A group of 14 young leaders from MLMF partner organisations selected as Youth Fellows (YFs) in 2019-2020 cohort led self-designed, social action projects based on the needs identified by them in their communities.

With the support MLMF organisations, they were able to hone their leadership skills and carry out their projects on ground, collectively reaching out to over 500 people in their immediate communities.
Meet our Youth Fellows!

MITHUN
Bihar, Diksha Foundation

He created a space to hold dialogues in the community with 'out of school' students working as daily wage earners and supported them with basic education. He strongly feels that adolescents and young people should be able to receive proper education and should not have to quit school for money. He was able to convince parents to re-enroll their children in school. He shared, "I am learning how to talk to people, listen to their thoughts and express myself in a manner such that they are also able to understand me."

DHARAMVEER
Bihar, Diksha Foundation

He mobilised 50-70 adolescents and created a space where they could discuss effects of child marriage on the young couple. Through the discussion, he was able to support many young people in realising that the harmful effects will be on multiple levels i.e., physical, mental and sexual and reproductive health. The loss of agency also came out as one of the main problems of child marriage in the discussion.

KHUSHBOO
Milaan Foundation, Uttar Pradesh

She mobilised her peers to organise a rally with an objective to raise awareness on menstruation, break the silence and challenge the myths surrounding this topic. She mobilized her group to paint walls with slogans normalising menstruation. During this process, many people tried to stop them from doing so. However, Khushboo and her peers took this as an opportunity to engage in meaningful and open conversations with them.
VEERAN AND RAHILA

Rubaroo, Telangana

They worked together to carry out a series of sessions with adolescents and young people in a nearby community on self awareness and gender related topics. They also mobilised the participants to interact with community members in order to understand the perceptions on child marriages and a visit to Bharosa Centre, a one stop crisis centre for women and children to understand how it works and what kinds of support requests they receive.

SAAD

Pravah, Delhi

His project aimed at creating safe spaces where young people can come together and talk about decision making and share their experiences around the same. It primarily focused on gender and sexuality based identities and creating awareness around the same. He shared, “I have learned about my potential to carry meaningful conversations and my ability to put forth my needs and desires in front of people in general and the organization where I am studying or working.” The participants in his session were able to create smaller support groups to continue building a deeper understanding on issues.

RAJKUMARI

Synergy Sanstha, Madhya Pradesh

For her project, she held discussions with a group of women to identify and question the differential treatment received based on sex and highlight the importance of equality. While holding these discussions, she also realised the importance of highlighting the intergenerational behavioural patterns that are passed on from parents to children and the need to questions and challenges these practices. She shared that initially it was challenging to discuss gender equality with women because they said nothing will change in four days discussion and they will remain in the same situation. But today, the very same women say that they will send both their daughters and sons to the same school and not different ones.
Meet our Youth Fellows!

**SANJU**  
Synergy Sansthan, Madhya Pradesh

She took a decision to work on a conflict at a family level. She initiated empathetic dialogues with her parents and sister and through her persistent efforts, she was able to bring her sister and parents together and support them in resolving interpersonal issues. She believes that the first step to address any challenge is to understand the situation and the multiple perspectives of the story. She realised that her family was making certain decisions out of the fear of what the society will think of them and decided to unravel this notion with her family in order to bring her family members together.

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**LALIT**  
Yeh Ek Soch Foundation, Uttar Pradesh

He worked with young people in his community to create a space where they could reflect on their aspirations and think of ways to achieve them. He created awareness in his community about the Asha Jyoti Helpline number and how to use it. This helpline number is available for women to access counselling, legal and medical aid and police assistance. He shared, “I got the chance to practice my leadership skills through this social action project. I also became much more aware and was able to identify the issues still prevalent in our society.”

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**TRISHA**  
People for Change, Jharkhand

She organised a workshop with school students to create awareness about safe and unsafe touch. She took support from her peers to use theatre, posters and games as ways to create awareness about and make adolescents feel comfortable to ask questions and discuss this openly. Her key learning in carrying out this project has been to explore her own potential and capacities. She was glad to create a safe space for young participants as growing up, she couldn’t reach out to her parents to discuss the same.
SALMAN ALI
Yeh Ek Soch Foundation, Uttar Pradesh

Having seen how lack of public transport impacted young girls' mobility and pushed them to discontinue their studies in his community, he initiated an active dialogue among community members to make the lack of connectivity and public transport in the nearby communities. With the support of the community, he filed an official complaint to the relevant government authority to highlight this issue and demand redressal. He continued to engage with stakeholders including convincing the e-rickshaw chalaks to divert from heavily trafficked routes to the ones where there was demand but no service available. He got to know that people are happy since the service is proving to be especially helpful for old people, women and students. His biggest learning in the project has been to continue to look for alternatives and engage multiple stakeholders to make things happen.

VAISHNAVI
Milaan Foundation, Uttar Pradesh

For her project, she organised a session with 200 school students to create a space where they could think of ways to take part in decision making process regarding their lives. The key highlight that emerged from the discussion was that majority number of participants did not feel included in decision making process by adults.