



HORIZON

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2025



Message from the National President, YWCA of India

Dear Members of the YWCA Family,
Greetings of peace and purpose!

With great joy, I share with you this edition of our newsletter, focusing on Nurturing Nature, one of the key themes of our current quadrennium. Each day, as we witness the news around us, we see how erratic weather patterns, droughts, floods, and heatwaves are affecting communities across India. Climate change is no longer a distant concern—it is a present reality that touches each of our lives. We hear the cry of Mother Earth for healing. Climate change hits the most vulnerable the hardest—women, children, indigenous peoples, and economically disadvantaged communities. We know that climate injustice and gender injustice often walk hand in hand. When resources dwindle, it is women who walk farther for water, shoulder the burden of food insecurity, and face deepening economic hardship.

As YWCA women of faith and action, we are called to turn this crisis into a last chance for justice, sustainability, and hope. Climate change is a call to restore balance, reconcile with nature, and renew our commitment to safeguard creation. We are not powerless. Rooted in communities, guided by grassroots wisdom, and grounded in purpose, our movement has the strength to bring change.

Let us green our campuses. Let us equip and empower girls and women to become climate leaders in their own right. Let us listen to and uplift indigenous knowledge that has long nurtured harmony with nature. Let the voices of our young women rise—bold, informed, and unwavering.



Ms. Kunjamma Mathew



At the national level, we have successfully launched the programme “YWCA Young Women as Gender Responsive Climate Advocates” funded by the Global Youth Mobilization (GYM). I am proud that our YWCA family has taken up the challenge of empowering young women and building environmental sustainability through local initiatives.

Globally, YWCA of India stands in solidarity with the World YWCA and sister movements who are fighting environmental racism, advocating for renewable energy, and building resilient, inclusive communities. I invite each local association to reflect and act: What can we do today to ensure that future generations inherit a livable planet? Whether it is planting trees, reducing plastic, cleaning the waste that chokes the earth, adopting eco-friendly practices, or creating awareness about climate justice, every act matters.

As the Bible reminds us in Genesis 2:15, “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”, we are not owners of this Earth, but stewards of God’s creation.

Together, let us nurture nature, empower communities, and leave no one behind.

In sisterhood and service,

Ms. Kunjamma Mathew
National President, YWCA of India



Green Dreams, Strong Communities

Local YWCA's Commitment to Sustainability



YWCA OF KUILON



YWCA OF THRISSUR



YWCA OF KUNNAMKULAM



YWCA OF SHILLONG



YWCA Leaders as Stewards of Environmental Care and Protection

World Environment Day 2025, observed on June 5th, focused on the theme "Ending Plastic Pollution," with the global campaign #BeatPlasticPollution. This campaign called for action to reduce plastic use and explore safer alternatives to protect our planet, oceans, animals, and human health from the harmful effects of plastic waste.

As part of our ongoing commitment to "Nurturing Nature" in this quadrennium, YWCA of India encouraged all members and associations to observe the month of June by engaging in local actions for a sustainable and healthier planet. While June 5th highlights the importance of protecting the environment, it's also an opportunity to reflect on our habits and embrace new, positive changes.

Green Dreams, Strong Communities

Local YWCA's Commitment to Sustainability



**YWCA OF
BALASORE**



YWCA OF KONNI



**YWCA KARUKACHAL
GIF**



**YWCA OF
ERNAKULAM**



Local YWCA associations actively engaged in a variety of initiatives from the shared bucket list, choosing the activities that best suited their communities. Here are some highlights of their efforts:

- Community Clean-Up Walks
- Documenting the 'Tree Growth Journey'
- Plastic Swap Challenges
- Workshops & Sessions on Key Environmental Topics
- Plastic Pollution & Gender Justice Dialogues
- YWCA Plastic Audits
- Collaborative Events with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations
- Poster & Slogan Contests
- Green Market Showcasing Eco-Friendly Entrepreneurs
- Eco-Influencer Challenges

**THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION, WE
ARE SHAPING A HEALTHIER PLANET
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

