

TATA STEEL

#WeAlsoMakeTomorrow

Dhwani 2019 Introducing the Participants



For Dhwani 2019, youth from Jharkhand and Odisha were handpicked through 'Pratibha Chayan Yatra' which was organised as one-day workshops at West Bokaro, Jamadoba, Noamundi, Joda, Kalinganagar and Jamshedpur between August 3 – 11, 2019.

Through group discussions, role-plays, experience-sharing and story-telling, close to 400 youth have been identified who demonstrated keen interest in driving social change and expressed profound interest in the theme of the event 'Transforming Education'.

This cohort is invited to be part of Dhwani 2019 to put-forth their opinions and thought-processes and also derive perspectives from eminent speakers and subject-matter experts joining us for the two-day event.

The group consists of 214 girls and 168 boys between the ages 15-22. Majority of them are school-goers and college-goers between the ages 17-20. They speak Hindi, Odia and local languages like Ho, Santali.

We introduce here stories of some of our youth participants.

<p>West Bokaro</p> <p>Indu Murmu Jyoti Marandi Sushma Kumari Arti Kumari Nikti Tirkey Sweety Kumari Ritika Kumari Rita Kumari Sima Kumari Nisha Kumari Isha Kumari Puja Kumari Sita Hansda Nita Tudu Laxmi Kisku Anjali Tudu Rita Marandi Manisha Marandi Roshni Soren Ajay Kumar Neeraj Kumar Jitendra Kumar Ayushi Kesri Kashish kumari Sony Singh Ashmit Kumar Riya kumari Seema Yadav Chandan Kumar Rishi Kumar Mamta Kumari Rani Kumari Priti Kumari Kiran kumari Arshi Parween Komal kumari Afrin Parween Sneha Kumari Naina Kumari Rajesh Mahto Abhishek Kumar Anchal Kumari Neha Kumari Ranjit Kumar Jugeshwar Mahto Yogendra Mahto Prince Kumar Kaif Ansari Abhy Kumar Vijay Kumar</p>	<p>Gulshan Kumar Vishal Kumar Rahul Kumar Pravin Kumar Kishan Hansda Rajendra Baskey Raj Kumar Nepal Kumar Prem Kisku Rohit Kumar Vijay Shankar Abhishek Kumar Suman Vishwakarma Vickey Kumar Roshan kumar Jitendra Mahto Pratima Gupta</p> <p>Jamadoba</p> <p>Monu Kumar Sunita Kumari Sandeep Kr. Mahato Nikki Kumari Priyanka Kumari Vandana Kumari Chandana Kumari Sankshi Kumari Punam Kumari Priti Kumari Deepak Kumar Mahato Jaleshwar Mahato Chandu Mahato Sikandar Soren Sagar Kr. Mahato Guddi Kumari Vicky Kr. Mahato Chameli Kumari Mukesh Kr. Mahato Anjali Kumari Kanhai Karmakar Puja Kumari Priya Kumari Kavita Singh Rupa Singh Jyoti Kumari Vijay Kumar Mahato Vikash Kr. Vishwakarma Indrajeet Kumar Pragya Kumari Roshni kumari Vikash Kumar Sneha Kumari</p>	<p>Sneha Kumari Shakuntala Kumari Madhu Kumari Urmila kumari Arti Kumari Roushan Kumar Gopi rajwar Namita kumari Nisha kumari Bikram kumar rajak Anjali kumari Jyoti kumari Manoranjan Rajwar Vishnu Modak Md. Aftab Arti Kumari Puja Kumari Md. Kurban Gorachand Mahato Ujjvala Baori Deepak Kumar Rawani Laxmi Kumari Gita Kumari</p> <p>Noamundi</p> <p>Gorbari Chattar Fulmati Sundi Mencho Hembrom Doctor Hansda Hemant Honaga Gulshan Laguri Barsha Rani Maharana Guru Bobonga Vikram Purti Jymile Tiriya Sona Muni Siddhu Bikram Siddhu Sombari Tiriya Sunita Tiriya Roya Laguri Zagayaseni Khilar Bhumika Munda Sagarika Mahakud Ankita Priyadarsini Jena Pujarani Mahakud Tanushree Gope Subhashree Gope Junika Munda Anjali Hembram Josoda Purty Gita Munda Subhasmita Ghana</p>	<p>Mohit Ranjan Khilar Sukmati Munda Sanjay Munda Naresh Munda Manasi Oram Nirmal Patra Soma Munda Lalita Oram Debaki Patro Prem nath Solanki Sameer Kumar Roshni Samant Kajal Kumari Balema Soren Jyoti Das Kabita Das Sarita Gope Kaiyari Tiriya Sima Alda Shashank Pal Santosh Sandil Sonali Pan Manisha Gope Sukram Siddhu Aniket Karua Pooja Naik Priyanka Nandi</p> <p>Joda</p> <p>Ritika Lohar Namrita Shandil Renuka Pingua Pinkyrani Bhunya Kiran Shandil Saroj Munda Sunita Munda Soniya Munda Sanjay Munda Raja Mahakud Rakesh Sahoo Harish Mahakud Rahul Mahakud Rani Lohar Hena Lohar Rahul Sinku Munna Hessa Tanish Gagrai Asish Das Gungun Pingua Sagar Singh Vanshika Parta Krishna Lohar</p>	<p>Meghnath Patra Bikram Das Kusum Nagri Ashwini Patra Khuki Khatun Swwety Patra Jatin Aruk Raja Naik Munia Khedia Udit Kumar Tanty Sulekha Munda Rani Naik Binay Patra Kunja Sethy Shiba Swain Ananya Das Shibani Patra Madhusmita Das Jyotsna Patra Laxmi Nag Anita Munda Balbhadra Gagrai Sagar Khandayat Mili Gagrai Ganesh Karua Abhisekh Karua Gita Soren Khusi Gagrai Ritu Lohar Sangita Munda Sujata Lohar Puja Lohar Rohit Das Munna Das Rashmita Das Priti Lohar Prasant Gope Manasmita Mahapatra</p> <p>Kalinganagar</p> <p>Sabita Mohanta Bhasakar Munduri Bhima Pingua Chandan Kumar Mohanta Sukanta Soy Littile Chattar Pramod Malik Chandan Puri Tapoi Naik Pujarani Mohanta Mukuru sidu Harihar Bindhani</p>	<p>Rukmani Bindhani Suru Purty Bagun Barda Sagarika Mallick Rajani Malik Dharmendra ku natha Susanta Patra Mamilata Mohanta Bikash Dalai Madhumsmita Nayak Sujata Jena Pradeep Gagrai Raju Majhi Archana Malik Sashmita Purty Gurubari Kerai Rakesh Sahoo Malli Purty Manoj Bindhani Suresh Purty Pujarini Samal Sarat Hansda Kabita Sinku Mani Sinku Subash Hembrum Gobinda Badra Dabar Gagrai Mina Munda Pramila Bidhani Lisa Malik Lija Parida Subhadra Dhal Akash Malik Madhusmita Dhal Anil Kumar Deo Naresh Nayak Sanatan Champia Soumyranjan Das Mrutyunjay Samal</p>
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A STEP TOWARDS NO ADDICTION

