

THE NEW VOYAGE  
FULL OF ADVENTURES, FULL OF DISCOVERIES...



PUKAR

PARTNERS FOR URBAN KNOWLEDGE, ACTION AND RESEARCH (PUKAR)

ANNUAL REPORT

2014- 2015

## PUKAR's VISION

PUKAR aims to create a world class incubator for producing knowledge, ideas, and innovations about global cities. It recognizes the centrality of space of reflection, conversation and activism for fostering inclusive, sustainable cities. It aims to start a movement of Barefoot Researchers, the community based youth who use research as a tool for transforming developmental paradigm of urbanized, inter-dependent world to make it equitable, just and harmonious.



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# PARTNERS

*"I want to set an example in the entire Vaidu community, where only the men are given the power to make decisions. Breaking free from all the gender norms practiced in the community, I want to invest in a house for my family and do away with all the oppressive customs and traditions."*

Reshma Shirke,  
Barefoot Researcher 2013-2015,  
who undertook research on the Vaidu Community



## LOCAL

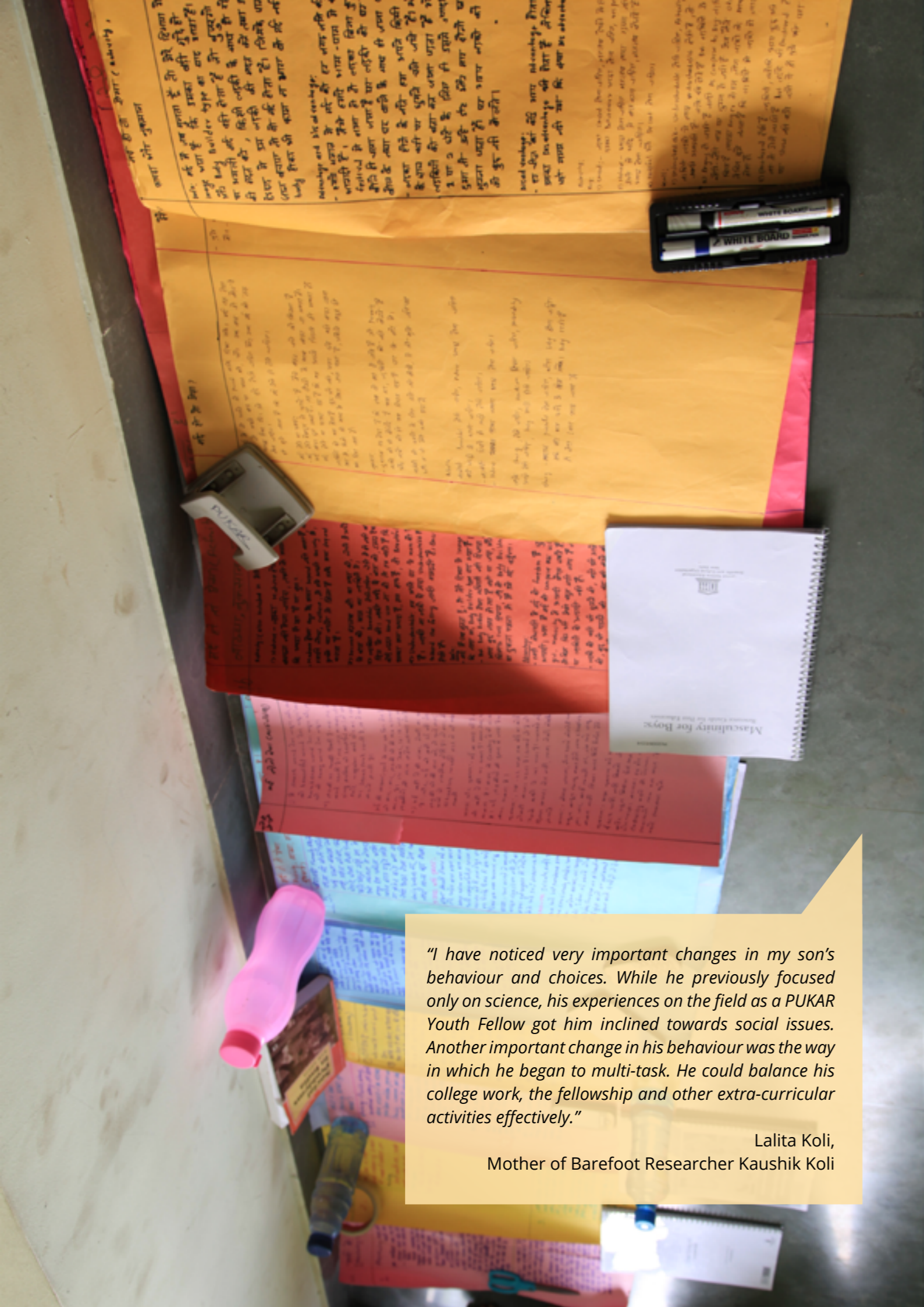
Arbour  
Centre for Policy Research  
Dr BMN College of Home Science, Mumbai  
Foundation for Medical Research  
GN Khalsa College, Mumbai  
Gunvati J Kapoor Medical Relief Charitable Foundation  
India Foundation for the Arts  
Indian Institute of Population Sciences  
Indian Institute of Technology- Bombay  
Jnananpravaha  
Majlis  
Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority  
Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation  
Sir Ratan Tata Trust  
Stree Bal Shakti  
Studio-X Mumbai  
St Xavier's College, Mumbai  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences  
Urban Development Research Institute  
Vasant J Sheth Memorial Foundation



## GLOBAL

BMW-Guggenheim Foundation  
Dalberg Development Advisors Private Limited  
Harvard School of Public Health  
Harvard Medical School  
India-China Institute  
India Development Service  
Indo-Dutch Programme on Alternative in Development  
Max Planck Institute of Religious and Ethnic Diversity  
National Institute of Health, USA  
New York University  
The Ford Foundation  
The Rockefeller Foundation  
University of Chicago  
Yale University





# THEMES

*"I have noticed very important changes in my son's behaviour and choices. While he previously focused only on science, his experiences on the field as a PUKAR Youth Fellow got him inclined towards social issues. Another important change in his behaviour was the way in which he began to multi-task. He could balance his college work, the fellowship and other extra-curricular activities effectively."*

Lalita Koli,  
Mother of Barefoot Researcher Kaushik Koli

From the glittering streets made up of high-rises to the tiny lanes dotted with zopadpattis, fancy cars racing past highways to commuters inching their way to the fourth seat in a Mumbai local, Mumbai is because you are.