Green Dreams, Strong Communities

Local YWCA's Commitment to Sustainability



**YWCA OF
KALATHIPADY**



**YWCA OF
THUMPAMON**



**YWCA OF
MUNDAKAYAM**



**YWCA OF
KOTTAYAM**



YWCA OF CALICUT



**YWCA OF
CHUNGATHARA**



**YWCA OF
KOTHAMANGALAM**



**YWCA OF
PALAKKAD**

Green Dreams, Strong Communities

Local YWCA's Commitment to Sustainability



YWCA OF ADOOR



YWCA OF MADURAI



YWCA OF PERUMBAVOOR



YWCA OF MUVATTUPUZHA



YWCA OF PERUMBAVOOR



YWCA OF ALLEPPEY



YWCA OF GUWAHATI



YWCA OF KAYAMKULAM

Green Dreams, Strong Communities

Local YWCA's Commitment to Sustainability



YWCA OF ALUVA



YWCA OF THODUPUZZHA



YWCA OF TRIVANDRUM



YWCA OF NAGPUR



YWCA OF SHIMLA



YWCA OF BANGALORE CITY



YWCA OF PUNALUR



YWCA OF SULTHAN BATTERY

Green Dreams, Strong Communities

Local YWCA's Commitment to Sustainability



**YWCA OF
MOKOKCHUNG**



**YWCA OF
KOZHENCHERRY**



YWCA OF AIZAWL



YWCA OF DELHI

The YWCA of India extends heartfelt appreciation for the active and creative participation of all the associations in celebrating World Environment Day 2025. As Stewards of environmental care and protection, each Local Association showcased a remarkable enthusiasm and commitment. Inspired by the suggested ideas and fueled by their own innovative contributions, members worked together to spread awareness and take meaningful action for the environment. Together, your efforts lift up communities with hope and action, showing once again the strength of our collective spirit. Thank you for continuing to nurture the environment and inspire change.

One thoughtful step at a time.



Global Youth Mobilization (GYM)

YWCA Young Women as Gender Responsive Climate Advocates

The Global Youth Mobilization (GYM)– Youth Empowerment Fund is a collaborative initiative launched by the Big Six Youth Organizations—World YWCA, World YMCA, World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award—representing millions of young people in over 170 countries. Grounded in the belief that youth are not just future leaders but current changemakers, GYM drives grassroots solutions to global challenges like health, education, climate justice, and social inequality.

In India, YWCA India is bringing the GYM vision to life by empowering young climate advocates who are creating and implementing sustainable, community-led environmental initiatives. These YWCA youth leaders are addressing climate injustice, through practical, hands-on projects—from awareness drives to climate resilience efforts.

To celebrate and amplify this work, YWCA of India launched a vibrant social media campaign highlighting the passion, innovation, and impact of these young changemakers. Through compelling visuals and strong messaging, the campaign , spotlighted youth led local solutions, and underscored the urgent need for intergenerational collaboration to combat the climate crisis. It reflects the core spirit of GYM—young people rising, leading, and reimagining a more just and sustainable future for all.

AND this is what they had to say:

#ACoolLEarth – It's heating up too fast!

‘Here in Chennai, the heat waves have made it difficult to work outdoors and to conduct field research. Erratic weather has delayed travel and disrupted my surveys.’

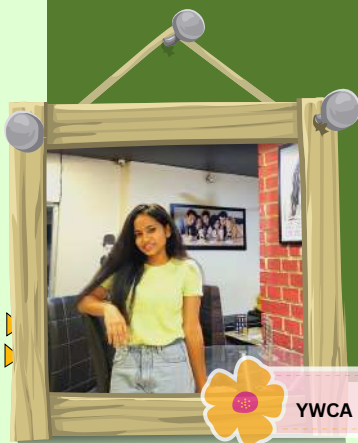


Agnita Sharon
YWCA Madras, Southeast region

#GreenBerhampurRising – A call for sustainable living and local environmental action.

Unpredictable weather and extreme heat in Berhampur have impacted health, reduced outdoor learning hours, and increased water scarcity.

‘Start small—plant trees and reduce plastic to protect Berhampur’s future.’



Prerana Nayak
YWCA Berhampur, Eastern Region



AND this is what they had to say:



#ActNowForTomorrow- because every small step today shapes our future. Climate change has made weather more extreme and unpredictable, affecting my daily comfort and sense of safety.

‘Start local—plant a tree, reduce waste, speak up—your actions matter more than you think.’



Bandangrenla
YWCA Mokokchung, Northeast Region

#ActNowForTomorrow- because every choice today shapes our future planet. Climate change has made extreme weather more frequent, affecting air quality and daily routines.

