

Tribal Leadership Programme 2019

Introducing the participants

This is to introduce the 101 women and men representing 54 tribes from 21 states of India who are joining us, and the stories that 25 of them are bringing to TLP 2019.

The list of participants at TLP 2019...



Virendrakumar Uikey	Gond	Maharashtra	Baldev Ram Mandavi	Madia	Chhattisgarh	Bhonjo Singh Banra	Ho	Jharkhand
Falguni Ramesh Bhai Vasava	Bhil	Gujarat	Anil Narve	Bhil	Madhya Pradesh	Hercules Singh Munda	Munda	Jharkhand
Mahendra Mahadya Lohar	Varli	Maharashtra	Pravin Katara	Bhil	Madhya Pradesh	Nikita Soy	Ho	Jharkhand
Sonal N Pardhi	Aand	Maharashtra	Rahul Pendara	Bhil	Madhya Pradesh	Kiran Khalko	Oraon	Jharkhand
Pardip Mukeshbhai Dhodia	Dhodia	Gujarat	Somnath Salam	Gond	Chhattisgarh	Chandramohan Chatomba	Ho	Jharkhand
Shubham Udhay Andhere	Kolhati	Maharashtra	Mahesh Adme	Gond	Madhya Pradesh	Sudam Hembram	Santhal	Jharkhand
Narayan Shivram Jambekar	Ojha	Maharashtra	Neman Markam	Gond	Madhya Pradesh	Bace Buriuly	Ho	Jharkhand
Tejal Rasik Gamit	Bhil	Gujarat	Ramesh Kumar Dhurwe	Gond	Chhattisgarh	Shankar Sen Mahali	Mahli	Jharkhand
Krishna Kumar Bheel	Bhil	Rajasthan	Kalavati Sahani	Halba	Chhattisgarh	Manish Kumar	Kharwar	Bihar
Dipa Samshom Valvi	Bhil	Maharashtra	Gokul Bharti	Muria	Chhattisgarh	Dubeshwar Bediya	Bediya	Jharkhand
Kumar Vinod Bumbidiya	Bhil	Rajasthan	Ritu Pandram	Gond	Chhattisgarh	Manoj Oraon	Oraon	Jharkhand
Pali Lalsu Mahaka	Madia	Maharashtra	Mohan Kirade	Bhilala	Madhya Pradesh	Vibhanshu Kumar	Karmali	Jharkhand
Mita Patel	Dhodia	Gujarat	Jagairam Badole	Barela	Madhya Pradesh	Kishor Lakra	Oraon	Jharkhand
Dharmesh Choudhry	Chaudhri	Gujarat	Thiles Norboo	Bodh	J&K	Jitesh Minz	Oraon	Jharkhand
Navali	Garasia	Rajasthan	Huraib	Dard Shin	J&K	Gargen Murmu	Santhal	Jharkhand
Chaudhri Nareshbhai Kantilal	Chaudhri	Gujarat	Lienmalsawm Nehsial	Gangte Kuki	Manipur	Bimal Asue	Asur	Jharkhand
Kj Prashant Kasdekar	Korku	Maharashtra	Chingme Marak	Garo	Meghalaya	Babulal Goipai	Ho	Jharkhand
Kj Jayram Bhusum	Korku	Maharashtra	Wandaplang Nongrum	Khasi	Meghalaya	Ashok Mudi	Kora	West Bengal
Sandip Kove	Kolam	Maharashtra	Joshua	Yimchunger	Nagaland	Bablu Nayak	Loda	West Bengal
Pratiksha Shidam	Gond	Maharashtra	Kotso Medo	Chakhesang	Nagaland	Jagmohan Sawaiya	Ho	Jharkhand
Pawar Reenaben Jagdishbhai	Kundi	Gujarat	Morin Daimary	Bodo	Assam	Sudheesh Kumar V	Mavila	Kerala
Sarda Ddevi	Garasia	Rajasthan	Janali Rabha	Rabha	Assam	Thennarassu Sundaram	Irula	Tamil Nadu
Sarojini Oram	Oraon	Odisha	Ripe Bagra	Galo	Arunachal Pradesh	Thara P C	Kuruma	Kerala
Pratima Majhi	Gond	Odisha	Asahrii Clement K	Poumai Naga	Manipur	Jaincy John	Malayariya	Kerala
Pinki Sandil	Tamudia	Odisha	Forwardman Nongrem	Khasi	Meghalaya	Sravanthi Shivram Guguloth	Banjara	Telangana
Bikram Biruli	Ho	Odisha	Khronyilo Lohe	Chakhesang	Nagaland	Kranthi Kiran Sodem	Koya	Andhra Pradesh
Mangalsingh Sinku	Ho	Odisha	Sadagar Kalai	Kalai	Tripura	Leeladhar T	Chenchu	Telangana
Raidas Oram	Oraon	Odisha	Dilip Kathar	Karbi	Assam	Deepika	Kani	Kerala
Pati Majhi	Santhal	Odisha	Simeon Rongphar	Karbi	Assam	Peesam Dhulaiah	Koya	Andhra Pradesh
Deepan Digal	Kandha	Odisha	Welsing Hanse	Karbi	Assam	Ganesh Kudiya	Kudiya	Karnataka
Mukesh Kumar Jamuda	Ho	Odisha	Leba Lamin Dumai	Khasi	Meghalaya	Mesara M	Soliga	Karnataka
Ghasiram Majhi	Kandha	Odisha	Debraj Rabha	Rabha	Assam	Barat	Kudiya	Karnataka
Linga Ram Kodopi	Madia Gond	Chhattisgarh	Meera Hembram	Ho	Jharkhand	Barathan P Ashok	Irula	Kerala
Kishan Mandavi	Gond	Chhattisgarh	Sukumarsoren	Santhal	Jharkhand			