Rakesh Sahu

Baachu Hutting slum in Joda

Baachu hutting is an urban slum in Ward no 6 of Joda municipality where all social issues can be stated to be in a vulnerable state. The major issue prevailing there is excessive consumption of alcohol among women as well as men. Owing to this reason, domestic violence is an everyday affair, where the RISHTA program (Regional Initiative for Safe Sexual Health of Today's Adolescents) has tried to conduct various awareness campaigns to help mitigate this sensitive issue. It is best known that the solution to such issues lies within the community, and no external intervention or organisation can suffice the impact of the former.

Likewise, Rakesh Sahu (peer educator) and his team (YRC Adolescent) of Baachu Hutting were troubled with the existing circumstances of the village and decided to curb it at all costs. Collectively, with Self Help Group members of the area, they mustered courage and informed the police authorities about the ongoing domestic production of rice beer and sale of weed in certain households. They helped the police identify such households.

The only alcohol sale in the area was shut down by these youth and incredibly hasn't reopened till date.

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Dhwani 2019



A CHANGE AGENT

Chetan Singh

Jamadoba

Chetan was introduced to 'Project Rishta', by his brother. Inspired by the sessions, he shared his learnings with young children of his locality.

He mobilised people to build toilets at households that didn't have toilets. He facilitated people in making their Aadhar Cards and also helped senior citizens to claim their pensions.

He is now focusing on tree plantation in an attempt to fight global warming. He has also worked on creating awareness on the importance of physical fitness.