It is here that huge amounts of food are dumped into the kachra dabba everyday, while the old woman living down the road takes refuge in starvation. It is also here that school education is a right for a few, while a privilege for many. The city is made up of contrasts, of stories, of rights and of entitlements.

Brimming with new ideas and fresh perspectives, over the past 13 years, PUKAR's body of work has helped re-explore the many contrasting realities in the nooks and corners of the city through the insider's lens. Hinged on the larger debates on urbanisation, PUKAR's Barefoot Researchers Movement has enabled hundreds of youth to become changemakers and leaders in their own communities and neighbourhoods.

Broadly, the organisation's work rests within the framework of the following themes:

- Youth and Urban Knowledge Production
- Urbanism: Spatial Utopia and Contested Realities
- Healthy Cities Wealthy Cities

In an attempt to touch the length and breadth of the city, PUKAR's multi-disciplinary projects and programmes have come to involve a range of traditional and non-traditional methods, positing research as a form of intervention.



*"Why do I try to convince students to apply for the opportunity to engage in an independent research venture? This is because I truly believe that PUKAR offers something unique which they cannot get from the current formal system of education. I have been witness to the growth of student participants as independent thinkers, and have seen the tremendous improvement in their communication skills, teamwork and leadership ability. Most importantly, PUKAR nourishes self-esteem and allows each participant to flourish as a unique individual."*

Dr. Mala Pandurang,  
Associate Professor and Head of Department of English,  
Dr. BMN College of Home Science

# YOUTH AND URBAN KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION

The Youth and Urban Knowledge Production theme encourages community based youth to create new urban knowledge. This process leads to democratizing the knowledge producer, knowledge ownership and helps creates a level playing field for the marginalized youth who become leaders of their communities.







# BAREFOOT RESEARCHERS FOR BETTER COMMUNITIES

SUPPORTED BY INDIA DEVELOPMENT SERVICE (IDS), CHICAGO

Garbed in their own thoughts, apprehensions and experiences, and carrying their aspirations-for-change on their sleeve, 32 keen and curious members were welcomed on board PUKAR's Barefoot Researchers for Better Communities journey in

August 2014. After braving the selection procedure that included in-depth interviews and discussions, the enthusiastic lot of budding researchers were the chosen few to partake in the programme. The year-long programme provided them a platform for a more nuanced understanding of their own realities through skill-based training and perspectives in a bid to prepare tomorrow's critical thinkers, community researchers, leaders and advocates for change.

It is the common desire to be a part of a similar transformative journey that has brought together a television actor, a sanitary inspector, a social worker and a street musician among others under one common roof this year. After much ideation, the Barefoot Researchers identified themselves by different names, reflecting the values and strengths of the group.

## **WORLD OF WOMEN (WOW):**

This group, comprising female students from Dr BMN College of Home Science set out to explore the challenges faced by students hailing from vernacular medium backgrounds when placed in the batch system in their college.

*"My individual process was very important for me and gave me an identity. I got a platform to express my views and show my potential. I got polished here and improved my listening skills. Also many misconceptions were cleared from my heart"*

- Zainab, Barefoot Researcher, World of Women (WOW) group



**SWAYAM:**

This group, comprising paraprofessionals trained in social work from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, studied the politics of stigma attached to spaces such as the red-light area in Mumbai, Kamathipura, and its consequences on the residents.

**SWARADHAR:**

This group, which already had been facilitating an orchestra for musicians on trains and streets, explored the notions of respectability and the ways in which performance is viewed as 'beggary' by others.

**PARIVARTAN:**

This group, comprising paraprofessionals trained in social work from Nirmala Niketan College of Social Work, studied the lived experiences of grassroots-level social workers and the parameters affecting their participation in different governance processes.

The first phase of the fellowship cycle focused on the development of skills and capacities. This was done through a series of workshops, discussions with resource persons, and peer and cross-disciplinary learning. The groups engaged

with literature related to their study and explored myriad debates related to the topics. The workshops also focused on enabling the youth to conduct data collection, which would form the very focus of the second phase of the cycle. Thus, the groups understood the multiple tools of data collection including interviews, focus group discussions, surveys, etc. Based on the context and nature of their own studies and the profile of the respondents, the groups customised the research design, preparing questionnaires and models for field work.

In the second phase of the cycle, the groups embarked on their data collection process in January 2015 based on their framed questionnaires, consent forms and other documents, keeping in mind the requirements of their specific research projects. They completed this process in March 2015. The efficacy of the communication and research tools and ethics workshops were seen in the way the teams successfully managed to establish a rapport with their target communities and obtain rich data from the field.

The groups will now engage with their data and attempt to fit their findings within a larger theoretical framework. They will document their findings in their research report and further on, use their findings and analysis for their dissemination activities. The fellowship cycle will come to a close in July 2015.

**IN NUMBERS:**

*Duration of the programme: One year*

*Number of fellows who completed the programme: 24*

*"The focus has never been to stick to any particular format, but instead to constantly invent and re-invent ways in which new spaces can be designed. The Youth Fellows also assume the role of leaders. It becomes essential to adopt tools and strategies for intervention, which thus, break down the power dynamic between the facilitator and the participant."*

- Sunil Gangavane,  
Facilitator, Parivartan Group



# YOUTH LEADERS AS CHANGEMAKERS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GUNVATI J KAPOOR MEDICAL RELIEF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION  
AND GN KHALSA COLLEGE, MATUNGA

For 30 students from Matunga’s GN Khalsa College, the practice of research has moved beyond the confines of their science laboratory. There is neither any fixed formulae nor any definite results to crack.

