



Knowledge. Voice. Democracy.

PRIA

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“**Youth**” is a stage where individuals often deal with Identity questions, it is the ripe time for experimentation, questions, and confrontations. This is also a time that nurtures the sense of belonging and purpose towards society. Youth identity exhibits a prominent inter-play between education and work identities and sets the future course of one’s aspirations.

Dr. Parul Bansal, Assistant Professor- Psychology, Lady Shri Ram College for Women

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YOUTH INITIATIVE FROM CHATTISGRAH

People India organization, established in 2013, stands for peace, literacy and education. One of its programme, CRCW (Career Research and Counselling Wing), aims at providing free career counselling to students studying in Government Schools. The programme provides them with a platform to explore their aspirations. This program was initiated in the year 2018, by Bholeshwar Prasad Dubey, Arpika Singh, Saugat Kasera, and Akash Banjare. It has reached to more than 2500 students in Pantan Block, Durg District, Chattisgarh.

To know more you more:

Website - www.peopleindia.org

Instagram - [peopleindia.org 1](https://www.instagram.com/peopleindia.org)

Akash Banjare is an active member of the Youth-n-Democracy Campaign. He represented the young voices of Chattisgarh at the three-day residential forum called the Youth-n-Democracy Forum, organised by PRIA Youth in 2018.





Introducing Identity

Identity is the point where self meets society and is thus always at an intersection. While self is a more personalized endeavour, Identity is always self-defining and resonates with society at large. In that respect, Identity is relatively more static than self. Identities are the stories that we tell about ourselves.

After completing the 2 months long module on Self; the YnD Fellowship moved on to the module on Identity. At the outset, the concepts of **Self and Identity** are interchangeable to many and it becomes particularly difficult to draw meaningful differences between the two. To set the concepts right and to understand identity more deeply, we had **Dr. Parul Bansal**.

Dr. Bansal is a **professor of psychology at Lady Sri Ram College, Delhi University** and holds a special interest in the domain of youth identity. Her session highlighted the quest of finding 'Who am I' in the bigger narrative of the society, and touched upon different prominent theories of thinkers like Eric Erikson, Freud, etc. to expand on the concept.



Gender and Identity

To explore Identity as an intersectional concept, we stirred on to interrogate another very crucial aspect of Identity: Gender. This session was facilitated by **Ms. Nandita Bhatt, Director at Martha Farrell Foundation**. Nandita took a very relatable approach to the theme and drew from the everyday experiences of Gender to build upon the conversation on Identity. The session was started by asking everyone about what they understood by Gender. While for some it was a newer topic where they felt under-confident to talk about it, on the other hand, there were some people who were very confident about the subject matter and showed tremendous passion towards conversations around Gender and Sexuality. The session tried deconstructing the stereotypical understanding of Sex and Gender and assisted fellows in exploring their **gender identities**.



Sexuality and Identity

A very strong element relished during this journey of exploring Identity was understanding sexuality. After the session, on Gender, fellows went on a process of defining Sexuality and its impression on their identities. The session on Sexuality and Identity was facilitated by **Ms. Neharika Mahajan, a Gender Inclusive Expert, and an Intersectional Feminist**. The dialogue highlighted the role that different everyday activities play in shaping individual Sexual Identities. In the words of Judith Butler, "It is through the continuous performance of many such acts ('putting a lipstick'), that our identity 'becomes', 'forms shape' and 'stabilizes'. Youth is that stage of time where individuals start exploring their sexualities, and not conforming to the binaries becomes extremely confusing and challenging. The session highlighted many theoretical concepts by Gayle Rubin, Adrienne Rich, Sylvia Walby, among others.