



Annual Report 2019: The Rural Changemakers -. Association for the promotion of youth, education and development aid.

Founding date

Berlin, April 29, 2018

Purpose

Promotion of youth welfare, education, popular and vocational training and the development cooperation as well as the promotion of international spirit, tolerance in all areas of culture and international understanding.

Non-profit status

Responsible tax office:

Tax Office for Corporations I

Bredtschneiderstrasse 5

14057 Berlin

Tax number: 27/678/57308

Contents

Preamble	3
Membership details	4
Structure of the association	4
Association memberships/interest groups	4
Financial report	4
Public relations	5
Projects in 2019	6
Trips and competitions	11
Outlook 2020	13
Membership development	14

Annexes

Annual report 2019
Business plan 2020

The Rural Changemaker #3 (newspaper)
Out-of-the-Box Newsletter #1 and #2

Preamble

2019 was the first full fiscal year for the Association. It has been an encouraging development as far as donation income is concerned, it has increased by 50% compared to the previous year. There continues to be national (Indian) and international media interest in our activities which is reflected in our engagements at conferences and in news coverage.

This fiscal year was largely characterised by initiating the "handover" of responsibility for some of the activities to the youth in Janwaar and creating the infrastructural and organisational conditions for this. The association has actively supported the establishment of the Section 8 company (a kind of non-profit limited liability company) "Barefoot Skateboarders Organization". In the organisation are two, meanwhile adult, Janwaar youth directors. From the point of view of our association we see ourselves in the role of an incubator and start-up advisor for this organisation. Two important elements in this transition phase are the Open School project, which started in January 2019, and the new skatepark in Janwaar, which was completed at the end of December 2019.



Panoramic view of the new skatepark

Membership details

The association has a total of seven members.

Association structure

Board of Directors

Chair: Ulrike Reinhard

Vice-Chairman: Andreas Schulten

Treasurer: Axel Pfennigschmidt

Cash auditor

Astrid Ramge

Recording Secretary

Axel Pfennigschmidt

Memberships of associations/interest groups

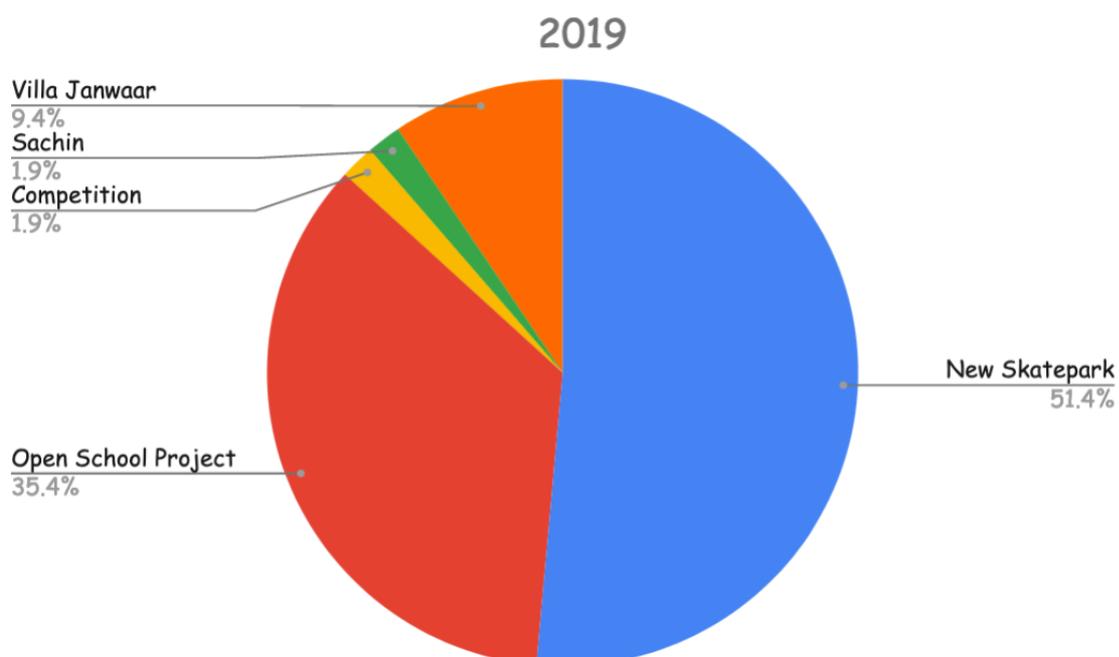
None.

