

YF Diaries



YOUNGISTAAN
FOUNDATION.ORG
Transforming Lives

Five-Month Impact Report
April - August 2026



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Message from the Founder

For the first time, a few girls and boys from our Pathshala centres in urban slum communities have cleared their Class 10 examinations, becoming the first in their families to achieve this milestone.

In communities where early marriages were prevalent and school dropouts were a major concern, this is more than an educational achievement. It reminds us what consistent support, encouragement, and opportunity can make possible.

Stories like these make us feel that we are doing something right. They remind us why we started Youngistaan Foundation and why we must continue showing up, even when change takes time.

The last five months have been a journey of learning, challenges and meaningful progress. Across our programs, our teams, volunteers, and partners have continued working with communities to create opportunities, restore dignity, and build confidence.

“

I have always believed that social change is not just about delivering projects or achieving numbers. It is about people, their aspirations and the possibilities we can create together.

—Arun Daniel Yellamaty Kumar
Founder and Director, Youngistaan Foundation

”



Message from the Founder

As we continue to grow, our focus remains on strengthening our work, listening to communities and building partnerships that create lasting change.

I am grateful to our team, volunteers, partners, supporters and every person who has been part of this journey.

As you read through this report, I invite you to explore how you can be part of our work. We need more volunteers, corporate partners and donors to stand alongside us, support our initiatives and help us reach more communities. We have a lot more to do, and we cannot do it alone.

We still have a long way to go, but stories like these remind us that every small step matters.

Let us continue showing up, working together and creating change.

With gratitude,

Arun Daniel Yellamaty Kumar

Founder & Director

Youngistaan Foundation

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About Youngistaan Foundation

Youngistaan Foundation is one of India's largest grassroots NGOs, working to create meaningful change in the lives of underserved and disadvantaged communities.

Through its programs, the Foundation **addresses a wide range of social challenges**, including hunger, homelessness, poverty, livelihood insecurity, educational and gender inequality, menstrual and mental health, animal welfare, cyber safety, climate action and disaster response. It also works to build the capacity of young people and strengthen collaboration with public and private stakeholders.

Registered in 2014, Youngistaan Foundation **provides a platform for young people to come together, engage with socially conscious communities and contribute to collective action.** Its interventions align with nine **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, reflecting its commitment to creating more equitable, inclusive and sustainable communities.



Map of where Youngistaan Foundation works!



MISSION

To address key **social challenges through collaborative action, community-led solutions and youth engagement, enabling sustainable and inclusive development.** Youngistaan Foundation works to empower underserved communities while nurturing young people as responsible leaders who drive long-term social change.



VISION

To build a **compassionate and just society** where every individual, **regardless of background**, has the opportunity to thrive with dignity, access to opportunities and community support.

Our Partners So Far



Space Partner

wework
INDIA IMPACT

PROGRAM IMPACT

Explore how Youngistaan has created change in the last five months across four key areas



EDUCATION

Creating safe spaces and institutional capacity for children to learn, grow, and reach their potential.

[EXPLORE →](#)



GENDER AND HEALTH

Breaking menstrual health taboos and promoting safe, informed menstrual practices.

[EXPLORE →](#)



LIVELIHOOD & TRANSFORMERS

Restoring dignity, expanding opportunities, enabling self-reliance and taking a step towards zero hunger.

[EXPLORE →](#)



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strengthening communities and building more inclusive, resilient places.

[EXPLORE →](#)

Impact at a Glance

APRIL - AUGUST 2026

Five months of work, captured through the people reached, spaces strengthened and partnerships that made it possible.

EDUCATION

351

CHILDREN REACHED

across 3 Pathshala communities

146 children in Ambedkar Nagar

140 children in Guru Brahma Nagar

65 children in Guru Brahma Nagar, Street 3



GENDER AND HEALTH

628

GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED

through MHH awareness and engagement activities since January 2026*

10
INCINERATORS
INSTALLED
8 operational

77
SCHOOL TOILETS
REPAIRED

10
HYGIENE BOARDS
across 10 schools



LIVELIHOOD & TRANSFORMERS

910

FOOD PACKETS DISTRIBUTED

through Hunger Heroes

35
MEN SUPPORTED
through Transformers
20 at GHMC Men's Shelter Home, Begumpet
15 at Aman Vedika



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

6

VILLAGES REACHED
across 4 districts
through Bal Panchayat

CSR & EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING

795
EMPLOYEES
ENGAGED

2,385
VOLUNTEER HOURS



EDUCATION PROGRAM

where learning becomes a possibility

JUGNU | PATHSHALA

JUGNU

Jugnu is Youngistaan's integrated **early childhood education program** for children aged 2.5–8, creating safe, nurturing spaces through play-based and child-centred learning.



