



The Ocean in a Drop: Inside-Out Youth Leadership

By Ashraf Patel, Meenu Venkateswaran, Kamini Prakash, Arjun Shekhar

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The Ocean in a Drop explores how young people have contributed significantly to society in the past, and suggests ways in which they can take centre stage again. Traditionally, society has legitimized four spaces for young people: the family, friends, education/careers, and leisure. The book introduces the concept of the 5th Space—a space that goes beyond the commonly used terms of volunteerism and Active Citizenship and focuses on three critical aspects of youth development: understanding the Self, building meaningful relationships, and impacting Society.

By facilitating young people to connect their selves with society and by developing skills, values, and attitudes that enable them to impact the world around them, 5th Spaces become a critical strategy for renewing society.

From the lessons learnt from the Indian Independence movement, theories of youthhood, interviews with key stakeholders, and Pravah's own experiences of working with young people, the book argues that youth once again need to be at the forefront of nation building.

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- Sales Rank: #6111734 in Books
- Brand: Brand: SAGE Publications Pvt. Ltd
- Published on: 2013-02-08
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 5.63" h x .67" w x 8.46" l, .53 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 227 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

The book makes a convincing case for citizens to participate in national issues, especially in today's troubled times...well written book.

(The Hindustan Times 2013-06-01)

About the Author

Ashraf Patel is a founder member and board member of Pravah and Commutiny?The Youth Collective. She is presently Director, Learning Voyages?Pravah and Organization Facilitator at Commutiny?The Youth Collective. From 1990 to 1994 she worked with SRF and Escorts Financial Services. After this stint with the corporate sector, Ashraf cofounded Pravah and was the chief executive from 1994 to 2001. She is also an Ashoka Fellow and has served on several working groups, including the Working Group for Youth and Adolescents set up by the Youth Ministry for the Eleventh Five Year Plan, the Working Group for Adolescent Education set up by the HRD Ministry for the Twelfth Five Year Plan, and the National Committee set up by the UNDP and the Youth Ministry for IYV+10. Ashraf did her bachelors in Physics from Delhi University followed by a postgraduate diploma in Industrial Relations Management from XLRL, Jamshedpur.

Meenu Venkateswaran is a founder member and board member of Pravah and Commutiny?The Youth Collective. At Pravah, she has worked in several capacities?including head of Teacher Training and as the CEO. Presently she is Director, Resource Mobilization and Partnerships at Pravah. She has also worked with MARG Marketing and Research Group, SRF Finance, and CRY, and has consulted with Ashoka-Innovators for the Public, Plan International, and Credibility Alliance. She is a trustee of Patang, a youth organization in Odisha and Spanda, a performing arts trust. Meenu completed her masters (1985) in Economics from Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, and obtained a postgraduate Diploma in Management from Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore in 1990.

Kamini Prakash is presently a board member and Director, Research at Pravah. She also looks after Change Looms: A Learning and Leadership Journey?a program for young social entrepreneurs. She has worked as executive director, The Hope Project, Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi, and as a program associate, Urban Programs, Care India. She is also a board member of the Hope Project and the Fabindia School, Rajasthan. She obtained her masters in Social Policy and Planning in Developing Countries from London School of Economics, and her PhD in German Studies from Michigan State University, USA.

Arjun Shekhar is a founder member and board member of both Pravah and Commutiny?The Youth Collective. He is currently the President of the Pravah Board and director, Vyaktitva, a performance enhancement organization. He studied at the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, and then XLRI, Jamshedpur.

He worked at NIIT and SRF between 1990 and 1997. He is the author of the novel *A Flawed God* (2011).

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