Annual Financial Report 2019

See attachment.

We have collected donations in 2019 in the amount of € 32.500.

And we have distributed them to the projects (description see below) as follows:



Public Relations

Association Publications

The Rural Changemaker, 12-page newspaper (see attached).

Out-of-the-Box, 4-page newsletter (see attached).

Unchanged from previous year Postcards / Book / Stickers

Presentations

Ulrike Reinhard has now given seven TEDx Talks on the activities in Janwaar and has been present at a variety of events internationally. Often, children from Janwaar participate in the events and share their experiences or respond directly to questions from the audience.

Selected dates in 2019

January 2019, Jaipur, India: Jaipur Litfest - presentation at various schools and on the main stage.

February 2019, Miranda House, University of Delhi, presentation with the Open School Kids.

February 2019, Noida, India: Sportsday Prakriti School, Presentation

February 2019, Noida, India: International School Pathway, presentation

February 2019, Jaipur, India: presentation at the Bosch Stiftung India

February 2019, Workshop with the skateboard managers of Decathlon India in Janwaar, 3 days.

June 2019, Bordeaux, France, roundtable discussion with Decathlon at Darwin Skatepark

June 2019, Southgate London, England, short presentation

August 2019 Malmö, Sweden, Pushing Borders Conference

September 2019, Freiburg, roundtable discussion with Let's Bridge IT, Freiburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IHK)

October 2019, International Conference and Training Centre, Asia Plateau, Panchganj, Maharashtra, Keynote at "Education Today Society Tomorrow Conference", hosted by Initiative of Change

October 2019, Pro Sports Development Annual Conference in Delhi, keynote along with Asha Gond

November 2019, Workshop at Villa Janwaar with villagers and Open School children.

December 2019, Skateboarding for Change, ProtoVillage, India.

Website

www.rural-changemakers.com

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RuralChangemakers/>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BarefootSkateboarders/>

Media contacts and publications:

Publications can be found in detail here: <https://rural-changemakers.com/media>

March 2019, Danny Schmidt, skateboarder and documentary filmmaker, short film.

June 2019, Asha appears alongside prominent sports legends in a national TV ad campaign for Apollo Tyres, India

August 19, 2019 - The New Indian Express September 2, 2019 - Dainik Bhaskar all India

October 2019, Ulrike Reinhard in the Musterbrecher book (publication date 2020), Munich

<https://www.musterbrecher.de>

November 2019, Samsung shot a trailer in Janwaar with their new phone Samsung Galaxy

Throughout the year, one of India's largest daily newspapers, Patrika Madhya Pradesh, regularly reported on the activities of the children in Janwaar.

Projects in 2019

In addition to the three "major projects" already mentioned in the preamble, we would like to highlight three smaller projects with a great impact on the villagers. These are: Sachin, Mothers and Domestic Violence, and a workshop at Villa Janwaar organised and conducted by Open School participants.

Sachin

Sachin is now 11 years old. He had skin TB. For years we only saw the child walking around the village, a scarf or a T-shirt protecting his head. He had open sores around his ears, neck and shoulders. He hardly played because he could not move properly and was probably in pain. He never went to school.



Sachin (center) in the shelter home with his friends.

A Facebook campaign launched his "rescue" journey in 2018. Together with a photographer, Ulrike Reinhard posted a photo on Facebook and within half an hour help for Sachin was on the way. We organised a place for him to stay in Delhi, he was able to stay and live in a homeless shelter for boys (Salaam Baalak Trust) with 30 young people. The staff there took care of all the doctor visits and he was not alone. After three months he was diagnosed with skin TB from one of the best hospitals in India (AIIMS Delhi) and the treatment could begin.

Sachin spent a whole nine months in Delhi. He started going to school and was always happy when someone from Janwaar visited him. We brought his parents to Delhi twice, and the children from the Open School Project came regularly.

Equipped with the right medication and the determination to change his life, Sachin came back to Janwaar. His open wounds are scars today. He skateboards and will soon go to a good school in Satna, which is 70 km from Janwaar.

Today he is a happy camper, he is laughing and finally living an untroubled life by his standards.