*“I learnt that there was a huge difference between ‘sex’ and ‘gender’ unlike what I had thought since my childhood. I hope to take along my learning and experiences from PUKAR wherever I go, and put my foot forward in teaching or correcting someone... as half the knowledge is worse than having none.”*

- Simran Kamboh,  
Barefoot Researcher (2014-15)

This cohort began its one-year-long youth fellowship journey in

August 2014 to engage with the city and its myriad neighbourhoods and communities to question, explore and understand existing realities. The fellows were divided into three groups and the research questions of all the three groups emerged from the ‘family’.

In the following weeks, a series of discussions and capacity-building workshops were facilitated by PUKAR’s Programme Facilitators with them. The larger focus of the workshops was on self-transformation, knowledge production (research skills) and active citizenship. Thus, right from self-reflection to communication skills, community mapping to developing a critical lens towards existing norms related to caste, religion, class and gender- the youth fellows went through a long process before and after they zeroed in on a topic for research.

The first phase of the fellowship cycle focused on developing and honing research data collection skills, and refining one’s own understanding of the social settings they inhabit. During this phase, the three groups decided their research topics.

The three groups and their topics have been elaborated below:

## SUNSHINE:

The group is attempting to study and document the process of acceptance by both, the family and the self, of people who identify themselves as transgenders in the city. In addition, they are extending the study to include the people belonging to the Kothi community. They are looking at the challenges that came along with the chosen identity: of abuse, of violence and of discrimination at home, college, school education, work places, and most often, even at police stations.

## YOUNG STARS:

The group is exploring the practices of discrimination playing out at households between sons and daughters. They are striving to bring to the table the themes of friendship, attire, household chores, mobility, freedom of expression, marriage, career and health.

*“Certain discriminatory processes existing in their own lives were not even acknowledged by the research group. The fact that mother’s household work is invariably substituted, by default, only by the daughters and never by the sons was accepted easily by everyone and not looked upon as discrimination. This is the result of institutionalization of that practice that is partly fostered by mothers, partly by the social customs and accepted by the sisters. I struggled hard to make the group see this ‘Normative’ practice as discrimination”*

- Dr Anita Patil-Deshmukh,  
Facilitator, Young Stars Group

## SHINE:

Drawing upon the individual experiences of two of its members, the group is attempting to understand the challenges and strengths that single parents faced in rearing their children in the city. Through the study, the group is exploring the idea of companionship, remarriage, socialization, monetary challenges as well as the process of decision-making under such circumstances.



In the second phase of the fellowship cycle, the group put to effect the skills they learned during the workshops, interactions with resource persons and insights gained through literature review. Using the survey forms and interview questions they had put together, the groups met with respondents to collect data. Based on the nature of their research, the groups opted for surveys, focus group discussions and/ or interviews. Based on the data collected, the groups began working on a framework for analysis and documentation and analysis. The fellowship cycle will end in July 2015 after the groups complete their planned dissemination activities.

**IN NUMBERS:**

*Duration of the programme: One year*

*Number of fellows who completed the programme: 19*



# BUILDING SLUM YOUTH LEADERSHIP: CHANGING COMMUNITIES

FUNDED BY INDIA URBAN YOUTH FUND AND IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH YOUTH MOVEMENT FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Armed with questions and the will to make a difference in their own slum neighbourhood, 30 youth hailing from different pockets of the city were welcomed for a year-long research fellowship programme in March 2014. PUKAR was the partner organisation, lending venue for workshops, resource personnel help and in addition, support to structure the programme.

The fellows were divided into three groups based on their community and neighbourhood affiliations. By the end of the fellowship programme, there were 17 dedicated youth, who were engaged in dissemination events to create awareness around their research topics.

After several rounds of discussions, the groups zeroed in on the following research topics, which highlighted the concerns and realities that they inhabited:

**MARD Being to HUMAN Being GROUP:**

Mainly comprising college-going students and young professionals, this group explored the various perceptions and ideas related to the construction of masculinity.

**REBELLION GROUP:**

Made up of young women from Mumbra's Rehnuma Library Centre, the group explored the taboos and perceptions related to menstruation in Mumbra. They also looked at the various practiced rituals.

*"Menstruation had always been treated like a curse, and all of us women, were considered to be 'impure' on the days of our period. We wanted to take the first step in challenging these taboos and beliefs. Unlike the religious justifications given to the various rituals so far, our research enabled us to address the factual reasons."*

- Rahenaz Sayed,  
Barefoot Researcher, YMAC, 2014-15





#### LALLUBHAI COMPOUND GROUP:

Having braved the various setbacks of rehabilitation, this group of young men explored the lived experiences and perceptions of the Project Affected Persons living in one of the city's largest rehabilitation colony, Lallubhai Compound.

In order to initiate more informed discussions on the subjects of research, workshops on communal harmony, sexuality, gender and governance were organised with resource persons. The groups then organised and engaged with existing literature on the topics. Based on interactions and literature review, the groups prepared their research design and stepped on the field to conduct interviews and focus group discussions. Alongside this process, the fellows also went through their own, independent self-transformational journeys. Several biases were overcome; new ideas emerged and with knowledge came confidence to express them.

“जैसे यूथ फेलोशिप में कहां जाता है की कोई सवाल या जवाब सही या गलत नहीं होता | उसी तरह हर सवाल का जवाब ढूंढना न सिर्फ उन युवाओं के लिए पर हमारे लिए भी चैलेंज हो जाता है | और ये उत्सुकता ही हमें इस प्रोसेस में उत्साहित बनाए रखती है |”

- Rohan Chavan,  
Facilitator,  
Lallubhai Compound Group

The three groups documented their findings in the form of a research report. Using their findings and analysis, chalked out both, on and off the field, the groups went back to their own communities and neighbourhoods to spread awareness and initiate dialogue. Thus, while the group of young women from Mumbra spearheaded a silent revolution, breaking the existing silences surrounding menstruation, the fellows from Lallubhai Compound are in the process of setting up their own organisation to address concerns related to rehabilitation even in other project sites in the city. The Masculinity Group on the other hand, has conducted awareness drives in colleges affiliated with the University of Mumbai.