PLAY-BASED LEARNING

Learning through activities, exploration and creativity.



EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Supporting language, numeracy, social-emotional growth and school readiness.



STRONGER EDUCATORS

Building the capacity of teachers and anganwadi educators.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

April – August 2026

01 – Building Stronger Classrooms

Conducted capacity-building workshops for anganwadis and preschool teachers on children's assessment, observation and documentation.





02 – PLAY-BASED ASSESSMENT

Co-designed activity-based, play-oriented assessment for Nursery, LKG and UKG – **moving away from rote, test-based methods.**

03 – A NEW SPACE TO LEARN

Launched the **Ambedkar Nagar ECCE Center**, providing structured, **play-based early learning to children** (3 – 6 years) in an underserved community.



04 – FAMILIES AS PARTNERS

Helped organise **Graduation Day** at our partner school, celebrating children's learning journeys and strengthening parent-school relationships

Our Impact

- ✓ Teachers reported increased **confidence, motivation and leadership in their roles.**
- ✓ Increased **self-efficacy** was observed among participating teachers. Children showed **progress in social-emotional development and executive function skills.**
- ✓ Children **demonstrated progress** in age-appropriate school readiness skills.
- ✓ School leadership reported **increased confidence** in implementing school-based ECE activities.
- ✓ Anganwadi teachers **strengthened their understanding of storytelling, pre-numeracy, creativity, school readiness, child assessment and portfolio development** through demonstrations and hands-on practice.

In just six months, the Jugnu **Early Learning Program became a space for one young learner to grow** — strengthening his social-emotional development, language and literacy skills along the way.


“My son was very shy and timid, but now he mingles with others and even sings in front of them. He shares stories about school, his teachers and friends with me. His emotional resilience has improved so much. I give credit to his teachers for his overall development.”

-Parent

PATHSHALA

Youngistaan Pathshala creates **spaces** where children and adolescents **strengthen** foundational learning, develop life skills, build confidence and take an **active role** in their communities.



Overview

The quarter at **Youngistaan Pathshala** was shaped by learning, participation and growing ownership. As the new academic year began, children and adolescents came together to reflect on their experiences, identify what they wanted to learn, and help shape activities at their centres. This work was supported through collaborations with **Wipro, Azim Premji Foundation and ApniShala**, strengthening learning, life-skills and community-based engagement across the Pathshala centres.

Across the quarter, sessions combined **academic support**, reading and numeracy with social-emotional learning, life skills and leadership. Adolescent girls took on greater roles in community activities, while younger children continued building foundational learning skills.

Rohini found her way back!

At 18, Rohini is finding her way back to education. After leaving school in Class 9, she began working in housekeeping at ITC Kohinoor. On Sundays, she joined Youngistaan Pathshala, where she found a space to learn, connect with people her age, and explore new ideas.

The sessions reignited her desire to study. She applied for the Open Class 10 examination. And she cleared it.

Today, Rohini is working toward restarting the educational journey she once had to pause — carrying the confidence and values she found at Pathshala with her.

————— “ —————
“Pathshala gives me a chance to
learn things I don't usually get to
learn or talk about.” —Rohini

————— ” —————



Quarter in Motion – Highlights

01 – LEARNING EVERY DAY

Daily academic support and reading development continued across age groups, with adolescent girls also stepping up to support younger children.

03 – CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

A women's health session opened up conversations around menstrual hygiene, reproductive health, experiences and myths.

02 – A SPACE FOR GIRLS TO LEAD

Regular girls' club meetings gave adolescents space to discuss challenges, find solutions, and plan their next steps.

04 – TAKING THE LEAD IN THEIR COMMUNITY

Adolescents helped plan and conduct Independence Day events, raising concerns and sharing their learnings with the community.

05 – REFLECT. PLAN. MOVE FORWARD.

The team came together to review progress, reflect on the previous month and plan the next phase of Pathshala activities.



SUMMER CAMP 2026

A MONTH OF LEARNING. A MOMENT TO SHINE.