Mothers and domestic violence

Domestic violence is unfortunately still a very big issue in rural India. This is also the case in Janwaar. It's often accompanied by the consumption of alcohol. The men drink their homemade liquor, come home completely drunk, and then beat their wives. Unrestrained. And they often beat them violently.

In December 2019, we took Asha's mother to the private hospital in Panna. Her husband had punched her in the face during the night, and she was bleeding from her eyes and nose. She could barely see out of her eyes and was probably unconscious for a short time. Thank God there were two guests in the house - they helped us to build the new skate park - who could avoid something worse.

The next morning she was treated in the clinic and Ulrike Reinhard tried to convince her that she should tell the doctor the truth and report to the police. She had told the doctor that she had fallen She was ashamed and did not want shame to come upon her family if she told the truth. What was obvious to everyone, she wanted to hide. This is very typical for women in rural India. Their role is to stay with the husband – no matter what happens – and serve the family.

After Asha and her son also gave her a good talking to, she decided and also promised us that the next time something happened, she would call the police emergency number. We bought a phone for this purpose. We have equipped another 10 women, who are also regularly beaten, with these phones and have spoken in parallel with the responsible police station and informed them about our project and asked that in case of a call, police really should come to Janwaar.

Asha and another older girl in the village now offer "women's rounds" for mothers, where they talk about these problems.

Open School Project

Besides the new skatepark, the Open School project was the biggest project in the last calendar year. It began on January 1, 2019, and is scheduled to run for two years. Five students - Asha, Arun, Anil, Brajendra and Ajeet - will live in Noida/Delhi from now on. Each one of them returns to Janwaar every five weeks to work on a very specific project with the village children.

The Five quickly settled into Noida, each in their own way soaking up the city and its dynamics. They quickly understood that the project was challenging them and that they had to do something about it in order to succeed. This turned out very differently.

A basic assumption of the Open School project is that the needs of Janwaar youth are very different from the needs of classmates of the same age. It was up to our friendly colleagues at Prakriti, with whom we are running this project, to develop a curriculum for this. The curriculum goes beyond the normal school subjects and includes soft skills such as using new media and computers, leadership, conflict management and drama - all skills the Five can pass on to others in Janwaar.

The Five felt the urge to experiment and explore. We invited them to do so. They learned to live together and take on responsibilities. Our goal is that the wealth of experience the young people gain in Noida will trigger a thought process: How can we apply what we learn in the long term in Janwaar? And how do we best manage to close our gaps that we have in all subjects? What is our learning path?

What emerged in the first year were in fact five very different learning pathways, which have now been considered in the second year. We have written detailed reports on each child – you can find them on our website.

However, their time in Noida was not all about school. They explored their surroundings and learned to understand the dynamics of a city by interacting with the other students. The entrepreneurial spirit of the five delighted the Prakriti students with a weekly skateboarding lesson. The money earned from this went back into the Open School project. This was used to pay for the daily dinner.

The project had a great impact on the children in the village already in the first year. Because every week a child from Janwaar was allowed to visit the "big ones" in Noida - we had selected seven children for this - learning suddenly became attractive for many. Because it was connected with traveling and word had spread very quickly that it was very nice and exciting at the Prakriti School. The children learned that learning could be fun. And many wanted to participate.

The village children who then went back to school in Janwaar asked their teachers why they could not teach like the teachers in Prakriti a challenge was passed on. The eagerness to learn is awakened.

Workshop at Villa Janwaar

The five young people of the Open School project held their first workshop at Villa Janwaar in November 2019. Over five days they prepared, discussed and rehearsed their speeches. They shared their experiences with the just over 100 villagers who had gathered at the villa. The audience was still seated separately by gender and caste. Everything was going according to plan so far. Then it was Brajendra's turn, and tempers flared at his account of his experiences. He told about how he realized that there is no difference between Adivasi and Yadav. And he went further out on a limb with a sincere request to his family that they treat him and his little sister equally. From the reaction of those gathered, especially his father's reaction, it was easy to see that such a thing had never been said before. The Five had set something in motion that night.

