



Enabling Youth Leadership

Overcoming Barriers and Fostering Meaningful Engagement

Why Youth Engagement Matters

The future depends on how we engage young people today. In Chhattisgarh and beyond, youth are not just emerging voices — they are leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers.

Youth as Stakeholders

- Leading climate action, rural innovations, and social movements.

Participation is a Right

- Anchored in global frameworks like the SDGs and UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Improved Outcomes

- Programs become more inclusive and relevant with youth participation.

Catalyst for Inclusion

- Brings in girls, tribal youth, youth with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ voices.

Barriers to Youth Engagement

Despite potential, many youths remain excluded from civic and development processes:

Socio-Cultural

- Youth seen as inexperienced
- Gender, caste, and identity-based exclusion
- Tokenism with no real influence

Economic

- Volunteering is costly for low-income youth
- Youth groups lack financial support

Institutional

- No formal entry points in governance
- Decision-making spaces remain closed
- Limited institutional will to include youth

Meaningful Youth Engagement

A **participatory process** where young people's ideas and experiences shape **programs, policies, and decisions**.

Key Features:

- Engagement spans all stages—**design, implementation, and evaluation**.
- Participation moves beyond symbolism to genuine influence on outcomes.
- The **"Ladder of Participation"** framework helps visualize the progression from:
 - **Non-participation** (e.g., manipulation or tokenism),
 - To **consultation** (one-way input),
 - To **partnership and co-creation** (shared decision-making).

Approach to youth Engagement

Chhattisgarh Agricon Samiti (CAS) provides a scalable, inclusive model that removes barriers and strengthens youth leadership.

Acceptance & Trust

- Challenge stereotypes
- Create safe, inclusive spaces
- Value youth insights and experience

Intergenerational Partnerships

- Facilitate co-leadership with adults
- Promote mutual learning and shared responsibilities

Capacity & Resources

- Train youth in civic, digital, emotional, and leadership skills
- Offer stipends to remove economic barriers
- Support youth-led organisations

Youth-led Research & Monitoring

- Involve youth in data, evaluation, and monitoring
- Use tools that reflect diverse, intersectional realities

Media & Advocacy

- Support youth in storytelling, public speaking, and advocacy
- Celebrate civic leadership through art, media, and creativity

Key Outcomes & Targets

15,000+

Youth mobilized through local platforms

1,500+

Youth trained in civic & leadership skills

300+

Youth-led campaigns & data projects launched

500+

Marginalised youth in decision-making roles

Why Your Support Matters

- Build youth leadership in tribal and rural areas
- Mainstream youth participation in governance and service delivery
- Strengthen diverse youth voices through policy, media, and storytelling
- Shift institutional norms toward inclusion and equity

With ongoing **UNICEF's** support, your partnership can scale **youth-led change** and **unlock opportunities** for Chhattisgarh's next generation.



Why Partner With CAS?

- **18 years of expertise** in rural development and institution building.
- Proven ability to design and **scale impactful models** across Chhattisgarh.
- Deep-rooted community trust with strong convergence with government departments.
- Leading work on youth **mental health, gender, and inclusion**.
- Ongoing funding support from **UNICEF** for Adolescents Empowerment in different districts of Chhattisgarh.



Your Investment

- Inclusive youth forums and safe spaces
- Life skills and leadership training with mentorship
- Stipends for low-income youth
- Youth-led monitoring, data, and advocacy
- Creative platforms to uplift unheard voices
- Transparent impact tracking through reports and field visits

Join Us to Empower the Next Generation

Together, let's ensure youth have not just a seat at the table — but lead the conversation.

Contact

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