Throughout May, **children aged 3–19 came together for a month of learning, creativity and exploration through spoken English, theatre, dance, karate, financial literacy, menstrual health and social-awareness sessions.**

The month culminated in grand finales at Ambedkar Nagar and Gurubrahma Nagar, where children took the stage to showcase what they had learned through skits, dance performances and presentations.



170+

CHILDREN OF
FOUR SLUMS
PARTICIPATED IN
SUMMER CAMP

One adolescent girl even took the lead in presenting the Pathshala report to the community — a moment that reflected her growth in communication and self-confidence.

For many, the finale was more than a performance.

It became a space to overcome stage fear, build confidence and find their voice.



Impact and Outcomes



Cleared Open 10th Examination



"I'm very happy with Youngistaan's sessions. They keep children engaged in meaningful activities, and we've seen a positive change in their behaviour — they fight less and regularly attend tuition. As parents, we feel reassured knowing they are safe and learning good values."

- Parent



GENDER AND HEALTH PROGRAM

MENSTRUAL HEALTH & HYGIENE MANAGEMENT (MHM) | INCINERATORS |
WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



BREAKING THE TABOOS

For years, some adolescent girls in the community avoided entering the community shed during their periods. A deeply rooted menstrual taboo had made them believe that they should stay away from the space during menstruation.

Through Menstrual Health & Hygiene Management sessions, the girls began to understand menstruation as a natural process and started questioning these restrictions.

Gradually, some girls began entering the community shed even while menstruating – a small but meaningful shift that reflected growing confidence, reduced fear, and a greater sense of dignity and inclusion.



Overview of the Program

Youngistaan Foundation's **gender and health program** aims to **build safe spaces of dialogue and engage and empower adolescent girls at government schools, slums and orphanages.**

To prevent more girls from dropping out of school, Youngistaan Foundation visits various government and private schools, slums, orphanages, colleges and workplaces to **conduct sessions every weekend and spark crucial conversations on:**



Summary of the Quarter

The April–August quarter focused on strengthening the program through school washroom improvements, IEC material development, stakeholder consultations, and menstrual health and hygiene (MHM) activities.

A key highlight was the development of **program-specific IEC materials** aligned with **Government of India guidelines**, including a **handwashing song** designed to make hygiene practices more engaging for children.

Work also progressed on school washroom repairs and maintenance, including the **submission of a repair proposal to the Hyderabad DEO and development of Janitors' Checklists.**

The quarter also saw continued collaboration with key institutional and CSR partners, including **Telangana State Police, District Collectors, Altimetrik India Private Limited, UNICEF, and Synchrony**, supporting program implementation and outreach.



Highlights of the Quarter



1 MENSTRUAL HEALTH DAY

100+ participants. One open conversation.

In May, a Menstrual Health Day engagement at WeWork brought approximately **100 participants together** for dialogue around menstrual health and hygiene.



2 FROM INSTALLATION TO USE

10 INCINERATORS • 8 IN REGULAR USE

Ten incinerators have been installed across schools, with 8 currently operational and in regular use. Two of the functional units in Hyderabad are being operated by **Health Club Ambassadors**, strengthening student ownership of menstrual waste management.





Highlights of the Quarter



3 SAFER SPACES FOR GIRLS

WASHROOM IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETED

Girls' **washroom infrastructure improvements** across Hyderabad schools moved from repair planning to completion and installation of foam boards **focusing on cleaner, safer and more dignified sanitation facilities.**



4 MHM BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

268 GIRLS & WOMEN REACHED IN JULY-AUGUST

MHM sessions across communities created safe spaces to discuss **menstruation, puberty, menstrual hygiene, nutrition and common myths.** **July sessions reached 99 adolescent girls, while August sessions reached 169 girls and women across five locations.**

5 BUILDING THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROGRAM

TRAINING → CAPACITY → ACTION

The program strengthened its volunteer base through **gender training and MHM capacity-building**, including training two new volunteers on the MHM module. Sessions also expanded into areas such as child sexual abuse awareness, **reaching 55 girls.**





LIVELIHOOD AND TRANSFORMERS

HUNGER HEROES



A PLACE TO START AGAIN

For some people, a railway station is where a journey begins. For 35 men in Secunderabad, it had become where they lived.

Through *Transformers, Youngistaan*, with the support of the *Secunderabad Railway Police*, reached out to men living on the streets and helped them find a safer place to stay.

That intervention became a turning point for 35 men. *Twenty* were moved to the GHMC Men's Shelter Home in Begumpet, while *15* were supported at Aman Vedika.