At the same event, Asha spoke about the problems girls are facing in the village. After Asha's speech, Shanti, Arun's sister, stood up and addressed a simple question to the audience: why can't girls walk around the village just like boys? Why are they treated differently? Some in the audience nervously slid around in their seats, others had tears in their eyes. Wow! No one really expected this: a teenager to stand up in front of an assembled village crowd and simply challenge the norms the people in Janwaar had cherished for generations.

At the same time, it was very encouraging to see that these teenagers had understood that something was going wrong in their lives. And that they want to talk about it, even if it makes others uncomfortable. It was an encouraging start. All the more so because the whole thing sprang from a deeply rooted feeling that came out of the young people quite organically. And that's evidence enough of what's bubbling under the surface, at least among young people.

Read more here:

<https://rural-changemakers.com/be-the-change-you-want-to-see>



Brajendra, Asha, Anil, Ajeet and Arun at Villa Janwaar during the workshop.

The Barefoot Skateboarders Organization (BSO)

In September 2019, the youth in Janwaar founded the BSO. This was the first step to put the responsibility of all activities in the village in the hands of the actual stakeholders. The organisation is something like a non-profit limited company and can receive donations and write invoices. In this way, the organisation can promote commercial activities, such as building new skate parks or offering skateboarding courses.

In India, this form of organisation is called section 8 company.

Asha and Karan - a girl and a boy, an Adivasi and a Yadav - are directors of the organisation. Their task in the future will be to handle the events in the village – whatever might come up or occur. They were trained for this. As a company they can write invoices, pay day labourers and charge for skateboarding courses like the one at Prakriti School. It does not matter that they belong to different caste. In fact, it was rather intentional. Asha is a "novelty" in her new leadership role anyway, in a village where women have no voice.

This form of organisation allows members to be admitted and their role to be defined. For example, it gives them the right to elect a board of directors. The board decides on the rights of potential members - depending on how it is structured, a collective, democratic process can be set in motion. This great creative freedom is very suitable for bringing about grassroots democratic decisions in a small village like Janwaar, where about 1200 people live.

As members, we do not want the old and ancient, but all the children. Because they are the generation that can bring about cultural change.

BSO gives important grassroots democratic impulses. But above all, it is a job creator. For example, some kids and their parents built skateboard ramps for a school in Satna, which is about 80 kilometres away. Other kids give skateboarding lessons. The organisation bills and pays the locals for their work. They get much more money than in their normal day labourer job, thanks to their new knowledge.

We as an association see ourselves as an incubator in this process. The organisation is in a figurative sense a startup, which we now support with words and deeds.

New Skatepark

Janwaar is the world leader when it comes to the number of square meters of skatepark per inhabitant. For 1200 people there are 1500 square meters of skatepark in Janwaar. There is no child in Janwaar - girl or boy - who hasn't stood on a skateboard.

Due to ongoing problems with the old skatepark - access rights and land ownership - it became necessary to build a new skatepark. This was the only way the whole project could continue. We've now finished the new skatepark in 2019. Half of the funding came from The Skateroom, Brussels, the remaining 50% we organised with a crowd-funding campaign through Friends&Family.

The legal situation regarding the land on which it was built is clear, the land was leased for 10 years from a local farmer. There is a binding contract between the Barefoot Skateboarders Organisation and this farmer. The management and maintenance of the skatepark is the responsibility of BSO.



Preparation of the sand for the concrete mixer

The construction of the park took place in two stages. The foundation was made in March/April 2019; then the big final spurt - under the guidance of five skateboarders from France and Germany - took place in December 2019. The year 2019 was duly bid farewell at the new skatepark with a big party!

Read more here: https://issuu.com/we-magazine/docs/the_second_turns_first_issue

Travel / Competitions

The children love to travel and they love competitions. Compared to the previous year, there has been a significant increase in travel.

Jaipur, Rajasthan

Five children traveled from Khajuraho to Jaipur in January to participate in the Jaipur Literature Festival outreach program. It's a 17-hour train ride that the children did all by themselves. In Jaipur, they worked with 30 children from the city's schools for 10 days on small theatre sequences telling stories, anecdotes and experiences from their lives at home. The dialogues were written by the kids, rehearsed and then - during the festival - performed daily at two schools in Jaipur. The final performance was on the big stage of the festival in front of international guests. An experience that no one would want to miss.

Since five years the Janwaar Kids take part in this program and it is always a very special experience for them. They bring a lot back to the village.