Thus, as a programme, the research studies went back to where they initially began: Their own communities, their own neighbourhoods and their own everyday lives.

#### IN NUMBERS:

*Duration of the programme: One year*

*Number of fellows who completed the programme: 17*



# RESEARCH AS PEDAGOGY, ADVOCACY AND TRANSFORMATION

IN COLLABORATION WITH GANDHIAN STUDIES CENTRE OF  
DR. BMN COLLEGE OF HOME SCIENCE

Bridging the gap between a structured curriculum and an alternative pedagogical model, PUKAR forayed into the mainstream framework of learning by launching the two-credit course titled 'Research as Pedagogy, Advocacy and Transformation' in November 2014. It was an opportunity to cross over from outside the system and step into creating an alternative space within the system.

Backed by nine years of experiences and learning from the Youth Fellowship Programme, this course was an amalgamation of both, experiences on and off the classroom.

The course was launched with the objective of creating an alternative pedagogical model, where youth would be encouraged to ask questions that are relevant to their life and their community, and through the tool of Community Based Participatory Action Research (CBPAR), seek hands-on experience towards finding answers. Thirty-two girls enrolled for this course introduced in their second semester.

The first phase of the six-month programme, focussed on understanding various sites of social sciences research, the relevant tools of data collection, and the necessity of research ethics. Based on these new concepts, the students divided themselves into three groups and began formulating their research questions. As students of nutrition and dietetics, their areas of interest were closely linked to their fields of study.

*"We sat on the ground instead of benches, we formed a circle and talked to each other instead of standing in front of a blackboard and talking to students, we learned through discussions and movies instead of only textbooks, and in the end we documented our learning in a rather formal way. But the best part was that everyone took an active role in the process."*  
- Manasi Pinto,  
Programme Facilitator

The groups and their research studies were:

## TEENOVATORS:

The factors that influence the nutritional choices of the young women studying in Dr BMN College of Home Science.

## ROFLions:

The quest for identity of girls in sports.

## PIONEERS:

The restrictions placed on women by their families in the name of their safety.

Over the next few weeks, the groups were exposed to multiple research tools and methods including surveys, interviews and focus group discussions. Backed by the skills and tools, the groups went on ground to collect relevant information on neighbourhoods and communities that they were attempting to study. In March 2014, they began analyzing the collected data. Discussions with PUKAR facilitators pushed them to think about the multiple influencing factors beyond the bounds of a fixed curriculum. Accordingly, the students formulated the broader thematic that tied together their theoretical understanding and collected data. The course will be completed in July 2015 after the students submit and present their final research study.

## IN NUMBERS:

*Duration of the programme: Six months*

*Youth enrolled for the programme: 32*

*"Our communication skills improved, we learned to patiently listen to others and express our viewpoints clearly. In fact, we also learned to effectively manage time and conflicts."*

- Pooja Shirke,  
Barefoot Researcher, ROFLions Group





*"For Healthy Cities People must WANT to be healthy."*  
Dr. Nerges Mistry,  
Director, Foundation for Medical Research



# HEALTHY CITIES WEALTHY CITIES

The Healthy Cities Wealthy Cities rubric deals mostly with the social determinants of urban health and the health of the residents of informal settlements. Since the percentage of people living in informal settlements in the megacities is on the rise globally giving rise to urbanization and feminization of poverty, their health indicators are taking centrality of planning and governance issues.





# A PROTOTYPE FOR ACTIVE TUBERCULOSIS CASE FINDING IN MUMBAI: KAULA BANDAR

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH (FMR)

AND SUPPORTED BY VASANT J SHETH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

With narrow lanes and the houses standing on the very edge of the Wharf, Kaula Bandar, an unregistered urban slum with a population of approximately 10,000 to 15,000 people located on the eastern waterfront of Mumbai, is

*“Even as the locals were listening to us, the impact was not visible in numbers. Existing taboos, stigma and fear caused by TB coupled with temporary loss of livelihood meant that they weren’t going to the dispensary for a free chest X-ray.”*

- Tejal Shitole,  
Project Facilitator

always bustling with excess crowds, predominantly migrants. Factories and workshops are also located in the middle of this clutter. The houses, which are on an average, sized 8 feet by 10 feet, are poorly constructed and ventilated with an average of 5-6 residents occupying this space, thus giving rise to high density. On account of the insular nature of the Wharf, the entire neighbourhood is both, socially and spatially excluded. The living conditions, as a result, serve as a breeding ground for the rise in Tuberculosis bacteria.

Keeping in mind these social and geographical factors, in February 2014, the neighbourhood was selected for a Community-based Participatory Research and Action

project to develop a methodology for active case finding for TB in an urban community.

*“The first time I had studied the idea of social work and NGOs was in my textbook in Class 9. Since then, I had always wanted to work in one. In my case, I got the opportunity to convert my textbook lessons into real life work even before I got out of school...right at my doorstep.”*

- Mohamed Faisal Shaikh,  
PUKAR, Barefoot Researcher from Kaula Bandar



The project was undertaken in two phases:

**PHASE ONE:**

Starting in March 2014, the first phase focused on creating general awareness on the causes, symptoms and treatment of TB. PUKAR’s Barefoot Researchers in the neighbourhood were trained in the knowledge of TB, its spread and all the related issues. Community film screenings were organised by the Barefoot Researchers along the narrow lanes of the neighbourhood besides public spaces, private homes, etc. Following the film screenings, focus group discussions were organised with the locals to realise their understanding of TB. By helping organise and set up these events besides taking part in them, the Barefoot Researchers also strengthened their own knowledge and understanding of TB. This phase thus, helped them prepare for the community-based participatory research work that they further undertook in the second phase of the project. The first phase of the project came to an end in June 2014.