‘Start small, stay consistent, and remember that your voice and actions truly matter.’



Dr. Srishti Ali
YWCA Lucknow, Northern Region

#VoicesForThePlanet- Every action counts—let’s rise together for a greener, fairer future. Climate justice begins with us.

Climate change has disrupted daily routines with rising temperatures, unpredictable weather, and increased health risks, making even simple tasks more uncertain. It’s a constant reminder that our environment is no longer predictable or safe.

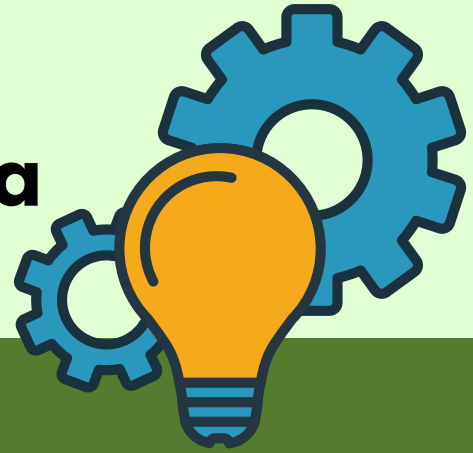
‘Start small—whether it’s reducing waste, speaking up, or joining local initiatives—every step matters. Your voice is powerful, and together, we can drive the change our planet urgently needs.’



Myra Nirmala Bhakre
YWCA Poona, Western region



Climate HERoes: Ground-up Ideas for a Greener World



Across the country, young women are taking bold steps to protect our planet from transforming agriculture to climate education and innovation, their projects are lighting the way for a greener tomorrow.

Here are the shoutouts — let's celebrate their thoughts!



*Ms. Christina Malsawmkimi and Ms. H Lalchhuansangi,
YWCA of Aizawl, Northeast Region.*



'We Empower We Grow: Seeds of Change' - A Sustainable Gardening Initiative

The project is a young women led gardening initiative that promotes sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, and entrepreneurship on campus. The project supports the college Eco Club through the sale of native produce while fostering environmental stewardship.



*Ms. Bendangrenla,
YWCA of Mokokchung, Northeast Region.*



Waste to Wealth: Plastic Bottle Brick Project

"Waste to Wealth: Bottle Bricks Project" aims to turn plastic waste into eco-bricks to build benches, borders, and more, showing how trash can become treasure. The project brings communities together to create cleaner, greener spaces with a strong purpose.

 **Ms. Amulya Boya,**
YWCA of Secunderabad, Southeast Region.



ReWoven: Weaving Sustainability, Creativity & Empowerment

'ReWoven: Weaving Sustainability, Creativity, and Empowerment' is an upcycling initiative that transforms textile waste into eco-friendly products while equipping marginalized women with skills and financial independence. Rooted in gender equality and responsible consumption, it reflects commitment to both environmental and social change.

 **Ms. A.wiselin Benita Navis, Ms.Deolin Shibula, Ms. Beautilin Bernisha and Ms.Christy Excellency,**
YWCA Palayamkottai ,, YWCA Marthandam, and YWCA Madurai.



Eco She-Roes

'Eco-Women Trails' is a women-led eco-tourism initiative set to train local women as guides, entrepreneurs, and artisans. The project envisions sustainable tourism trails that celebrate local ecology and culture while building future green livelihoods for women.

 **Ms. Divya John,**
YWCA of Bombay, Western Region.



The Eden Project: Herban Farming

'The Eden Project: Herban Farming' aims to empower young urban women to grow organic microgreens in compact city spaces like balconies and terraces. Rooted in the concept of "Her + Urban," the project champions women-led, city-based farming that restores access to clean, chemical-free food and promotes sustainable living.

 **Ms. Prerana Nayak,**
YWCA of Beharampur, Eastern Region.



GO-PLASTIC FREE

'Avoid Plastic' is an awareness initiative promoting eco-friendly alternatives to single-use plastics. By encouraging responsible consumption and sustainable habits, the project aims to reduce plastic pollution and protect both the environment and public health.