A shelter cannot undo everything that came before it. But it can offer something that many people living on the streets have gone without for a long time – *a safe place to sleep, a little stability, and the chance to think about what comes next.*



Overview of the Program

Food security and livelihood are closely tied to dignity and well-being. Through Hunger Heroes and Transformers, Youngistaan works with people facing food insecurity and homelessness, combining immediate support with efforts to help individuals move towards greater stability.

Summary of the Quarter

Through Hunger Heroes, **cooked food was regularly distributed across communities in Hyderabad, including Secunderabad, Kukatpally, Mahadhipatnam, Ameerpet, Uppal, Tarnaka and ECIL.** The intervention also extended to **Begumpet Shelter Home**, where food distribution was accompanied by interaction and engagement with homeless individuals.

910 FOOD PACKETS

distributed through **Hunger Heroes**, April–August 2026





BAL PANCHAYAT

Community-Development Intervention



When Children lead the room

A girl stood before police inspectors and district officials in Madanpally and spoke, unscripted, about equality, while another sang a poem she'd written about Bal Panchayat. That's what Youngistaan Foundation built across six villages: a room where children's fear of speaking up turned into the confidence to demand change. In Upparpally, a child's words about broken drainage moved a District Collector to act that same day. In Navabpet, children who'd never named domestic violence out loud asked for toll-free police numbers and parent meetings on gender equality. Fourteen villages and children who walked in unheard walked out believed.



Overview

In April and May, **Youngistaan Foundation, in partnership with My Choices Foundation and the Women Safety Wing, took the Bal Panchayat initiative to 14 villages across 4 districts of Telangana**, bringing children, community members, and government stakeholders together to discuss issues affecting their everyday lives.

The sessions encouraged children to identify problems in their communities, discuss possible solutions and speak directly with people who could help address them. Conversations touched on education, safety, health, water, transport, gender equality and child protection. More than a program about teaching children how to participate, Bal Panchayat allowed them to actually participate: to raise a concern, suggest an idea and see where that conversation could lead.



ON THE GROUND

01 — 14 VILLAGES

Bal Panchayat sessions were conducted across six villages as part of the 99-Day Action Plan, bringing children's concerns into community-level conversations.

02 — CHILDREN SET THE AGENDA

Children identified issues they experience around them, from water shortages and unsafe roads to school access, child labour and gender inequality, and discussed what could be done about them.

03 — FROM CONCERNS TO CONVERSATIONS

Government officials, police representatives, Panchayat members, teachers and community stakeholders joined the sessions, giving children an opportunity to raise their concerns directly.

04 — CHILDREN PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

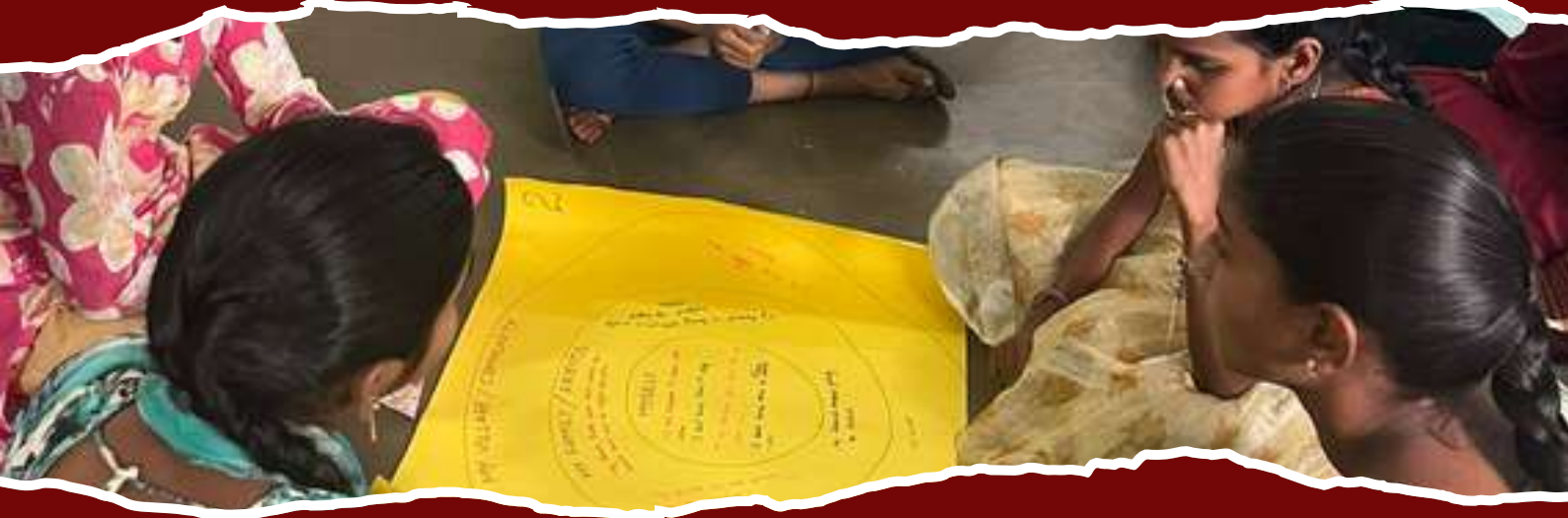
The discussions went beyond identifying problems. Children suggested practical solutions, including improving transport, addressing infrastructure issues, increasing awareness among parents and working with Panchayats.