**PHASE TWO:**

Starting in December 2014, the focus of the second phase of the project for PUKAR was on training the Barefoot Researchers to undertake detailed household surveys to help detect chest symptomatics and refer them for a Chest X-ray in a local lab that had been identified by PUKAR. On account of the on-ground challenges faced by the locals in relation with the Mumbai Port Trust land development issue, the project was temporarily brought to a halt in the last week of January 2015. Several settlements were demolished by the governing authorities by naming them “illegal”.

The project work resumed in the last week of February 2015, and the Barefoot Researchers completed the data collection process in March 2015. The collected data will be submitted to FMR for analysis. Based on the collected data, PUKAR will set out on a more sustainable awareness drive in the final leg of the project. The project will draw to a close in April 2015.

**SILVER LINING:**

Three-year-old Ananya, a resident of Kaula Bandar was identified as having weight loss and persistent coughing when PUKAR’s Barefoot Researchers had undertaken the household survey. In a camp conducted by FMR, she took the Mantoux Skin Test, the results of which were positive. She was sent for a Chest X-ray and sputum test on an emergency basis. The test results confirmed the presence of TB bacteria. She began undergoing a six-month-long treatment at JJ Hospital for curing her condition. Her parents claimed that they would have never known about the magnitude of their daughter’s ill-health had the household survey not been conducted.

**IN NUMBERS:**

*Number of Barefoot Researchers trained: Around 30 including 22 local youth*

*Number of Community Events organised: 50*

*Number of locals reached out through Community Events: Around 1,250*





“पुकारमुळे मला जीवन जगण्याची एक नवी दिशा मिळाली, माझ्या व्यक्तिमत्वामध्ये चांगली भर पडली. मी समाजात बोलू शकतो. पुकारमुळे माझ्या गावात एक नवीन वातावरण निर्माण झाले. गावकऱ्यांना माहिती मिळू लागली त्यामुळे गावातील माणसे खूप खूश आहेत, पुकार विषयी आदर निर्माण झाला आहे माझ्या मते पुकार अशा प्रकारे देशाच्या प्रत्येक गावात पोहोचली पाहिजे.”

Rahul Patil,  
E-Sevak, Bahadoli Village, Palghar

# URBANISM: SPATIAL UTOPIA AND CONTESTED REALITIES

Urbanism, Spatial Utopia and Contested Realities rubric mostly deals with issues of spatial justice and distribution of resources. Projects under this theme have successfully brought in the voices of poor and the marginalized of the city thus creating an alternative debate about redevelopment process in the city. This has created new ideas about inclusive cities, based upon the knowledge banks of the indigenous people.





*"When I was a youth fellow, I picked up skills related to team building and participatory research. When I wore the hat of a project coordinator, I was delighted to share and spread the Barefoot Researchers Movement among the rural and urban youth. When we look at the existing education models, not enough attention is paid to social and political awareness. Research is a very powerful tool for the purpose of creating awareness and enabling dialogue and discussions."*

Kiran Sawant,  
Project Coordinator and Former Barefoot Researcher



## RESEARCH ON INTERNET ACCESS

IN COLLABORATION WITH INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, MUMBAI,  
MAJLIS MANCH AND URBAN DESIGN RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
SUPPORTED BY FORD FOUNDATION

With government schemes, school admission forms and networking options available at the click of a mouse, the internet is slowly turning into a fundamental need for people in general, and the youth in particular. However, on account of challenges related to accessibility, predictability and affordability of internet technology, in most places awareness continues to remain skewed.

Thus, backed by this emerging need for Internet access in the midst of the existing absence of supporting technology, Research to Internet Access project was launched in Palghar District in April 2014. The objective of this research was to contribute to an experiment being conducted by IIT-B, our technical partner, of using white space, in which newer technology will be created that will have the potential of making broadband available to a large rural population in hinterlands at affordable rates. An important aspect of the project has been to study the social impact achieved when people in rural areas are able to use Internet services to access e-governance and other facilities.

Thus, over the past year, PUKAR has set forth on a research journey to understand how this broadband deployment impacts and shapes the lives of the people in the coverage area after the respondents have been using the technology for a period of 6-8 months. For this purpose, three villages- Dhuktan, Khamloli and Bahadoli of Palghar district- were chosen. Based on PUKAR's Barefoot Researchers Model, 60 local youth were selected to don the hats of E-Sevaks. The E-Sevaks soon became the link between the technology and the locals.

*"पुकार हे माइयासाठी माहितीचा स्रोत आहे. पुकारमुळे मिळणाऱ्या शिष्यवृत्तीने माइया शिक्षणात मदत होत आहे. पुकारमुळे गावात काम करायला मिळालेल्या संधीमुळे एक समाधानाची भावना मिळते की मी लोकांच्या उपयोगी पडत आहे."*

- Snehal Patil,  
E-sevak, Dhuktan, Palghar



In order to ensure a systematic Community-Based Participatory Action Research process, a baseline survey was conducted in August 2014. In all, 1,146 households were surveyed across the three villages. The surveys analysed the degree of affordability, accessibility and existing awareness about the Internet among the village locals.

*"There was a visible gap between 'sarkaar ki bhasha' and the language understood by the locals in the tribal belts in Palghar. So, we found it important to adopt a Community-Based Participatory Research model, wherein local youth were trained as E-Sevaks, and they went door-to-door to create awareness on e-governance. The knowledge gap slowly began to disappear."*

- Sadhana Guldagad,  
Research Associate, RIA Project

In the weeks and months that followed, the PUKAR team created modules on the various schemes and programmes that can be accessed on the internet related to education, E-Governance, health and livelihoods. Weekly training

sessions were organised with the E-Sevaks, explaining to them in detail the various schemes that could help ensure greater efficiency, cost and time benefits for the locals. With the knowledge gained, the E-Sevaks went from door-to-door, creating awareness among the locals to access the internet to pay their bills, access information and even make bookings.