 **Ms. Anjaly Mary Joseph,**
YWCA of Trivandrum, Southwest Region.



Mushroom Masters

'Cultivating Empowerment' will focus on equipping young women from marginalized communities how to grow mushrooms using climate-friendly, low-cost methods. It's a simple, practical way to earn an income, fight food insecurity, and take action for the environment, all while building confidence and leadership within their communities

 **Ms. Taniya Sharma**
YWCA of Nagpur, Western Region.



Nagpur Organic Orange project: Mission for soil, soul, and sustainability

'Orange Roots: Reviving Nagpur's Organic Legacy' aims to promote sustainable orange farming in response to soil degradation and climate challenges. The project will train young women as eco-farmers and climate advocates, and envisions restoring Nagpur's identity as the "Orange City" through organic, community-led practices.

 **Ms. Archana Das**
YWCA of Balasore, Eastern Region.



FOR A HEALTHIER TOMORROW, KEEP THE CITY CLEAN

'For a Healthier Tomorrow: Clean City Project' aims at tackling waste buildup around food hubs. With open garbage dumps, irregular cleaning, and rising health risks, the project seeks to promote cleaner public spaces through awareness, community action, and responsible waste management.

 **Ms. Tripti Christina**
YWCA of Delhi.



EcoJustice Lab: Youth-led Action for Climate & Circular Change

'EcoJustice Lab: Youth-led Action for Climate & Circular Change' is an initiative that will empower young women and marginalized youth to lead eco-friendly solutions for managing textile, plastic, and organic waste. Focused on climate justice and circular economy, the project promotes sustainable livelihoods and inclusive leadership for a greener, fairer future. - CAN CHANGE.

 **Ms. Rachal Varghese,**
YWCA of Ernakulam, Southwest Region



Greener Tomorrow

This initiative promotes sustainable practices and green technologies to reduce environmental impact and foster long-term ecological balance. Through community engagement and innovation, it aims to build a cleaner, greener future.

 **Ms. Anitta Joseph,**
YWCA of Pathanamthitta, Southwest Region



Trash to Treasure: Bottle Booths for a Cleaner Pilgrimage.

This project transforms discarded plastic bottles into functional collection booths, encouraging eco-conscious disposal during pilgrimages and promoting recycling for a cleaner, more sustainable environment.

 **Ms. Sonia Sebastian,**
YWCA of Kalathipady, Southwest Region



PAITHRUGA

Bringing nature back—turning small spaces into thriving green areas using native plants, thus enhancing biodiversity and promoting sustainability.





GREEN READS: STORIES THAT MATTERS



“From Poem to Protest: A Climate Call from the Future We Must prevent”

By Ms. Yashika Sharma, RiseUp, YW Project Lead- National Office

In 2022, I wrote a poem titled **“Dear 2022.”** It was written like a letter from the future, a future where the climate crisis had already changed everything. I imagined a world where people had to pay to breathe clean air, where one side of the planet was flooded while the other dried up, where nature had been broken by human greed, and where silence had taken over because there was no one left to speak up. At the time, it felt like creative writing, a way to express worry and concern. But now, just a few years later in 2025, it feels too close to reality.

Today, we are not waiting for the climate crisis – it is already here. Every day, we are seeing its impact. There are landslides and droughts in the same week. Forests are burning while rivers vanish. Heatwaves are lasting longer, and seasons don't come on time. **Things we once took for granted, like clear skies or a walk in clean air – are becoming rare.** The “normal” I spoke about in the poem doesn't exist anymore. It feels like a memory from another lifetime.

In these last four years, I've had the chance to work closely with many young women from across India, especially those from communities that are often ignored or underrepresented. They don't always use the words **“climate justice”** or **“sustainability,”** but they live it every day. They are quietly leading change, not with fancy tools or media campaigns, but with everyday courage and care. These young women compost at home and teach their neighbors how to reduce waste. They organize clean-up drives in their streets and help schools plant small gardens. They run sessions on eco-friendly menstrual practices and talk about plastic pollution in their community meetings. Some of them have created terrace gardens to grow vegetables in areas where fresh food is hard to find. Others have spoken to local leaders to ban single-use plastic or improve water access. They are not waiting for permission or praise. They are doing the work, small step by small step, with deep commitment.