1. Hercules Singh Munda (26)

Munda Tribe, Jharkhand

Hercules has completed his Bachelor of Engineering from BIT Mesra and is a researcher at IIT Hyderabad. As part of his research, he intends to document folk tales and short stories. He has worked as a volunteer at ADN (Adivasi Development Network) with social workers, and together they promoted a famous tribal fashion designer, Sumangal Nag. Hercules feels strongly about protecting the environment. He has been part of Environment Protection Awareness Club (EPAC) and he continues to inspire others to protect Nature.

Currently, Hercules is working, on incubation, to digitalize the Munda script and thereby document language in textual form. He is also working on building a digital collection of all tribal languages across. The collection would compose a digital museum of language and culture, which can be used in media, education, technology etc.

Hercules is a traveller; he learns from travelling. From his graduation days he has been associated with various tribal groups, always working for the betterment of the society and inspiring others to join. He is an energetic and enthusiastic person. Challenges like extinction of native language & culture, lack of quality education in his village, pushes Hercules to find ways to tackle and overcome these.

2. Kiran Khalko (25)

Oraon Tribe , Jharkhand

Kiran hails from Chakradharpur village, Jharkhand which is largely occupied by the Ho People. In a language class full of men, she is the only lady student and remains committed to her cause.

Currently, Kiran is working towards preserving language, culture and tradition of the Oraon tribe and has been instrumental in including Tolong Siki alphabets (Oraon script) to the school curriculum of her neighbouring areas. She believes in universal peace and has worked towards conflict resolution between the Ho and the Oraon communities in her village. She wishes to unite tribal communities.

Kiran aspires to change the perception of non-tribal people towards tribal groups. She understands the importance of keeping tribal customs and traditions alive that serve as their identity, and therefore encourages people to remain within their homelands. She mentors young children from her community and shows them the way forward. Kiran looks forward to being a part of Tribal Leadership Programme 2019 to learn new tools and skills, and apply them to bring positive change in her community.

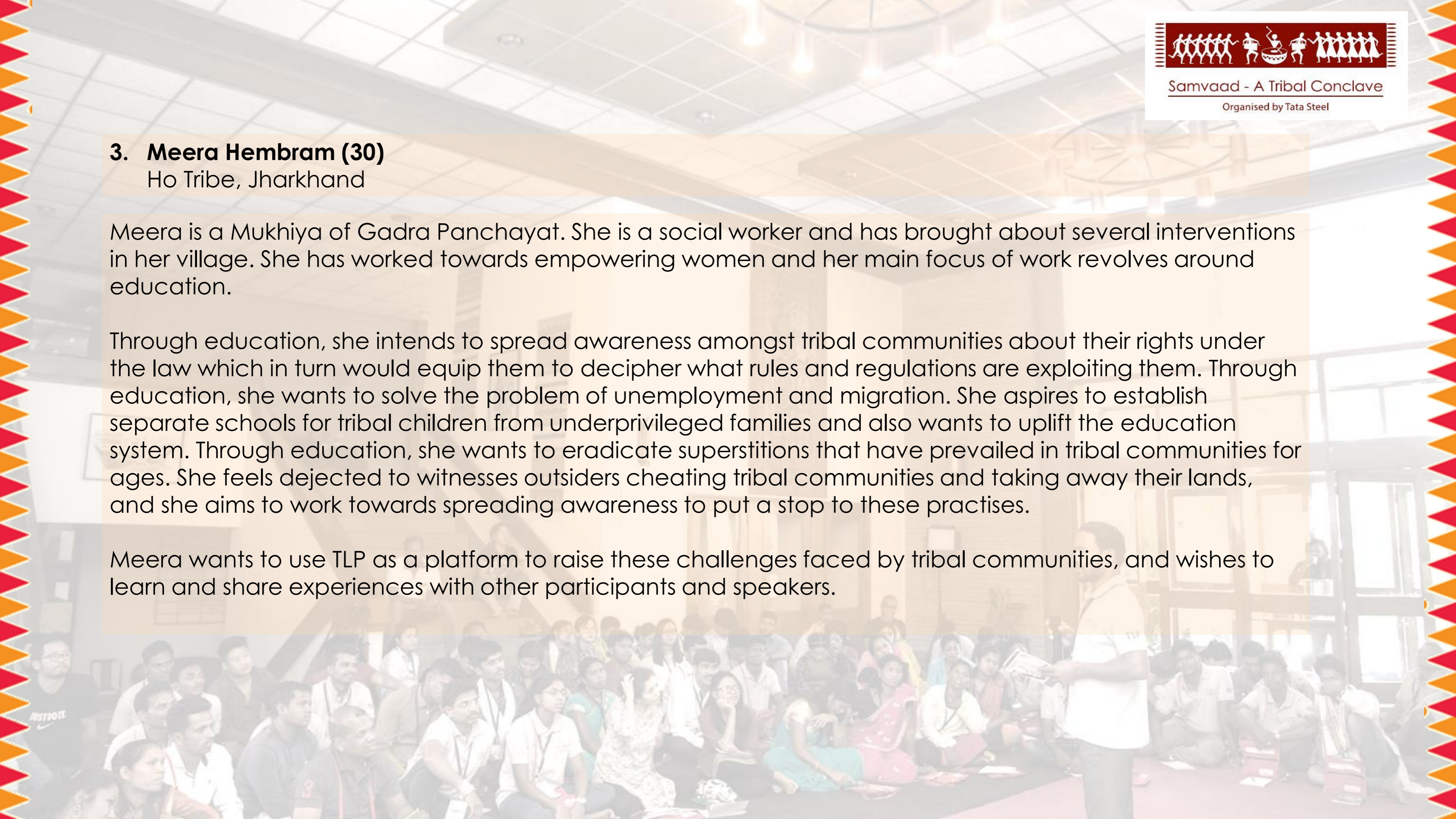
3. Meera Hembram (30)