05 — YOUNG PEOPLE STEPPING UP

The sessions saw children take on visible leadership roles — presenting ideas, speaking before officials and encouraging their peers to participate.



PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Through the Eyes of Volunteers



“ On a personal level, it has been a joy to witness children’s individual growth over the past year. It was a wonderful milestone to see Nitin begin to approach volunteers on his own initiative rather than waiting for us to start a conversation.

—Vyshnavi
Education Program Volunteer

“ I joined to learn more about women’s bodies and their stories. It is always easy to stay in the background, but I wanted to put myself out there. The impact is not always visible instantly, but building that impact gradually has made me patient and optimistic.

—Subasmitha
Gender and Health Program Volunteer



“ I went for food distribution in my first week of joining and I met an elderly person to whom we had just offered food. After a few minutes, he gave us ‘prasadam’ from his bag. This instance made me realise the joy of giving, even if you are running less on what you have to offer.

—Gokul
Food Program Volunteer

CSR and Employee Volunteering

From **classrooms and communities** to hands-on activities, our corporate partners brought their employees into the work on the ground. Across the quarter, **volunteers gave their time, skills, and energy** to support Youngistaan's programs.

795

employees engaged

2,385

volunteer hours



Financial Literacy Management kits



Mural Painting



Pad making



Educational Cards

Our Events

Annual Day

Youngistaan's Annual Day brought together the team, volunteers, and community members for an evening of reflection, appreciation and celebration. Held on 9 August 2026 at Mrugavani Resorts, the event also **featured an awards ceremony recognising individuals for their contributions and dedication to Youngistaan's work.**

RECOGNITION

Awards were presented to acknowledge the people who contributed to the Foundation's work and helped make its programs possible.



Independence Day

This Independence Day, the children from Youngistaan's community programmes came together to celebrate 15 August with their communities. From flag hoisting and cultural performances to songs, activities and celebrations, the day gave the children an opportunity to participate, express themselves and celebrate the spirit of the occasion together.

For the children, **it was more than a celebration** — it was a chance to come together, take part and make the day their own.





FUTURE ROADMAP

1

KEEP LEARNING

Strengthen foundational literacy, numeracy, academic support and life-skills learning across the Pathshala communities.

2

GROW YOUNG LEADERS

Build on adolescent girls' clubs and child-led activities, giving young people more opportunities to identify issues, make plans and take action.

3

EXPAND SDG CLUBS

Take the Youngistaan SDG Club model to more colleges, building a growing network of student-led cohorts working on the Sustainable Development Goals.

4

KEEP THE CONVERSATIONS GOING

Continue MHM, nutrition, gender, safety and life-skills conversations with children, adolescents and women.

5

LET COMMUNITIES SHAPE THE WORK

Continue creating opportunities for children and young people to identify what matters to them and have a say in the activities and interventions that affect their communities.

The next chapter is about creating more spaces to learn, lead, participate and make change together.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE STORY

Bloom is a collection of the people, moments and little changes that shaped this quarter.

None of this happens alone. To our community members, children, parents, volunteers, interns, partners, schools, colleges, government stakeholders and supporters – thank you for showing up, sharing your time, opening doors, asking questions and believing in the work.

To every child who raised their hand, every volunteer who gave their time, every partner who stood alongside us, and every person who helped make a session, event or intervention possible – this quarter belongs to you too.

Until the next chapter



Contact Us

For partnerships, volunteering, supporting our work or simply to know more, we would love to hear from you!



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