They are climate leaders, even if they are not always called that. Their work may not be in the news, but it is real. It is rooted in care, in culture, in survival. They are not just adapting to the crisis – they are building solutions that are local, inclusive, and lasting. **They remind me that climate justice is not only about loud protests or big policies. It is also about community, about everyday choices, and about refusing to give up.**



"No fireflies Left To Follow"

*By Ms. Amanda Perpetua Fernandes,
National Youth Board Member, Western Region*

Fireflies once lit up the night with quiet magic. Each glow a spell, each flicker the heartbeat of childhood summer. Now, their light is a rare wonder, fading like ghosts of a magical past. A relic from a forgotten time serves as a reminder that what we once knew and loved may never be possible again. Two decades into the 21st century, one million species are slipping toward extinction. Unusual thunderstorms, relentless wildfires, and unprecedented heat waves have become the new normal, throwing ecosystems off balance. These changes define our planetary era. The crisis now resembles a meteorite strike, a looming climate apocalypse. Our children have been born into a world burning at both ends. We've handed them Climate Change 101, a syllabus soaked in smoke and sorrow. There's a term for this knot in our chests: climate anxiety. It isn't just a buzzword. We truly find ourselves drowning in hopelessness and fear.

Now, more than ever, we must remind ourselves that we were born at precisely the right time to help change everything. **Every decision we make will determine the fate of the planet and the promise of our existence.** The simple truth is, we know climate change is a living emergency that touches every part of society, changing who we are, our sense of place, and our grip on reality. It strikes hardest at society's margins, particularly women, who shoulder historical injustices and environmental crises, spiralling into a humanitarian emergency. The real question is: what can we do, and how? Because it's overwhelming to sit on the sidelines and watch our planet engulfed in flames.

The first step begins with our lifestyle, reimagining how we move, eat, grow our food, and power our homes. It means transforming everyday choices in pursuit of a carbon-neutral future. The other requires systemic interventions: eliminating existing emissions from the atmosphere while adapting to inevitable consequences like sea level rise, rising temperatures, and biodiversity loss.

One of the biggest climate lies is that **individual action** alone is the answer. Those in power frame the crisis as a matter of personal choice, shifting blame and protecting their interests. From switching off lights and taking shorter showers to tracking carbon footprints, many of us believed flying less, eating less meat, or buying electric cars could solve it. They've successfully shifted their guilt onto us.

We're told that if we want farmers to stop using pesticides, we should buy organic. While working on a carbon footprint analysis for an organization, I came across a number that stopped me in my tracks: a single passenger flying from Goa to Bombay produces between 60–115 kg of CO₂. It made me think, if we're truly concerned about emissions from such a short flight, maybe we should be booking the train instead. Yes, tracking our carbon footprint should remain a personal commitment. But the larger conversation, the question of responsibility, is much bigger than individual action alone. These small acts are simply not enough and are not accessible to everyone. A friend once said: sustainability is a very elite concept. It's often cheaper to use single-use plastic cutlery when catering to a large crowd than to opt for biodegradable alternatives.

While you and I might choose to travel differently or consume less, the world is unequal, and these choices often come with a price tag. So while individual changes matter, they are a privilege and a short-term fix. There's only so much we can do alone. **I've come to realise that climate justice requires bold systemic change, not just personal responsibility.** The wealthiest 10 percent produce 49 percent of emissions. When we realise our civilization is being sacrificed for the luxury of a few, we understand that we need more than just the end of fossil fuels or corporate greenwashing.

▶▶▶▶ We need to imagine a completely new kind of society, where sustainability isn't reduced to electric cars or carbon taxes, which only reinforce the system that caused this crisis. Systemic change means governments investing in affordable, accessible public transport with better connectivity, especially first- and last-mile mobility. It means carbon offset requirements for private jet users, taxing polluting assets, and imposing a wealth tax to hold the ultra-rich accountable. This shifts the burden away from ordinary people and toward those most responsible. But demanding such change can often feel like shouting at a wall. People are speaking, but those in power aren't listening. It's hard to be part of a collective. But it's not impossible. History has shown us that even small revolutions, from the Dandi March to the women's rights movement hold immense power. You and I hold power. Our voices hold power. We just need to join the movement already in motion. Each of us must assume responsibility.