During the course of these weekly visits and meetings, there was also emphasis laid on creating community profiles, rapport building and ensuring greater awareness. The project is scheduled to be completed in December 2015 at the end of the post-survey.







# CAROL BRECKENRIDGE MEMORIAL LECTURE

Carol Breckenridge Memorial Lectures aim to explore urban issues from critical lenses of people who participate in the creation of urban knowledge at various levels through different avenues. The lecture is dedicated to the memory of PUKAR's founder-patron Professor Carol Breckenridge.





# THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

VENUE PARTNER: STUDIO X, MUMBAI

The Third Carol Breckenridge Memorial Lecture on The Right to the City was held at Studio-X, Mumbai on January 15, 2015. The speakers for the event were Anant Mariganti, director of Hyderabad Urban Lab and Gautam Bhan, activist and researcher from Indian Institute for Human Settlements, Bengaluru.

*"The city is a political space of rights. It is the game, the stadium and the battlefield...It is not enough to belong if you cannot afford to be here."*

- Gautam Bhan, Activist and Researcher,  
Indian Institute of Human Settlements, Bengaluru

The speakers discussed and debated the different conceptualizations of the right to the city. Gautam explained how multiple claims constitute the right to the city, including the city as a space for not just material consumption but also the space for the realisation of aspirations. Drawing from the history of political struggles in India, which have premised themselves on the language of civil liberties, Anant stated that the right to the city needed to be a moral right in addition to being a statutory right. This was followed by a discussion between Anant and Gautam on the nature of rights and the claims of need, of contribution, and of merit that are made under the right to the city.

When the speakers opened the floors for discussion, the audience including students, activists and urbanists shared their experiences and posed questions. Their discussion

*"As explained in the original texts by Henri Lefebvre and David Harvey, the Right to the City is the right to transform oneself by transforming the world around you...It means that you are a part of the built form. You cannot be seen in isolation from it."*

- Anant Mariganti,  
Director, Hyderabad Urban Lab

highlighted that Indian cities are mostly auto-constructed, where people rather than planning, build the city. However, such a construction also serves to marginalize certain populations.



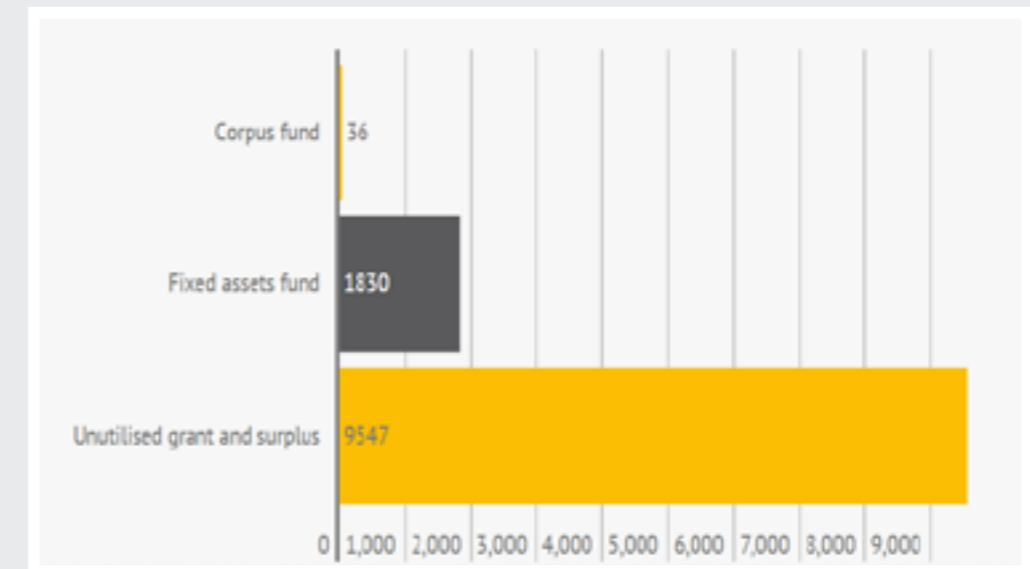
# FINANCIAL REPORT



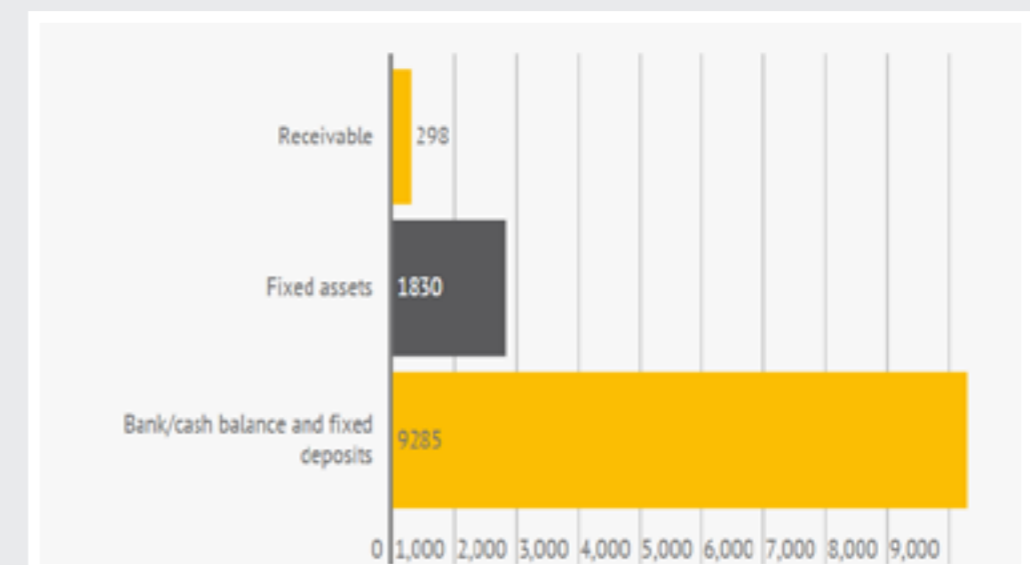
# FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2014-2015

