



Report on LYF India programs 2008

LYF-India was successful in having a pan-India outreach in the first six months by working in three regions with regional partners. 269 young people were added to the LYF-India network through three local-level projects in a span on 3 months.

All activities on the chosen national theme of the year were supported by LYF-India and funded by FNSI were on the chosen national theme for the year: Citizenship Rights.

LYF-India conducted five workshops within a span of three months; the details of which are given below:

Brief Summary of programs:

Region	Cities	Partner Organisation	Title	Dates	Number of participants
East	Ranchi and Jamshedpur	Pratigya	"Am I an Active Citizen?" Seminars	8th November and 12th November	154
North	Delhi	Prabodh	"Are We Really Free?" seminar and "Youth in Governance" workshop	1-3 October and 30 November	55
South	Cochin	CPPR	All Kerala Intercollegiate RTI workshop	15-Nov-08	60

Key achievements:

- 269 sensitized young citizens.
- Foundation of Right to Information Club in Ranchi and Jamshedpur.
- Pratigya invited by 2 radio channels for talk on Right to Information and roles of youth in bringing about change.
- Good support and enthusiasm for LYF activities among the student community in many colleges namely Maharaja Agrasen College, Delhi; Karim City College, Jamshedpur; Women's College, Jamshedpur; St. Xavier's College, Ranchi; and Marwri College, Ranchi. LYF-India will be strengthening these networks in 2009.
- 6 participants committed to becoming volunteer and work for 6-8 hours per week with our partner organisation, Pratigya.
- 97% of the participants were keen for another round of similar kind of seminar

Achievements at the Organisation's end:

- **Time Management:** We finished almost all the sessions as per scheduled time.
- **Achieving Targets:** We nearly fulfilled all the targets especially in *terms of participation*; participation at the Jamshedpur seminar was above our target.
- **Session Design and Delivery:** Despite diversity in themes and resource persons, all partner organisations, with suggestions and feedback from LYF-India core group, delivered high-quality workshops which were appreciated by the participants and evaluators.
- **Media Coverage :** For many of our partners like Pratigya, the LYF-India workshops and seminars provided an opportunity to talk about youth related issues and liberal solutions

Key Areas of Improvement:

- **Selection instead of nomination:** Many participants were invited through nomination this time. However, next year, selection through screening of application forms may be preferred as it ensures better quality of participants. We propose to start the publicity and application procedure at least two months in advance to achieve the same.
- **Exposure during the seminar:** Since LYF-India is underway with the preparation of its marketing material, in the future we will try to ensure that
 - Invites and posters are dispatched on behalf of LYF-India
 - Banners follow uniform branding principles

- Brochures and seminar dockets can be made available to its participants and even to the press.
- **Follow up:** A detailed and customised follow up program is needed post-seminar; LYF-India will prepare a concrete list of resources and activities for the participants to choose from.
- **Innovation with Seminar Structure:** Basic liberalism workshops can be re-designed and elements like field trips, theatre and other performance-based activities can be included.

Key Learnings for 2009:

- a) **Focus on Campus-Related Issues:** We felt in seminars across different regions that a focus on campus-related issues would have helped concretise the message of the seminar and brought ideas to action. Although LYF-India is a platform we need to clearly articulate how interested participants actively contribute to the pool.
- b) **Use of Right to Information:** RTI can be proposed as powerful tool to make the system, including the college, accountable. Participants can be encouraged to be part of change.
- c) **Strong follow up mechanism** is needed along with some specific activities, space and membership policy for those who want to join our movement directly or indirectly.
- d) Dedicated seminars for a particular college work better and are easier to follow-up with than city-level seminars.
- e) **Unity amidst Diversity:** preferable way of organising its seminars. The manual can address the various phases viz. Pre-seminar, during the seminar and post-seminar. The need for this is felt as different organisations are at different learning curves and as an umbrella organisation we need to timelines and follow maintain a quality check at every stage.
- f) **Registration:** Getting registered as a trust will be an important step towards solving many logistical hiccups. **This will be our first priority in 2009.**

A word of acknowledgement for FNF:

FNF indeed has pioneered in establishing and supporting a unique organization like LYF-India which is taking its first steps. The entire team would like to thank FNF for its support.