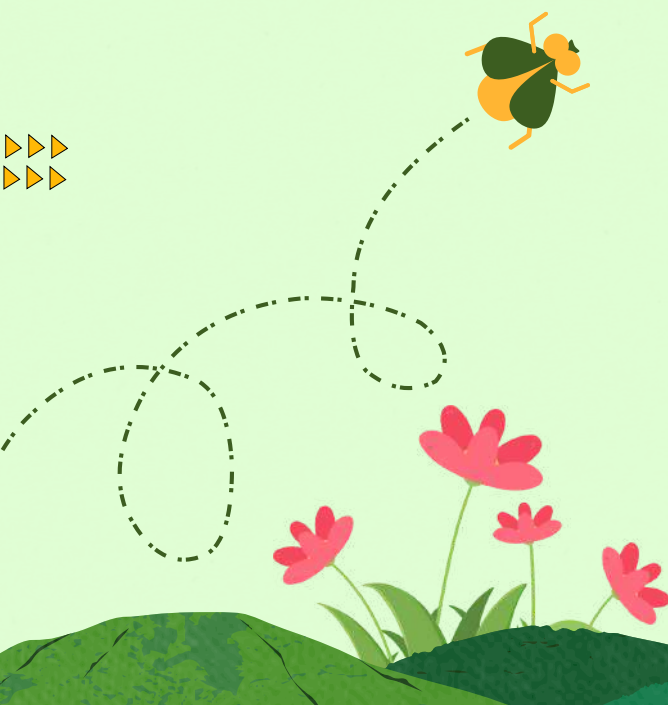
Now is not the time for ignorance to feel like bliss. It doesn't have to mean taking to the streets. We can begin in our homes, communities, and circles of influence. It could mean participating in local governance, staying informed, and being present. It means demanding accountability, electing representatives committed to the cause, and challenging decisions that see forests as vacant plots for highways and gated colonies.

It means calling out the betrayal of elected leaders, builder lobbies, and others whose silence or complicity is inexcusable. Being part of the climate movement doesn't mean devoting your life to the cause. It means doing what you can. That's a start. Because the road ahead is long, and every step counts.

The odds feel stacked against us. But as Ursula K. Le Guin said, **"We live in capitalism. Its power seems inescapable. But so did the divine right of kings."** We must dismantle the core ideas of a centuries-old paradigm. By narrowing the gap between rich and poor and bringing billions of voices into the conversation, we begin to acknowledge that all life matters and is now in peril. This reimagining must include the radical democratization of production, rapid decarbonization, new economic models, equitable climate finance, and the end of fossil fuels. It's an opening for revolutionary thinking and collective creativity.

With only a decade left, every path must be explored. **The future demands that we imagine alternatives, share ideas, and work toward a shared vision.** We all have a role to play. Only then can we build a movement rooted in love, repair, equity, and justice.

Only when the last river dries, the forests turn to dust, and seabirds lose their song will silence scream and the truth break through. Let us hear the whisper of a warming Earth and act before it's too late planting seeds of hope, speaking for the voiceless, and fighting without pause for a future where life, in all its wild and beautiful forms, can thrive.





SHE SPEAKS!



When Climate Change Becomes Daily Life

Ms. Rachal Varghese, YWCA of Ernakulam

I never used to think about climate justice as something personal. It sounded like a big term for activists and politicians to debate. But over the last few years, I've started to feel it in my skin, in my schedule, and in my studies. I live in Kochi, Kerala, and the summers here have become brutal. The kind of heat we experience now isn't just "hot weather." It's the kind that makes people faint in the middle of the day. Even small physical activities like walking to a shop or carrying a bag leave you completely exhausted. You feel like your body is shutting down. And when it's not unbearably hot, it's raining but not in the way we used to expect. The rains are so unpredictable that it can pour one moment and stop the next, turning every outing into a gamble. Even basic decisions like whether to take the car or scooter become stressful.

What makes it worse is how we're forced to respond. To escape the heat, people turn on the air conditioning almost constantly. When the rain floods the roads, we switch to cars instead of walking or biking. And every time we do that, we're pumping more emissions into the air. It's like we're stuck in a loop the very things we do to survive the climate are quietly feeding the problem. I've noticed how much this weather messes with my focus. Heatwaves have completely ruined my concentration, especially when I'm trying to study. It's hard to stay motivated or think clearly when your body is screaming for relief and there's no escape unless you burn more power. It's like the climate crisis has crept into my room, my desk, and even in my thoughts.

