack on the wall? It came during the Pune flood.”, she shows as we sit and munch chips and sip tea. She lives with her younger sister, younger brother and her parents.

When Tanuja completed her CPR (CPR, or cardio pulmonary resuscitation, is a manual procedure that provides oxygen to the brain and heart when breathing or heartbeat stops) course, she wondered how she could take this life-saving skill to more people. This led her to run the project, “Be a Life Saver”. Every year, countless lives are lost worldwide simply because bystanders lack the ability to provide CPR to a person who has faced a sudden cardiac arrest.

To address this issue Tanuja ran her project in Pune. In this impactful project, she ran a first aid training initiative. She organised educational CPR demonstrations where participants received hands-on practice in this life-saving technique. Participants then engaged in practical sessions to master proper CPR techniques and first aid skills.

“Be a Life Saver” project impacted 127 youth in Dandekar Pool, Hadapsar, and Kharadi areas of Pune equipping them with essential life-saving skills. Her work has helped communities in being prepared to handle health emergencies.

Tanuja's message to the youth of the world is, "Create your own opportunities! No one will serve them to you on a silver plate."

In the future, Tanuja and her team of three plan to conduct CPR sessions for corporates and educational institutions.

In her free time, Tanuja likes to catch up on her sleep, read and spend time in nature.

Tanuja Kamble









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Vihaar Shaala: A space for critical thinking

As a student Poorva always wondered, “Why don’t the teachers like the questions students ask? Why does our education system value only the answers while disregarding the curiosity of the learners?”.

To address this issue, Poorva Pillai ran a project titled “Vihaar Shaala”. Vihaar Shaala is a space that encourages questions, which is the soul of critical thinking. Vihaar is a space for resistance and shaala means a school in Marathi. Its main objectives were to develop critical thinking skills in young people, raise awareness about gender and sexuality, and help them to understand how these concepts are relevant in their daily lives.

The activity-based model of the workshops ensured that the participants engage in hands-on learning experiences rather than just passively listening. Before conducting the workshops, Poorva and her team did an extensive reading of authors like bell hooks, Paolo Freire and B R Ambedkar. She also attended workshops on gender by experts from Lighthouse Communities Foundation.

Youth, especially those located in marginalised sections of society, often lack access to conversations about gender and sexuality. As a result, when they pursue higher education, these topics may be unfamiliar to them. This lack of exposure can contribute to feelings of exclusion and may be a factor in high dropout rates, among other reasons.

The project impacted 60 youth from Wanowrie Bazar, Gokhale Nagar and SB Road in Pune.

“Educate, Agitate, Organize!” is Poorva’s message to the youth of the world.

In the future, Poorva would like to run this project for a longer duration of 2-3 years.

During her free time, Poorva likes to dance and sing.

Poorva Pillai

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