

SOLIDARITY

INITIATIVE - 2025

Solidarities is a space for collaborative partnerships between community organisations and the university where we learn from each other, create peer learning spaces, and develop a consciousness rooted in justice, care, and curiosity in our communities.



OUR VISION

As a university, we take pride in developing an intellectual space through research that contributes to a better understanding of the world. Through SOLIDARITIES, we hope to expand the boundaries of knowledge production beyond our university walls to include various communities, activists, and organisers. In the process, we can also challenge the insulated nature of knowledge production in academia to become a more inclusive space.

APRIL- MAY 2025: CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS WITH YOUTH FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

On 30 April 2025, an online capacity-building workshop was conducted in collaboration with Youth for Social Development, focusing on programme designing, capacity building, and fundraising strategies. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Rekha Pachauri, Communication Consultant.

The session focused on enabling the team to design and conduct market research to better understand radio listenership patterns, including who listens to community radio and what type of content resonates with different audiences. A key component of the discussion centred on identifying ways forward for advertising partnerships with local businesses, aligning fundraising strategies with community interests and sustainability goals.

On 17 May 2025, a second online workshop was held for the team at Youth for Social Development on Social Media and Digital Outreach, again conducted by Rekha Pachauri. This session focused on how community organisations can effectively use social media platforms to disseminate content, strengthen visibility, and engage wider audiences. Participants were introduced to the use of AI-based tools for creating posters, captions, and other digital content, enabling the team to develop cost-effective and accessible communication strategies for their social media handles.

Together, these workshops contributed to enhancing organisational capacity in research-driven programming, fundraising, digital communication, and community engagement.

9 APRIL 2025: WEBINAR ON BUILDING FEMINIST SOLIDARITIES THROUGH ALLIANCES

On Wednesday, 9 April 2025, from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm, an online webinar titled Building Solidarities Through Alliances: A Conversation was organised to explore the experiences and politics of the Alliance of Feminist Collectives.

The webinar focused on learning from the Alliance's work as a national coalition of federations of Dalit, Bahujan, and Adivasi women, transgender persons, gender and sexual minorities, and sex workers. The conversation was anchored by four partner organisations: Nirantar, Best Practices Foundation, Bhumika Women's Collective, and Solidarity Foundation.

The webinar created an important space for reflection on intersectional feminist politics, foregrounding care, collaboration, and collective action as central to building sustainable movements across diverse and unequal social contexts.



BUILDING SOLIDARITIES THROUGH ALLIANCES

A CONVERSATION



ARCHANA DWIVEDIKONDAVEETI SATYAVATISANGEETHA PURUSHOTHAMAN
SANTOSH SHARMASHUBHA CHACKO

The need for solidarity across diverse communities is the need of the hour! Join us to learn the story of the *Alliance of Feminist Collectives* of various federations of Dalit, Bahujan, and Adivasi women, transgender persons, gender and sexual minorities, and sex workers anchored by four NGO partners: Best Practices Foundation, Bhumika Women's Collective, Nirantar Trust, and Solidarity Foundation. Panelists will share their vision of a feminist future where movements across diverse identities build solidarities to work towards justice and liberation for all. The panel will discuss:

- What is feminist about grassroots solidarities?
- What does it mean for movements to care across diverse communities?
- What challenges and possibilities exist for alliances as a means of building solidarities across grassroots organisations?

Scan to Register



Wednesday, 9th April 2025

4 PM to 6 PM

Venue: Online

Register: <https://tinyurl.com/56nmez2f>

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Building Solidarities through Alliances

Speakers



Archana Dwivedi, Executive Director, Nirantar Archana has more than 20 years of work experience in the areas of gender and education. At Nirantar, along with steering organisational projects, her major involvement has been in researching and writing on issues of women's empowerment and young people's education and empowerment from a feminist perspective. She believes in making research accessible to grass roots organisations and thus transcribes these researches into training and learning material for facilitators, field-based activists and organisations.



Sangeetha Purushothaman, Founder of Best Practices Foundation (BPF) Sangeetha has over 30 years of experience heading national and global action research, evaluation and development projects with grassroots communities. She has worked with major bilateral agencies to implement, conduct research and evaluate interventions on grassroots women. BPF leads a national Alliance bringing together grassroots organisations on feminist principles to work across movements on gender based violence, entitlements and access to resources.



Shubha Chacko, Founding Trustee & former Executive Director of Solidarity Foundation Shubha is a social worker and researcher with over 35 years of experience in sexuality rights, gender equality, and development. Her contributions have been recognized with awards, including the Global Diversity Leader (Times Ascent Award) at the World HRD Congress, Mumbai 2017, the Kenneth Cole Courageous Glass Award in 2018, and the Equality Champion award by Accenture in 2018. Currently, she serves as a board member of the Global Fund for Community Foundations, a member of the BRICS Feminist Watch and a member of the National CSO Steering Committee for Beijing + 30.

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MAY 4, 2025: SCIENCE WORKSHOP AT IYRC, KAPASHERA

Solidarities Initiative, organised a Science Workshop for children at the International Youth Resource Centre (IYRC), Kapashera. The session was designed as a joyful, hands-on introduction to science for young learners from migrant communities. We invited Mr. Sarvochya Kumar, an architect and science educator led the workshop, drawing on the techniques curated by Padma Shri Arvind Gupta.



The children who took part are part of IYRC's Chalk Board Classes, a transformative education programme.



NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2025: PLANNING CURRICULUM WORKSHOPS IN COLLABORATION WITH NAVJYOTI

Initiated and conducted meetings with Navjyoti India Foundation to assess their specific needs and explore areas of collaboration under the Solidarities initiative. The discussions focused on identifying requirements related to curriculum development, teacher training workshops, and capacity-building activities for educators working in community learning spaces.

A focus group needs assessment with teachers will be done on December 6th, 2025.

28 NOVEMBER 2025: REPORT RELEASE: MIGRANT BONDED LABOUR IN INDIA

In collaboration with the National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labour (NCCEBL) on a crucial study examining migrant bonded labour in India. The report documents how systemic exploitation and socio-economic vulnerabilities continue to trap thousands in cycles of bondage, making it a persistent and urgent human rights concern. This report examines the prevalence of the bonded labour system and the post-rescue condition of rescued workers. In particular, the report aims to assess the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976 (BLSAA) and the accompanying Rehabilitation Scheme (Central Sector Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer 2016).



This research is a vital step in amplifying evidence and lived experiences, urging policymakers, institutions, and civil society to take meaningful action. This report offers actionable, time-bound recommendations to strengthen enforcement, close accountability gaps, and make rehabilitation a lived reality, moving toward the abolition of forced and bonded labour by 2030.

5 DECEMBER 2025, FIELD VISIT TO KAPASHERA (IYRC)

Mr. Nirmal Lather conducted a field visit to the Kapashera centre of the India Youth Resource Centre (IYRC) to understand community needs and ongoing initiatives. During the visit, feedback was collected from community members and students, highlighting key challenges related to education, digital access, and documentation support.



As part of the visit, a detailed video interaction was recorded with the IYRC Director, along with documentation of ongoing programs such as Digital Adda, Chalk Board Classes, and the Migrant Resource Centre (MRC). These interactions captured real stories, lived experiences, and the expectations the community has from the university.

The visit provided valuable insights into how IYRC supports migrant families and identified areas where the university can meaningfully contribute by strengthening existing initiatives and addressing community-identified gaps.

TEAM MEMBERS



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