SKILLS DEVELOPMENT | INDIA
Developing Youth As A Change Agent[13]

WHEN: 2018 to 2019

WHERE: Villages in the Kaushambi district of Uttar Pradesh

CHILDFUND LIFE STAGE: 3 (15-24 years old)

REACH: 400 adolescents and youth in 15 villages; 109 families benefitted from the project's youth collectives.

SUPPORTED BY: Centre for Learning and Excellence in Child Development (CLECD)

IMPLEMENTED BY: ChildFund India, Grameen Seva Sansthan (GSS)

EVIDENCE LEVEL: Preliminary

GOAL(S): Empower youth leaders by helping adolescents and youth develop leadership attributes and actively contribute to their community's development.

HOW WE STUDIED THE PROGRAM:
• One-group posttest study design. • Focus group discussions with key stakeholders.

HIGHLIGHTS:

• **A key intervention strategy was the formation of "youth collectives"** — an organized group of adolescents and youth residing in a village; each collective engaged in community sensitization, awareness building, and capacity building.

• **15 youth collectives were formed** — one per village — and they formed a federation, Yuva Jagriti Manch Kaushambi, with elected member officials.

• After receiving training in videography, 7 youth collectives filmed documentaries on social issues affecting their communities.

• Youth collectives painted and shared 400 social messages through intensive wall writing campaigns focused on mobilizing support for community issues.

• **Youth collective members voiced that they felt empowered** through the process of receiving skills development support — and mobilizing themselves as a group into action.

• Youth, caregivers, and Government stakeholders all identified that **the project contributed to increased awareness of gender discrimination** — the integration of girls and boys and the elimination of "girls-only" and "boys-only" issues.

LESSONS LEARNED:
• When it comes to engaging youth and empowering them, there needs to be a conscious effort to intentionally involve and give voice to those youth who participate less and/or are not represented or missed (e.g., LGBTQI, youth with disabilities).

SDG CONTRIBUTIONS

5 GENDER EQUALITY

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

"The project has taken a bold approach and **challenged community norms**, with good results! The biggest result is the **youth's transformative leadership qualities, especially of girls,** that emerged during the team interactions."

— *ChildFund India Staff Member*

13 ChildFund International. (2019). *Developing youth as a change agent: Findings of participatory peer review by asia review team.* Washington, D.C.: Author.