The Rainbow Dream Camp, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu

Four of our girls - Dilasha (10), Durgha (8), Priyanka (10) and Kalpna (11) - participate in the Open School Project in the form of spending a week at the Prakriti School with the "big Janwaar kids" every now and then.

At the end of September, the four now had the opportunity to participate in the one-week Rainbow Dreams All India Children Camp at the Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry. Asha accompanied them. It is a very long train journey from Janwaar to Pondicherry - all in all the girls were on the road for 38 hours.

The Rainbow Dream Camp was an all-girls event. The idea and concept is very much in line with what we are doing in Janwaar. The camp had everything that is not available at the village school: Music & dance, arts and crafts, games and sports.

The long journey was quickly forgotten and the four girls had a wonderful week. In addition to the travel experience, they learned from all the other girls there that they are not alone, that other children live in similar environments, and that they can all do great and exciting things together. It gave the girls an opportunity to open up and gain confidence. And that's exactly what they did.

You can read more here: <https://rural-changemakers.com/the-rainbow-dream-camp>

30 Barefoot skateboarders went on a 15 days round trip.

In December 2019 the Indian Skateboarding Championships were coming up. They were held again in Vishakhapatnam. The run of the children to be "there" was huge. In addition to the 13 children who had qualified for the competition, 17 other Janwaar children were along for the ride. Many of them left Janwaar for the first time in their lives.



The "girls' section" on the train

The long journey to Vishakhapatnam was done in stages. The first stop was the skate park in ProtoVillage, which we had helped to build a year before. The kids participated in the "Skateboarding for Change" program. Asha and Anil also gave a presentation.

From there they went on to the Championships in Vishakhapatnam - all by train. The kids stayed in a hostel, all 30 in one room. The catering was a bit of a challenge, but the "big ones" among them, managed the whole thing. The four days became a joyful celebration - apart from some minor quarrels. Besides the playground and the beach, the skate park was of course THE attraction. In the end our children won five medals, two gold, one silver and two bronze. Of these, the girls won three medals! Once again, the Janwaar kids made the strongest team.

The next stop on the way home was Dharambhandha in Odisha. The kids visited the second skatepark we helped to build last year. This skatepark is located on a police campus. The kids were picked up at the train station by a big police bus and slept right next to the skatepark in the newly built police station. This was a very special experience. In Dharambhandha they taught skateboarding to the local kids and showed their tricks – not without pride.

From Dharambhandha it was a two hour drive to the train station in Raipur from where they took the last train – nine hours – back home. The kids arrived in Janwaar in time for the completion of the new skatepark.

Read more here <https://rural-changemakers.com/the-champs-are-back-in-town>
and here: <https://rural-changemakers.com/stop-over-in-dharambhandha>
and here: <https://rural-changemakers.com/they-did-it-again>



Anikesh, the youngest of the bunch, at the Dharambhandha skatepark.

Outlook 2020

The year 2020 will be mainly determined by three major projects.

Continuation and expansion of the Open School project

The Open School Project will continue. Based on the results of the first year we will adapt the individual learning paths of each participant in coordination with Prakriti School.

Barefoot Skateboarders Organization

This is "our baby", so to speak. We accompany its growth process and are available for help and advice. The goal is for this organisation to take over our work in Janwaar in the medium term.

Creation of a kitchen garden / playground

Next to the new skatepark there is enough space to build a kitchen garden and a playground. The kitchen garden will be part of our Open School project and will be located "under" the playground. The first or second floor above the kitchen garden will be used for playing, while fruit and vegetables will be grown underneath in the partial shade.

Planned activities in Germany

We currently have the following association activities planned for 2020:

- Publication of a new book about our work.
- Event with the organisation Musterbrecher, Munich
- Interview/meeting with important donors
- Crowd-funding event in Munich
- Continuation of our newsletter (mailing is planned twice a year)
- Bringing four of the Janwaar mothers to Germany

Planned activities in India

Ulrike Reinhard will participate in an event at Harvard University and MIT. She will give further lectures and workshops - accompanied by the children of the Open Scholl Project - within India.

Membership development

We have not deviated from our idea of NOT accepting new members; consequently, we have no new members. This is not due to lack of interest, but rather to the conviction that with a lean association structure we are much more flexible and agile in our activities.