Ho Tribe, Jharkhand

Meera is a Mukhiya of Gadra Panchayat. She is a social worker and has brought about several interventions in her village. She has worked towards empowering women and her main focus of work revolves around education.

Through education, she intends to spread awareness amongst tribal communities about their rights under the law which in turn would equip them to decipher what rules and regulations are exploiting them. Through education, she wants to solve the problem of unemployment and migration. She aspires to establish separate schools for tribal children from underprivileged families and also wants to uplift the education system. Through education, she wants to eradicate superstitions that have prevailed in tribal communities for ages. She feels dejected to witness outsiders cheating tribal communities and taking away their lands, and she aims to work towards spreading awareness to put a stop to these practises.

Meera wants to use TLP as a platform to raise these challenges faced by tribal communities, and wishes to learn and share experiences with other participants and speakers.



4. Nikita Soy (20)

Ho Tribe, Jharkhand

Nikita is a young girl who was elected by her community to take up the position of Presidentship of the community.

She spends her evenings teaching children from her village, and wants to work more on education and women empowerment. She wants to provide free tuitions to tribal students from underprivileged families. Nikita is working towards tackling problems related to migration, religion conversion, illiteracy and unemployment among tribal communities.

Nikita aspires to provide employment to the unemployed and provide shelter to the victims of displacement. She wants unite the people of her community. She leads by example for young tribal youth to work towards uplifting their societies.

Through Tribal Leadership Programme, she wants to learn from the experience of others.



5. Virendra Kumar Ulkey (29)
Gond Tribe, Maharashtra

Virendra hails from Gondia district of Maharashtra.

His area of interest is handicraft and takes pride in the Gond art. He is engaged in manufacturing and selling the Gond craft and has also represented it at the Delhi haat.

Virendra understands the significance of protecting one's customs and traditions. He continually encourages young women and men to promote their tribal art and culture.