People often say climate change affects different genders in different ways. Personally, I haven't felt like my gender has made me more or less vulnerable to the climate at least not in a direct way. But I recognize that others especially women in rural areas or caregivers carry more weight during crises. I know their experience is probably far more intense. What I do feel, though, is a constant, low-key climate fatigue. A kind of mental exhaustion. You start to resent how uncertain everything has become how the sky can no longer be trusted. There's a frustration in seeing how daily life becomes harder, and how solutions only seem to make things worse. I'm still figuring out what climate justice really means for.

FROM THE PROGRAMME DESK: TOWARDS CREATING A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Ms. Pranita Biswasi, National Programmes Manager, YWCA of India

A journey towards Climate Justice

As I reflect on my journey towards Climate Justice, which began in 2010, I am reminded of the power of advocacy, awareness and action. My commitment to amplifying the young voices as advocates of climate change and supporting faith based organizations globally in their efforts to address Climate Justice has been a driving force in my passion and profession.

When I joined the YWCA of India in June 2023, I was inclined to the sub theme 'Nurturing Nature' and saw an opportunity to build a flagship programme for addressing Gender Responsive Climate Action at the national level. YWCA of India's flagship programme: "YWCA Young Women as Gender responsive Climate Advocates" was born out of this vision, with a focus on capacity building, training and local-led solutions to climate action. We developed the programme and secured funding from the Global Youth Mobilization –Youth Empowerment Fund which enabled us to execute the programme in YWCA local associations.

Today, I am thrilled to see the impact of this programme with project proposals and actions emerging from all regions of YWCA of India and young women championing these initiatives. All the project proposals redirect to community led initiatives, intergenerational collaboration and a renewed commitment to sustainability. They showcase the resilience and determination of young women who are driving change towards addressing the climate crisis and building a more just and equitable world.



As we imagine a safer planet for our future generations, I would like to leave the readers with how we could possibly move towards the next steps.

Towards an Ecotheological approach of understanding our contextual theology

Ecotheological approach redirects us to Care for creation not just as a responsibility but also a great opportunity for human kind and reminds us that God trusts us and God's beautiful creation is entrusted to us. Care for creation does not just mean caring for the Earth. It also means caring for the people. The word of God directs us to love our neighbor. In the context of the climate crisis, our neighbors are the vulnerable ones who face the relentless and negative impacts of climate change. We must make responsible lifestyle choices in order to reduce the suffering of the poor and the vulnerable ones.

As faith based institutions, we must develop and update a holistic climate change strategy that addresses advocacy, carbon emissions, training and awareness raising humanitarian assistance. Engage with civil society to continuously advocate and lobby governments towards increased action and ambition on mitigation and adaptation and continue to engage in advocacy. Our scripture gives us a sign of Hope. There is still hope and together we can create a peaceful and reconciled world.



Towards creating a just world for all ages

Young people will bear the worst brunt of climate change with more extreme weather, less food and water security, and increased displacement due to sea-level rise and other impacts of climate change.

This day and the future belongs to the present generation and the upcoming generations. Without the engagement and leadership of young people, the future cannot be sustainable. Fortunately, young people today are more passionate and involved in environmental issues than any who have come before them. Not only are they themselves taking action, they are mobilizing their families, communities and society at large to tackle the great environmental challenges of our time. Initiatives are evolving into leadership. We must create intentional spaces of leadership for young people to build a healthier planet for the future generations.



Towards reducing Eco-anxiety

Eco-anxiety is the feeling of overwhelming stress related to the current climate crisis and environmental state of the planet.

The world today has around 1.2 billion young people and our young people are more anxious and show signs of worry when it comes to the climate crisis. Young people are incredibly worried and express that governments are not doing enough to combat climate change. Young people are shouting out that combating climate change individually isn't enough on its own but those in power have a responsibility to protect not only the earth but also the mental health of those who stand to inherit the planet.



Towards Ecofeminism and Against Ecocide

Ecofeminism is an opportunity for us to invest our ideas and actions towards justice for the Earth and the marginalized communities. Exploitation of Earth's resources and Exploitation of the women and girls goes conjointly.

We need to preserve the power of nature and women, put focus on the intersection of these both and develop more conversations and ways to upend the existing paradigms that devastate these both. It's time we protect both!