FROM UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS AS ON MARCH 31, 2015

## SOURCES OF FUND



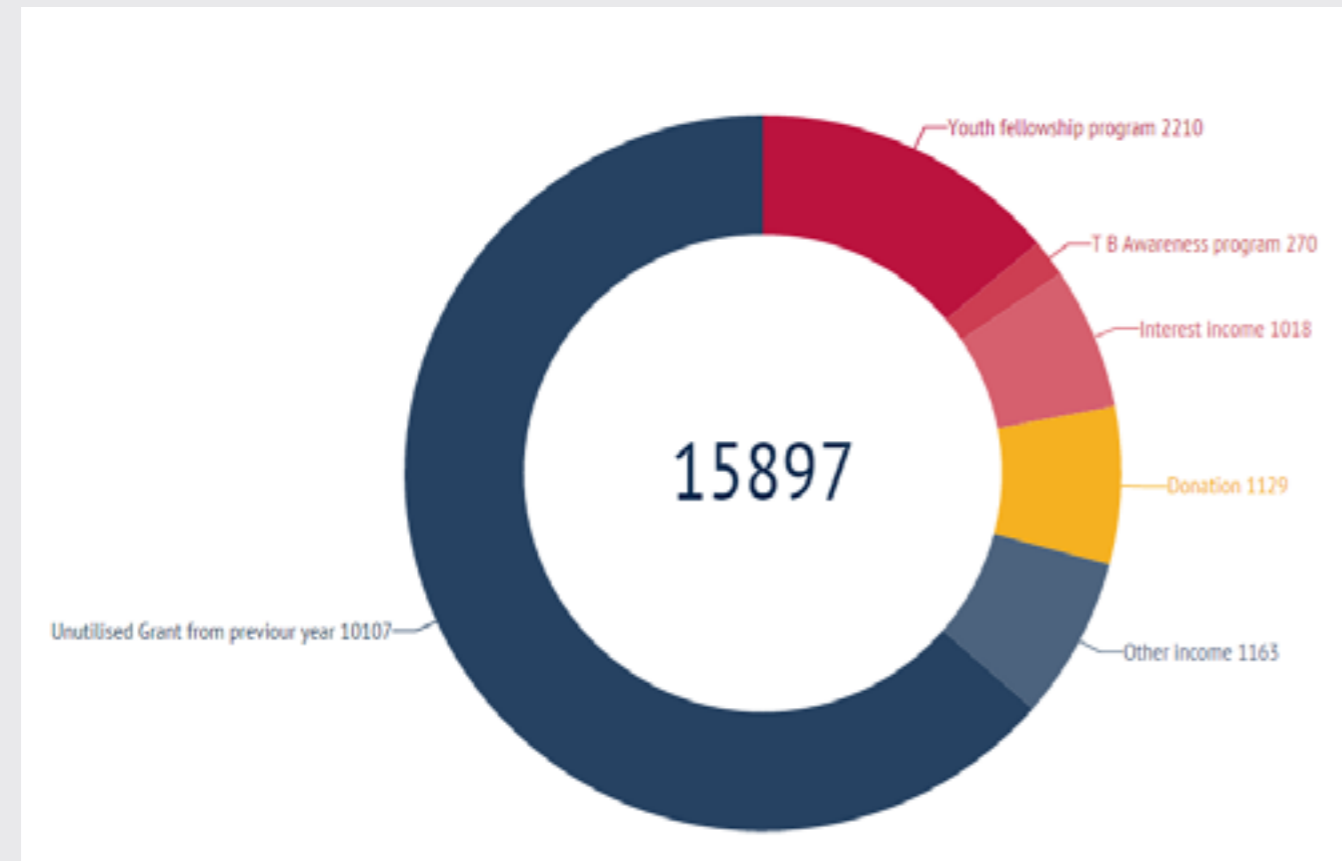
## APPLICATION OF FUND



(Figures are in Indian rupees and in Thousands)