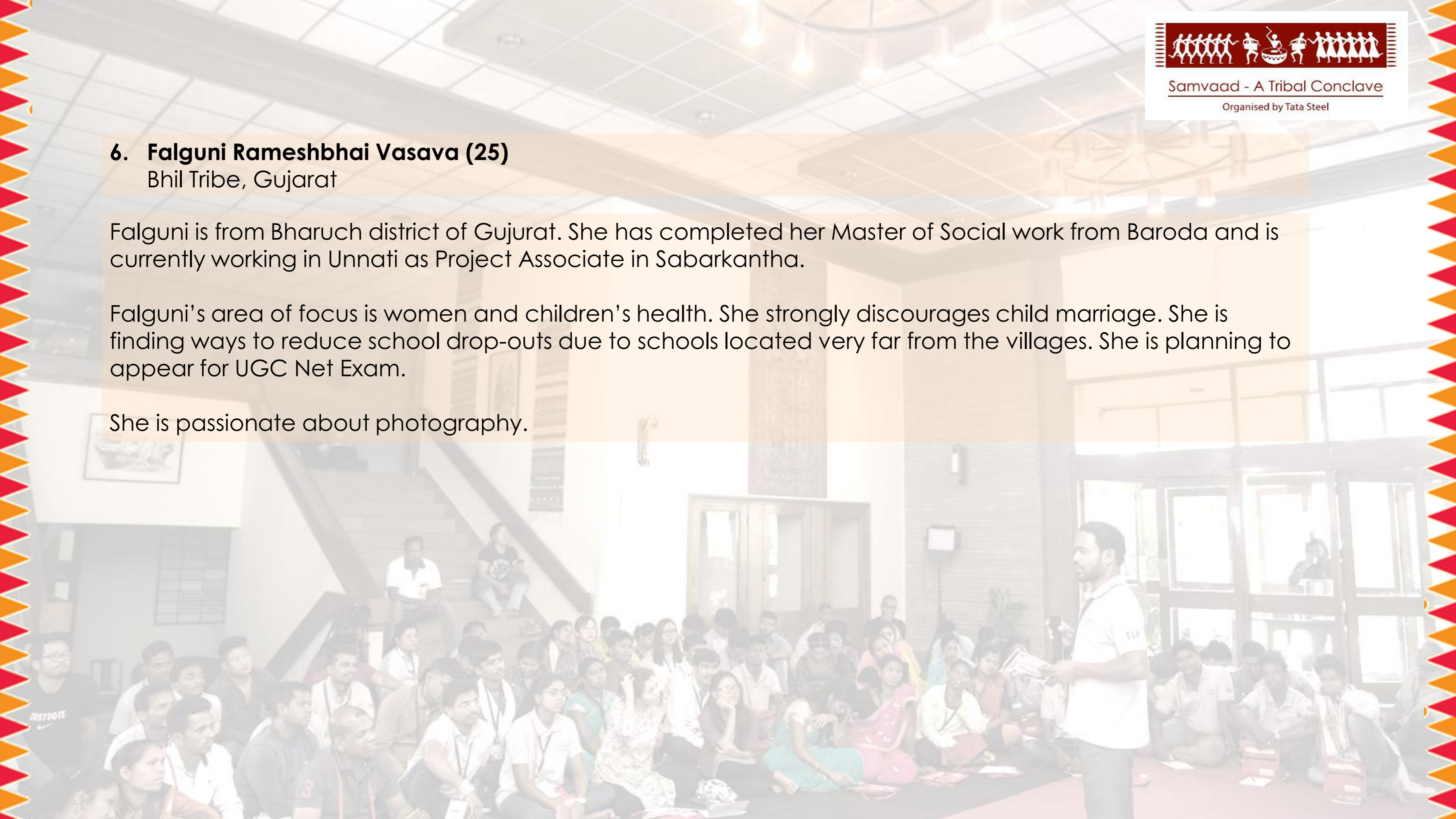
6. Falguni Rameshbhai Vasava (25)

Bhil Tribe, Gujarat

Falguni is from Bharuch district of Gujarat. She has completed her Master of Social work from Baroda and is currently working in Unnati as Project Associate in Sabarkantha.

Falguni's area of focus is women and children's health. She strongly discourages child marriage. She is finding ways to reduce school drop-outs due to schools located very far from the villages. She is planning to appear for UGC Net Exam.

She is passionate about photography.

