Exposure • Adventure • Leadership

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About Rubaroo

Rubaroo is a youth development organization based in Hyderabad, India since 2013. Rubaroo works with young people and people who influence them, inspiring leadership for social change.

Rubaroo aims to be an empowering space where young people co-create the space to understand themselves better, understand issues that are relevant to their lives and surroundings, take up action in society and build better relationships, to become socially conscious leaders in their own capacity. The key to achieve change in society and work around social issues is by working with ‘soch’ i.e, thought process that has been influenced by culture. Therefore, in order to create social and psychological impact, one needs to work on mindset change. Rubaroo does so by creating experiential learning opportunities through a non-threatening and deeply reflective journey.

Rubaroo’s co-founder Neha Swain is the recipient of ‘The Queen’s Young Leaders Award, 2016’ for its vision of building an inclusive society.

Over the last four years, we have worked with more than 5000 young people, from diverse schools, and colleges, in Hyderabad. Working in the field of education, we have built partnerships with diverse government bodies and educational institutions such as the British Deputy High Commission, Hyderabad, British Council, Telugu Akademi (Telangana State Council of Higher Education), Roda Mistry College of Social Work, The Aga Khan Academy, US Consulate, Public Health Foundation of India, Ecolé Mondiale World School (Mumbai), Pioneer World School, Youngistaan Foundation, Pravah, ComMutiny - The Youth Collective to name a few.

Rubaroo’s vision: ‘To create an inclusive, just, and equitable world where individuals transcend boundaries through a genuine engagement with the self and the society’.

We work with the mission of creating a platform that is a safe and inclusive space for young people to access opportunities of learning and self-development.
Our Approach

At Rubaroo, youth development is at the core of all our programmes. Keeping the young person at the core, we facilitate workshops and learning spaces of holistic leadership with a minimum group size of 20-25 participants.

We work with issues of Identity, Gender, Religion, Environment, Citizenship, Social Inclusion, Leadership, Communal Harmony, Sustainable Development, among many others. All themes converge at varied points since Systemic Thinking and Analysis becomes the foundation of our nurturing and building an understanding.

For each of these themes, we create learning journeys for young people where the interaction between ‘Self’ and ‘Society’, is highlighted. For impact of the values and behavioural changes to be holistic and sustainable, the following process is usually adopted, along with mid points of reviews, and self exploratory tools and tasks.

Phase 1: Orientation to the Issue
Foundation workshop - Bringing the group together, orientation to the issue/theme, rapport building, setting the context.

Phase 2: Exploring the Issue
Exposure to the issue - Traveling to local or regional communities to experience and understand the issue at a deeper level through a Systems Thinking approach,

Phase 3: Taking a Stance
Action Project Initiation - Young people lead action projects within their communities, institutions, spaces based on their experiences and all they have learnt, so far.

Phase 4: Leading the Change
Closure - Creating spaces of leadership where these young people are inspired to take on their experience to the world. Advocacy, Peer Education, and / or Individual Transformation become the focus of the last phase.
About Circle of Stories

‘Circle of Stories’ is a specially designed programme for adolescents to provide them with an opportunity to have fun, participate in out-bound adventure by experiencing a rural community and living in that space to learn about a completely different lifestyle and reality.

The opportunity of this exposure gives young people an opportunity to question and analyse many things around them; What are my choices? What are my values? What is development? What is my role as a citizen of any community that I may be a part of [could be friends and family, even]? What are my opinions influenced by? What do I know about friendships and relationships? What are the issues I’m passionate about? As part of this immersive process, they learn about themselves, their leadership styles, and what it means to work with others.

Our curriculum with young people has constantly been influenced and shaped by our experiences of working with them. The methodology that is the core of all our programmes is:
- 70% learning by projects in real time - a chance to build critical experiences.
- 20% learning through coaching and mentoring.
- 10% learning through curriculum training with lots of fun.

Some of the other ways through which we create fun learning spaces are: exposure visits, mentoring, fun and games, group exercises, community action projects, self-reflection, and by building relationships!

We believe spaces for self-reflection and self-introspection lead to individual that build an understanding to with the larger society. This creates a greater sense of ownership, responsibility and enhancement of leadership skills (team work, decision making, communication skills, problem solving and resolving conflicts positively).