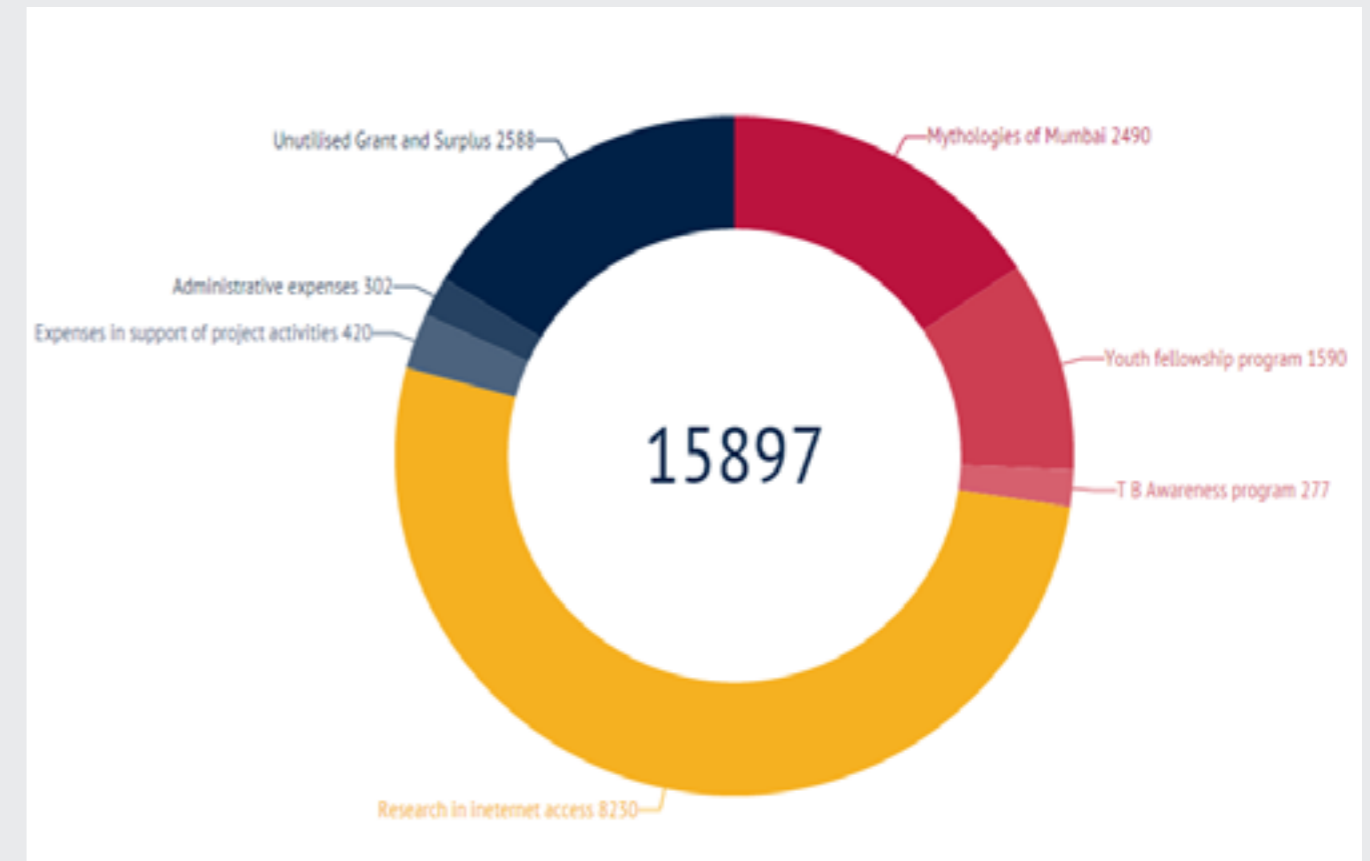
## INCOME



Youth fellowship program	2210
T B awareness program	270
Interest income	1018
Donation	1129
Other income	1163
Unutilised grant from previous year	10107
<b>Total</b>	<b>15897</b>

(Figures are in Indian rupees and in Thousands)

## EXPENDITURE



Mythologies of Mumbai	2490
Youth fellowship program	1590
T B awareness program	277
Research in internet access	8230
Expenses in support of project activities	420
Administrative expenses	302
Unutilised grant and surplus	2588
<b>Total</b>	<b>15897</b>

(Figures are in Indian rupees and in Thousands)



# THE NEW VOYAGE: FULL OF ADVENTURES, FULL OF DISCOVERIES..

DR ANITA PATIL-DESHMUKH,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME FACILITATOR, PUKAR

The year 2014-2015 turned out to be a landmark year in PUKAR's journey that began in 2005 with our concept of democratizing knowledge and knowledge ownership as well as challenging and changing the profiles of knowledge producers, not an easy task!

Our Youth Fellowship Project, anchored in these fundamental principles, validated and admired by many international academic institutions yet located mostly within marginalized communities, took the adventurous baby steps, entering few of Mumbai's mainstream educational institutions, thanks to some of our supporters who grasped the long term transformational power of this program on the youth leadership as well on the communities.

On the other front, Research on Internet Access (RIA) Team, took the bold step of blurring the boundaries between urban and rural and took up the daunting task of building capacities of villagers in the tribal district of Palghar, enabling them to become active citizens of Digital India movement. This too was being accomplished through the capacity building of the tribal youth, thus building youth leaderships.

Whether it was fostering youth leadership in villages or creating future R & D teams for the country in colleges, the basic instrument remained Community Based Participatory Action Research. Engaging with the societal issues from the perspective of the communities, reflecting upon one's own space and location in the communities as youth, as leaders, as consumers and as aspirants, and learning to negotiate all these positions under the prevalent social construct, were both frightening and liberating experiences for the students as well as the tribal youth. Ethics, a word hardly existing in Indian lexicon, was something they heard over and over again, whether for research or for communications. Empathetic listening and unlearning were strange concepts for the participants, fraught with fear and skepticism.

The expedition was equally challenging for PUKAR Team members who went through heartaches and struggles to become better facilitators. This process led to our own intellectual growth, more nuanced understanding of youth and their priorities, our critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the mainstream pedagogy as well as the sharp differences between the economic priorities and cultural ethos of rural and urban India.

We all went through new leanings and unlearning to develop capabilities necessary for this voyage. It was a gut wrenching yet heartwarming, intimidating yet illuminating experience at the same time.

The results of this journey were so overwhelmingly positive that many prestigious academic institutions within the city are now desirous of exposing their students to this enriching and transformative experience. We plan to scale up the Digital India Movement in many more villages, improving the quality of their life since the demand from villagers has intensified. We are thrilled!

This journey reminds me of that famous poem..... Ithaka....

*As you set out for Ithaka*

*Hope the voyage is a long one,*

*Full of adventures, full of discovery.*

*Keep Ithaka always in your mind*

*.Arriving there is what you are destined for.*

*But do not hurry the journey at all.*

*Better if it lasts for years*

*so you are old by the time you reach the island,*

*wealthy with all you have gained on the way."*

- C.P. Cavafy, 'Ithaka'

# TEAM PUKAR

## FOUNDER PATRON:

Carol A Breckenridge (1942-2009)

## FOUNDER TRUSTEE:

Arjun Appadurai

## TRUSTEES:

K.M.S (Titoo) Ahluwalia, Rahul Mehrotra, Sheela Patel, Shyam Benegal,  
Zia Mody

## TEAM:

Anil Kumar Valmiki, Dr Anita Patil-Deshmukh, Anupamaa Joshi, Ishvar Solanki, Kiran Sawant, Mahesh Nanarkar, Manasi Pinto, Mithun Kamble, Dr Ramnath Subbaraman, Reetika Revathy Subramanian, Rohan Chavan, Sadhana Guldagad, Satwik Pradhan, Shahazade Akhtar, Shrutika Shitole, Sujatha Subramanian, Sunil Gangavane, Tejal Shitole, Usha Galia.

Designed by Shweta Pandharkar





PUKAR

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