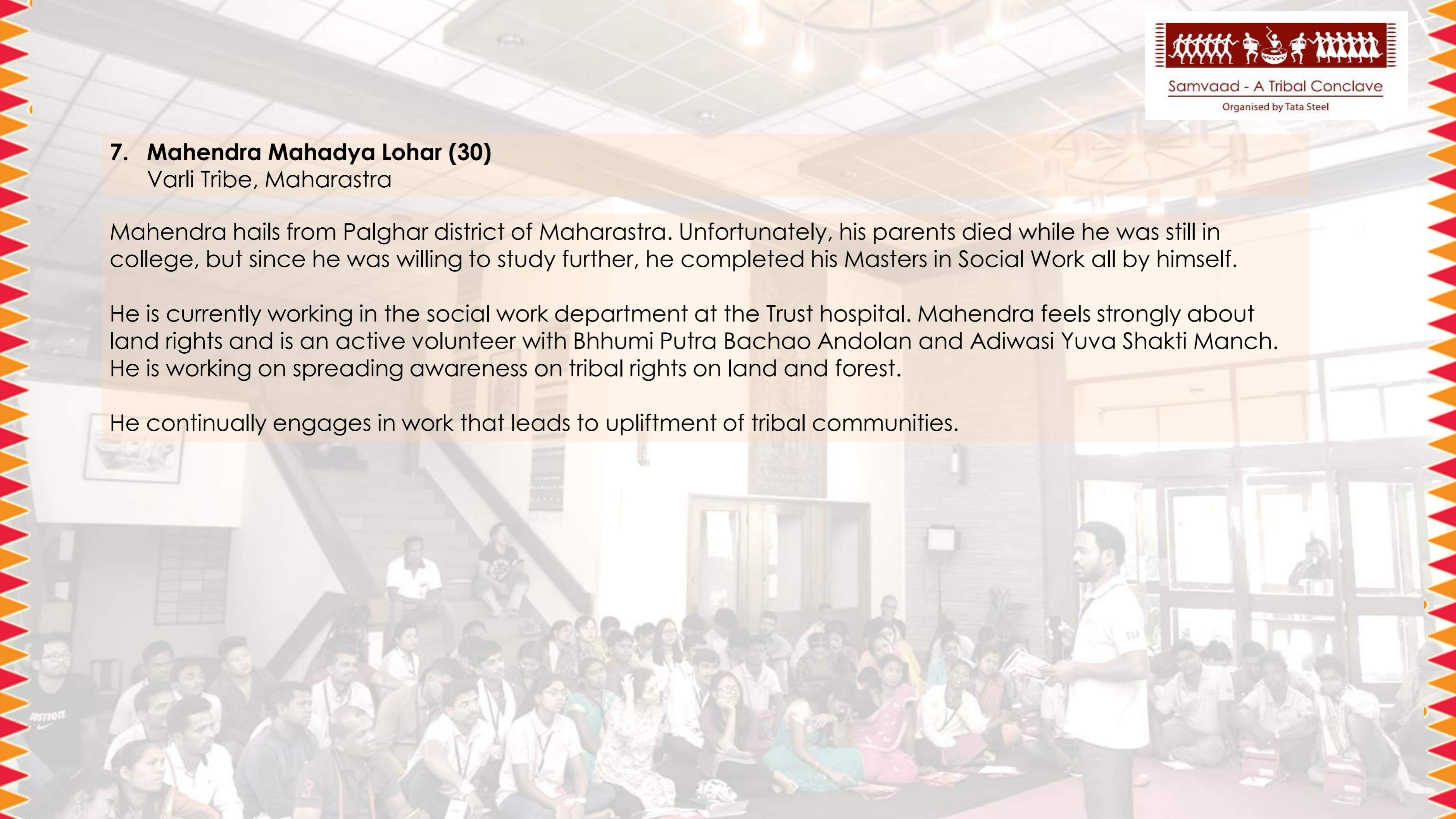


7. Mahendra Mahadya Lohar (30)
Varli Tribe, Maharashtra

Mahendra hails from Palghar district of Maharashtra. Unfortunately, his parents died while he was still in college, but since he was willing to study further, he completed his Masters in Social Work all by himself.

He is currently working in the social work department at the Trust hospital. Mahendra feels strongly about land rights and is an active volunteer with Bhhumi Putra Bachao Andolan and Adiwasi Yuva Shakti Manch. He is working on spreading awareness on tribal rights on land and forest.

He continually engages in work that leads to upliftment of tribal communities.