A CHANGE AGENT**Sukumanti**

Sialijoda Village, Noamundi

Sukumati is a 20 year old girl of Sialijoda village of Joda block in Keonjhar district. She could not complete her education after failing in 10th grade due to financial problems. She belongs to a family of five, including two elder sisters and parents. Her father is a farmer and mother is a housewife.

She came in touch with RISHTA (Regional Initiative for Safe Sexual Health by Today's Adolescents) project in 2016 when she was only 17 years old. The project identified the potential of Sukumati and selected her for MRA (Moral Re-armament) training. She is one of the most active youth of her village. She attended the three-day MRA training at Jamshedpur. During the training, she learned about leadership quality, discipline, punctuality, self-confidence, will-power and self-introspection (called 'quiet time').

During the training, she also realized about self-reliance, value of food and time, cleanliness etc. She says, 'The best thing I learned during the MRA training camp was Quiet Time". I practice it on daily basis and try to understand what is negative in me? After attending the MRA camp, I have learnt to control my anger through 'quiet time' and am trying to become a better human being. It took some time but I have been able to do it.'

Now, she has become a self-ambassador of RISHTA Project and MRA in and around her village. She has also taken the initiative to create awareness on substance abuse, child marriage and has also been successful in deferring her own marriage.

DELAYING EARLY MARRIAGE

Rani Lohar

Azad Basti in Joda Block

The latest report of the UNICEF, the State of the World's Children, 2009 says that 47% of India's women aged 20-24 years were married before the legal age of 18, with 56 percent in rural areas. Such being the national scenario, Odisha as a state is no different. Joda being a mining hub is prone to the social evil of child marriage, by parents' consent as well as elopement cases.

Triveni's marriage was fixed when she was just 16 years old. She had always been seen as a liability by her family and they obviously wouldn't miss a chance to marry her soon. Rani Lohar, an adolescent from the Azad Basti Youth Resource Centre living in the neighbourhood was aware of the talks going around and decided to take some step without caring for the consequences. She repeatedly kept visiting the parents' every day and counselling them on the consequences: physical, mental and legal, of early marriage and how it would be meting out injustice to the girl with some dreams. It definitely wasn't an easy task. Apart from that she kept on meeting with Triveni to help her muster the courage to stand against the unfair decision.

Triveni is now pursuing her education.

TAKING THE LEAD**Puja Kumari Rajak**

Jamadoba

From where Puja comes menstruation is considered a taboo. Women, during menstruation, aren't allowed in temples and are even forbidden to eat food.

After getting introduced to 'Rishta Project', she got the confidence to discuss these issues in her family. She started to work in an incense stick packaging company and recruited many other women as well in an attempt to make them independent and stand for their dignity.

She expresses that economically weaker sections of the society is undeveloped because they are deprived of quality education.

A STEP TOWARDS NO ADDICTION**Sarat Hansda**

Kulapita Village, Kalinganagar

Sarat had been addicted to tobacco for a very long time. It was so deep rooted that the addiction was a survival issue for him. His friend circle was equally under the influence of tobacco.

He was introduced to the RISHTA project through a meeting, where he learnt about the harmful effects of tobacco and how it even destroys social surroundings. After several meetings and interaction at RISHTA, he was determined to stop the intake of tobacco and also help his friends to come out of addiction. He says 'we took an oath to make our village tobacco and liquor free.'

DELAYING EARLY MARRIAGE

Sonali Pan

Azad Basti in Noamundi Block

Sonali Pan is a 16 year old girl of Mohudi (Azad basti) village of Noamundi block in West Singhbhum district.

Currently, she is in standard X. She belongs to a family of five including one elder sister, two younger sister and mother. Her father has a second marriage and thus Sonali lives separately with her mother and sisters at Azad basti. Her mother works as domestic help.

At 14, Sonali had a companion and both of them decided to get married. During the course of time she attended RISHTA Project (Regional Initiative for Safe Sexual Health of Today's Adolescents) peer educator training, where she learnt about the ill effects of early marriage and its consequences. She learnt about ARSH (Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health) i.e. adolescent age, physical and mental changes at this age, early marriage, sexual diseases, peer pressure, menstrual cycle etc.

She realized her decision to get married at that age was wrong and also convinced her companion about the same and got him to attend the RISHTA session on early marriage. Both of them took the decision that they would only marry when they come of age, and complete their education.

