



Knowledge. Voice. Democracy.

**PRIA**

# EVENT REPORT



## YOUTHRA 3.0

*New Delhi*

*2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2019*

Youthra- The annual street theatre competition of PRIA, organized for the first time in 2017 was back with its third edition. Spread over two days, Youthra 3.0 saw a beautiful celebration of youth, democracy and *nukkad natak* (street play). Since 2017, Youthra has been held in 10 cities of the country, received over 180 registrations, has seen performances by 80 colleges and has a social outreach of over 4000 people. This year, Youthra 3.0 was organized on February 2-3, 2019 at Janakpuri District Centre and Huda City Centre Metro station respectively and received a total of 53 registrations from different universities/colleges from the Delhi/NCR region. A total of 17 young college teams performed, by speaking on the issues that mattered to them the most.

Thought-provoking conversation between the college going youth and the general public was followed by expressions of rage, happiness, fear, sadness, disgust and surprise. Discussions on how the young people of our country practice and perceive *democracy in their everyday lives* on street has always made Youthra an extremely exceptional platform of bringing young people from different socio-economic backgrounds together.

Varied aspects of democracy in everyday life were spoken about. This year, *nukkad nataks* used theatre along with dance, music and dialogue to talk about themes like male rape, hyper-masculinity and gender based violence, superstitions and stereotypes, languages and religions, people's participation and election, conditions of waste pickers, identity and plurality, and lastly, mental illness and lifestyle. The performances were very powerful and showcased the opinions, thoughts, values, concerns, and ideologies of the youth, in front of a large general public with the fearless, open and non-judgmental attitude of being a **Young Citizen** of the youngest country of the world. One of the employees of PRIA overheard a spectator "भाषाएँ समाप्त हो रहीं हैं, कुछ समाप्त हो गयी हैं आज पता चला", during a play which was depicting the perspective that each language, the mother tongue enables the development of one's ideas, articulates emotion and marks the identity of person, tribe/community and nation as a whole. Through these performances, it was clear that the youth of the country thinks, speaks and finds every possible way to express themselves and their various interpretations of democracy.

All the plays were received with a lot of enthusiasm, but the final decision of the competition rested with the judges from Sukhmanch Theatre group and Martha Farrell Foundation. The winners were as follows:

1st place: "Zabaan Samhaal Ke!" - Sri Aurobindo College

2nd place: "Sapnon ka Bojha" - Janki Devi Memorial College

3rd place: "Ab, Normal!" - Maharaja Agrasen College

*The Society of Participatory Research in Asia has been working with the youth for years and has always been focused on exploring the power of the young generation and how they can become active citizens of the country. PRIA's Youth-n-Democracy campaign is a pan-India campaign which was launched in 2017, with a focus on engaging the young people of the country and providing them with the space and the capacities to help them reconstruct and spread the various nuances of democracy.*