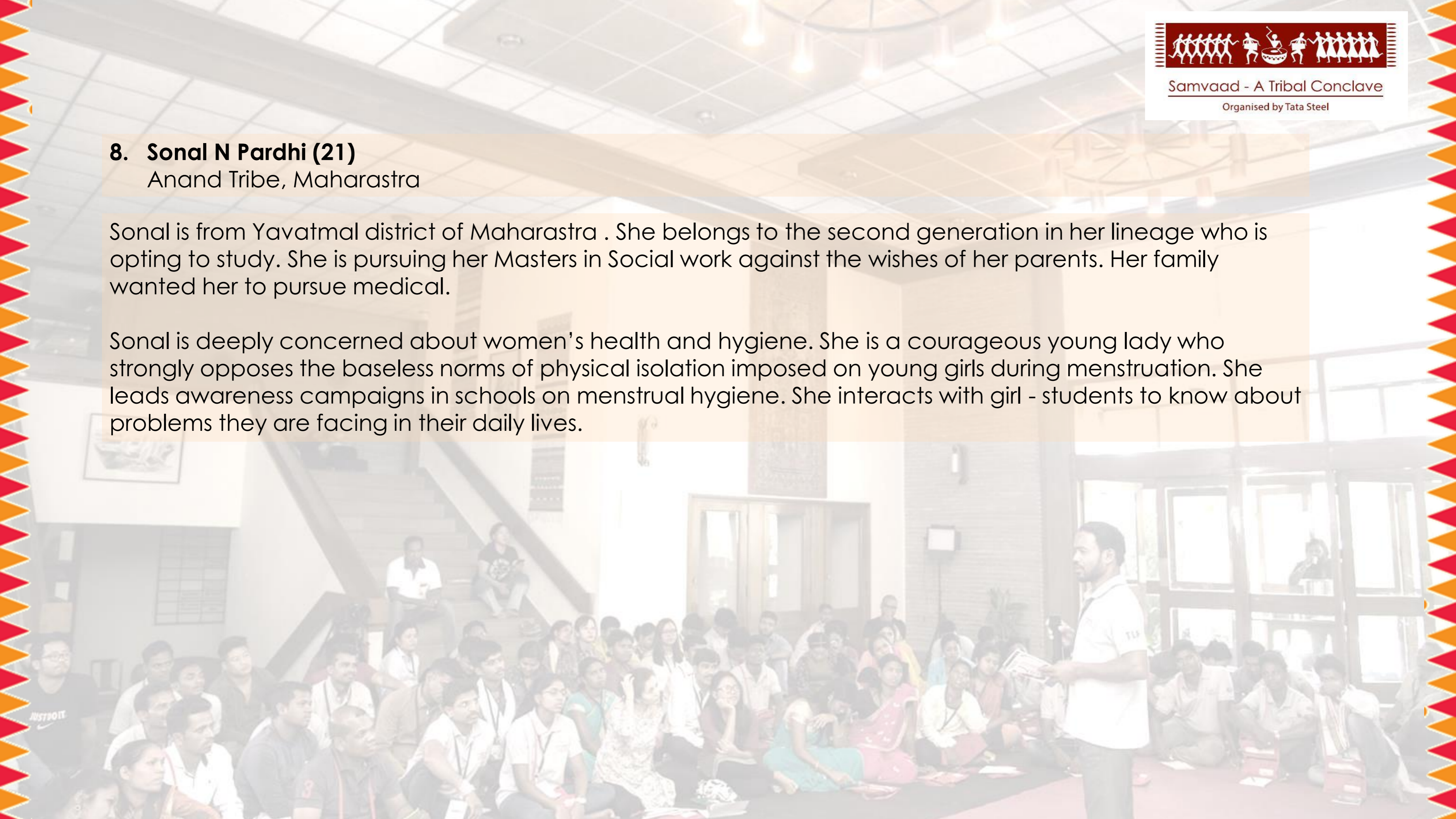


8. Sonal N Pardhi (21)

Anand Tribe, Maharashtra

Sonal is from Yavatmal district of Maharashtra . She belongs to the second generation in her lineage who is opting to study. She is pursuing her Masters in Social work against the wishes of her parents. Her family wanted her to pursue medical.

Sonal is deeply concerned about women's health and hygiene. She is a courageous young lady who strongly opposes the baseless norms of physical isolation imposed on young girls during menstruation. She leads awareness campaigns in schools on menstrual hygiene. She interacts with girl - students to know about problems they are facing in their daily lives.



9. **Pardip Mukeshbhai Dhodia (29)**

Dhodia Tribe, Gujarat

Pardip hails from Tapi district of Gujarat. He has completed his diploma in photography. He is an environmentalist. Together with his group, he has managed to plant close to 5000 trees in their vicinity. He is also working towards tackling acute water shortage problems.

He does not believe in protest but believes in bridging the gap between tribal and non-tribal communities. Inspired by this belief, he is currently writing a book on it.

He is passionate about photography. In order to revive customs and traditions, he uploads various videos on YouTube promoting Dhodia language, culture, cuisine and art.



10. Shubham Udhay Andhere (22)

Kolhati Tribe, Gujarat

Shubham is from Osmanabad district of Maharashtra. He belongs to a nomadic tribe. He has completed his diploma.

He mainly focuses on improving the lives of women from nomadic communities who are ill-treated, raped and abandoned by their husband. He strongly opposes child marriage. In pursuit of providing equal rights to his nomadic communities, Shubham helps his people with identity-document related formalities. As a practise, children in their community do not take after the fathers name which results in a lot of discrepancies and prevents them from enjoying benefits of Government Schemes.



11. Dipa Samshom Valvi (34)

Bhil tribe, Maharashtra

Dipa is Maharashtra Pradesh Adyakash in Bhartiya Tribal Party. She hails from Nandurbar district in Maharashtra and has completed her Masters. Dipa has worked in Yuvarang Foundation for Swacch Bharat Mission and has worked in Bhilistan Tiger Sena as a volunteer.

She is actively involved in social work related to upliftment of her tribal brethren. She runs awareness camps on familiarising tribal communities to Government services, facilities, policies and schemes.

She believes in equal opportunity, and that no one should be deprived of Government benefits.