PROVIDING FREE EDUCATION**Rajani Malik**

Nadiabhanga Village, Kalinganagar

Rajani Mallick is an adolescent associated with the RISHTA project. When she began work in her village, she witnessed a major problem of inadequate education. She started giving free tuition in her village for underprivileged children.

She started with five students initially. She had to ongoingly engage with parents and convince them to send their children to schools and tuitions. With continuous mobilization, more and more parents started to send their children to the tuitions. Now she has a total of fifteen students in her tuition class from grades 2 to 6.

Education is an important aspect for development of villages and the communities need to realize this, themselves. When students began benefitting from the tuitions, the community appreciated her efforts.

CLEANLINESS MISSION**Abhishek**

Duni Village, Jamshedour

Abhishek is a 21 year old of boy from Duni village of Mandu block in Ramgarh district. He is studying in 12th grade. His education was delayed as he failed his 10h grade owing to the poor economic background of his family. He is the youngest sibling in his family. The family is dependent on agriculture.

He is one of the most active youth of his village. He came in touch with RISHTA (Regional Initiative for Safe Sexual Health by Today's Adolescents) project in 2014 when he was only 16 years old. He learnt about ARSH (Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health). He wanted to learn more about it so he started attending all the meetings held under the project in his village.

He realized the importance of environment. He came to know that a clean environment is safe and healthy way of living and is free of diseases. So, he motivated peer groups of the village and together they undertook cleaning initiatives. Now, they clean their village once a month. They spread awareness about benefits of cleanliness and ill-effects of early marriage. He also makes efforts to convince victims of substance abuse to quit their ill habits.

NURTURING SPORTING TALENT**Seema Yadav**

Ghatotand, West Bokaro

Seema Yadav studies at St. Peter's High School. She lives in Ghatotand. Her father is a milkman and her mother is a Housewife. She has two brothers and four sisters. RISHTA Project was initiated in her school in the year 2015 and she became a part of the project in 2016, when she was in standard VII.

The project staff who used to visit their school interacted with her and found that she had keen interest in sports. After recognizing her passion for sports, they encouraged her to join sports cell in Ghatotand. Her family did not support her as she is a girl and they thought it not fit for a girl to go out of her house for sports. After a long struggle her elder brother Sunil supported her, convinced the family and finally they all agreed to send her for sports training.

She is currently preparing for National Level athletics.

DEVELOPING LEADERS**Rajesh Mahato**

Pundi, Rajnagar, Jamshedpur

Rajesh Mahato is a 22 year old youth of Pundi village of Mandu block in Ramgarh district. He holds a degree in Bachelors od Arts. His father is a farmer and mother is a housewife.

He came in touch with RISHTA (Regional Initiative for Safe Sexual Health by Today's Adolescents) project in 2013 when he was 17 years old. The project identified the potential of Rajesh and selected him for MRA (Moral Re-armament) training. He is one of the most active youths of his village. He attended the three-day MRA training at Jamshedpur and Panchgani. During the training, he learnt about leadership quality, discipline, punctuality, self-confidence, will power and self-introspection.

He was nominated as president of sports department by Panchayat Samiti of his village. He is now working as the president of sports department in Panchayat Samiti through the Government where they encourage youth of all neighbouring villages to take up activities in the field of sports.

PROMOTING EDUCATION**Sunita Kumari**

Jamadoba

Sunita's father passed away in 2007 and since then she and her family have been facing financial problems.

After completing her matriculation, she started visiting Anganwadi, Behragora, where she attended meetings of 'Project Rishta'. She learnt about child marriage, dowry, etc. and also realised that learning has no age, she got the confidence to take initiatives for her communities.

In 2016 when she was not even 18, she started teaching in a school and giving private tuitions. Today, she is undergoing Machinist trade training in Industrial Training Institute, Dhanbad. She provides for all expenses of her as well as her brother's education. She also gives free coaching to her students who are unable to pay fees.

A CHANGE AGENT**Chameli Kumari Mahato**

Jodapokhari, Jamadoba

From having no aim, to having the confidence of confronting challenges, Chameli has come a long way.

Through 'Rishta Project' she derived inspiration from personalities who have gone through a lot of struggles in their lives, and it left an impression.

She had a lot to confess about her own struggles, she later found a platform for herself and simultaneously for the impoverished. Today, she takes many initiatives on her own like organising drawing competitions in rural areas for children. She also teaches in an NGO called 'Aasha Ki Kiran'.