Towards a just, peaceful and one equal world for all

Let us build a world in which everyone wakes up in the morning, has access to safe drinking water, cooks meals with fresh vegetables and takes deep breaths of clean air on the commute to work. We can all enjoy this fundamental quality of life by making conscious decisions in our everyday lives that support positive environmental and health outcomes.

The youth of today are key actors in shaping the future environment and can still change our future towards happy and healthy lives. The Earth is at risk and waiting for us to take action; collectively we can help to give Mother Earth a fighting chance.



**IT IS OUR SPACE, OUR PLANET AND OUR FUTURE.
WE MUST BUILD IT TOGETHER AND THERE IS NO TIME TO
WAIT. WE MUST ACT NOW.**

.....Ms. Pranita Biswasi

SPARK FUND

In a major step towards empowering its network, YWCA of India launched a special initiative to support Local Associations by funding the appointment of Programme Officers. Through this grant and with the support of Intergenerational Leaders, YWCA of India intends to have concerted and collective efforts to build the YWCA Movement in India.

Purpose of the Initiative

The initiative is designed to strengthen the capacity of Local Associations to implement impactful social work programmes and scale up their operations, particularly in CSR-funded and donor-driven projects.

Phased Financial Support Structure

- Year 1 – 100% support by National YWCA
- Year 2 – 75% support
- Year 3 – 50% support
- Year 4 – 25% support
- Year 5 onward – Local Associations to independently sustain the salary

Role of the Programme Officer

The Programme Officers will play a key role in developing, implementing, and sustaining impactful social work initiatives. Together we will work to enhance the Local Association's capacity for youth engagement, community outreach, and financial sustainability in alignment with the YWCA of India's Goal 2035 vision.

Getting Started with Spark!

We're excited to welcome 10 new Programme Officers onboard! A few more appointments are just around the corner. Their orientation and first virtual training from the National Office will be kicking off soon and we can't wait to get started!

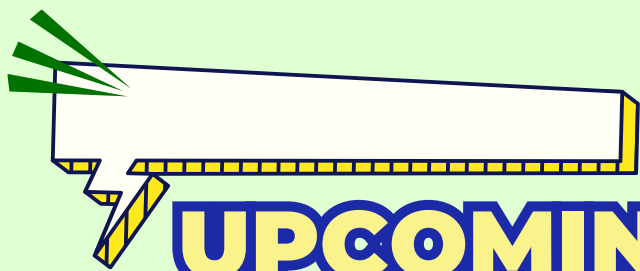
Big things ahead!

We're happy to share that Ms. Arpita Raj has been appointed as the **Programme Coordinator** at the National Office to monitor the Programme Officers across the country under the guidance of the National Programme Manager.

Exciting times ahead as we strengthen the Spark Fund journey together.



Ms. Arpita Raj



UPCOMING EVENTS



YWCA India Virtual Panel- 23rd of July
"Wired to Feel : understanding the Female Brain and Emotional Health"



National Youth Conclave-
Stay Tuned For The Updates



Leadership Training YWCA South West and South East Region

Freedom of Religion or Belief & Women's Right to Equality-

4th and 5th of August @

YWCA National Project, Anandagiri

To register connect to youthdesk@ywcaindia.org

Follow us for more updates on our upcoming events:



@YWCAIndia



@YWCA of India



ywcaindia.org



A Heartfelt Thank You!

Dear Readers,
Thank you for taking the time to read and engage with our special edition of the newsletter on the theme, 'Nurturing Nature'. We hope you enjoyed the read as much as it took for us to put it together.

Your continued support is the fuel! And it ignites and inspires us to work harder toward a more sustainable future. Together, we can make a difference, one small step at a time. May we be reminded that our smallest actions can sow seeds of lasting change.

Let's keep spreading awareness, taking action, and fostering a cleaner, greener planet for generations to come.

With gratitude,
Dhiya Ann Mathew
National General Secretary
YWCA of India

Editorial oversight

-Ms. Kunjamma Mathew,
National President,
YWCA of India

Editorial Team

-Ms. Pranita Biswasi,
National Programmes Manager
-Ms. Arpita Raj,
Programme Coordinator

Editorial Support

-Ms. Dhiya Ann Mathew,
National General Secretary
-Ms. Amelia Andrews, Chairperson,
National Media Committee

Reviewed and Published by Ms. Dhiya Ann Mathew, NGS, YWCA of India