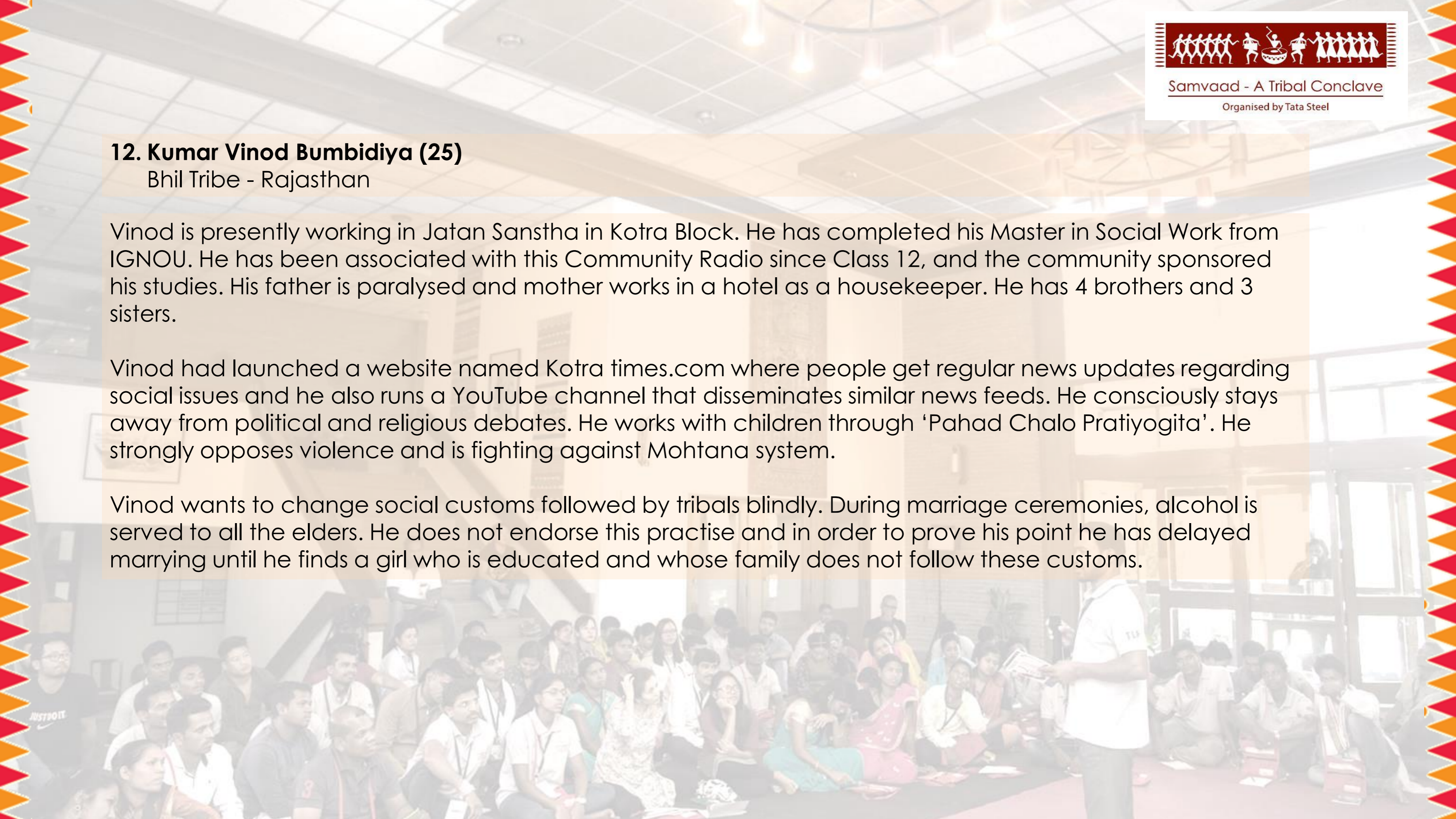
12. Kumar Vinod Bumbidiya (25)

Bhil Tribe - Rajasthan

Vinod is presently working in Jatan Sanstha in Kotra Block. He has completed his Master in Social Work from IGNOU. He has been associated with this Community Radio since Class 12, and the community sponsored his studies. His father is paralysed and mother works in a hotel as a housekeeper. He has 4 brothers and 3 sisters.

Vinod had launched a website named Kotra times.com where people get regular news updates regarding social issues and he also runs a YouTube channel that disseminates similar news feeds. He consciously stays away from political and religious debates. He works with children through 'Pahad Chalo Pratiyogita'. He strongly opposes violence and is fighting against Mohtana system.

Vinod wants to change social customs followed by tribals blindly. During marriage ceremonies, alcohol is served to all the elders. He does not endorse this practise and in order to prove his point he has delayed marrying until he finds a girl who is educated and whose family does not follow these customs.



13. Janali Rabha (22) Rabha Tribe, Assam

Janali Rabha is from the Goalpara district in Assam. She works as a teacher and is also pursuing her Masters in Arts.

She has been working on developing script of the Rabha language through the literary society, and majorly promotes it through spoken language in the schools. A major challenge she has been facing for a while is the negligence by Government. Schools are located as far as 30 kms away from homes and students find it difficult to travel the stretch daily.

She does not believe in completely depending on the Government for the progress of her community. For any progress, education is a must and she has dedicated herself to this prestigious cause. She wants to help the society to develop without becoming a leader in it, as she personally believes that every individual has their own uniqueness.