Dates: 5 days
Venue (TBC): Rural Development Trust, Anatapuramu, Andhra Pradesh
Cost: Rs. 8000/-
Inclusive of travel, boarding & lodging, logistics & resources, medical aid, instructional design & facilitation
Ground Zero - Gearing up:
A 3-hour session prior to the camp, for information exchange and preparing for all that lies ahead during the camp.

[In school]

Day 0: Departure from Hyderabad
22:00 hours

Day 1:
Arrival at camp site
06:00 hours

Day 1&2:
Ice breakers, team building exercises, simulation exercises, explorations of social issues!

Day 3&4:
Village visits, cultural exposure, and community contribution.

Day 5:
Wrapping up my learning, action-forwards into my life.

Day 5:
Departure from camp site
22:00 hours

Day 6:
Arrival at Hyderabad
06:00 hours

Itinerary
Each day will begin with a morning ‘majlis’, or ‘assembly’.

The day will have a mix of activities, reflection exercises, adventure games, and group sharing.

It will, of course, be interspersed with meal times, and end with a ‘mehfil’ towards the end of the day!
Dear Guardian,

Greetings from Rubaroo!

If you have reached this far, we'd like to assume that you are interested in the camp! Thank You for expressing your interest, and we hope this fun-filled journey is only a first step to having you as a participant to many of our programmes!

Over the last four years at Rubaroo, we have worked with diverse young people from varied institutions across Hyderabad. As part of our Rural In-turn-ship programme over the summer, we place more than 60 students each year in Rural Communities where they volunteer their time and learn about relevant issues around them while challenging their comfort zones.

In partnership with the British Deputy High Commission, Hyderabad, we recently held a leadership journey with 125 Youth Champions from across Hyderabad where they led Social Action Projects during the Interfaith Week from 12th to 19th November 2017.

We also have worked with diverse institutions facilitating experiences with teachers, adolescents, and youth through learning and leadership journeys.

Through this programme, we have embarked on yet another journey by partnering with Glendale Academy to offer you this ‘Circle of Stories’ programme. We understand that safety and security would be your topmost concern, and we assure you that it is our topmost priority too. Rubaroo has a dynamic team of skilled facilitators that will look after your students and ensure that safety and precautionary measures are taken in advance. Our partner organizations are also those, that have been working relentlessly in communities over decades, and bring in their immense experience, as your child is immersed in the learning and the process of the programme.

At Rubaroo, we also believe in doing everything with fun. We may be discussing important issues, but unless it is fun, we don’t believe the learning seeps in. Also, as much as we believe in challenging the comfort zones of our participants, we also ensure that we look after them with a lot of care and empathy.

Simple nutritious vegetarian food would be served and clean drinking water would be available on site. Boarding and lodging arrangements would be in dormitory fashion (separate for boys and girls), and basic toilet and bathroom facilities would exist on campus.

Do feel free to reach out to us, should you have any questions at all – about the programme, about the work we do, or to even see how you could get involved. We look forward to getting to know you and your child over the course of this journey!

Love,
Team Rubaroo!
Gearing up for the camp!

As you prepare your child and get them ready for the adventure ahead, it would be as important to carry the right things! Here is a list of things we suggest that you prepare your child to carry, for this camp.

Do remember to help them travel light! Avoid suitcases and heavy bags, but try and put together all of their things into a rucksack, backpack or a knapsack! If it’s something you or they haven’t tried before, this is the chance to create it as a first challenge before the real adventure begins!

The Essentials:
1. Kurta Pyjama for boys, and Salwar Kurta with Dupatta for girls. Do remember that you should be comfortable in whatever the outfit. Because we also would be living with the community, we like to ensure that we adapt to our surroundings.
2. Sports shoes or comfortable walking sandals
3. Personal medication kit
4. Personal toileteries kit
5. Light bedsheet
6. Cardigan or jacket since it would be chilly in the evenings
7. Water bottle (non-plastic and reusable)
8. Emergency contact information
9. Torch light

The Things to avoid:
1. Laptops / Ipads / Novels / Books
2. Excessive cash or expensive jewellery
3. Toilet papers / Tissue papers / Wet wipes
4. Deodorants / Sanitisers / Perfumes

The Can-Carry:
1. Camera