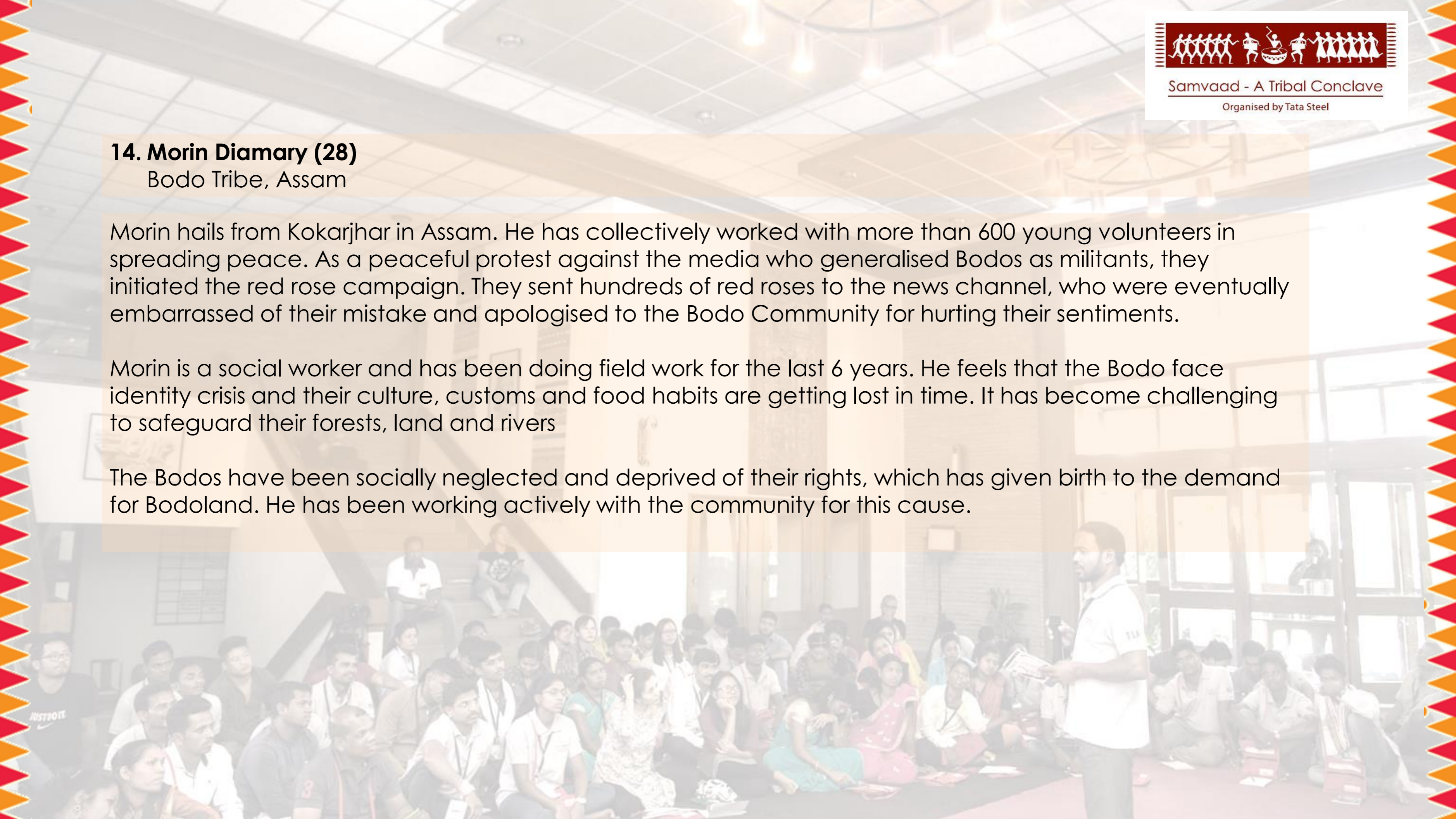
14. Morin Diamary (28)

Bodo Tribe, Assam

Morin hails from Kokarjhar in Assam. He has collectively worked with more than 600 young volunteers in spreading peace. As a peaceful protest against the media who generalised Bodos as militants, they initiated the red rose campaign. They sent hundreds of red roses to the news channel, who were eventually embarrassed of their mistake and apologised to the Bodo Community for hurting their sentiments.

Morin is a social worker and has been doing field work for the last 6 years. He feels that the Bodo face identity crisis and their culture, customs and food habits are getting lost in time. It has become challenging to safeguard their forests, land and rivers

The Bodos have been socially neglected and deprived of their rights, which has given birth to the demand for Bodoland. He has been working actively with the community for this cause.



15. Khronyilo Lohe (27)

Chakhesang Tribe, Nagaland

Khronyilo is currently working with Rakho Welfare Society as a Program Co-ordinator. He networks with various organisations to take up projects for youth empowerment and geriatric care. He also focuses on cleanliness drives.

Khronyilo along with his community has undertaken several plantation drives and environmental awareness camps. After a series of drives for clean environment, his village Chizami bagged the first prize in the HIMALAYAN CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN.

Khronyilo also imparts skill training to unemployed youth. Education in government schools is presently neglected and is largely not up to the mark. He, along with a team of youths make regular visits to 5 high schools of the villages and meet with the head of the institution to ensure attendance, teachers' presence, quality of teaching. This has resulted in improvement in school performance. Inter school programmes were initiated to instil healthy competition among schools.

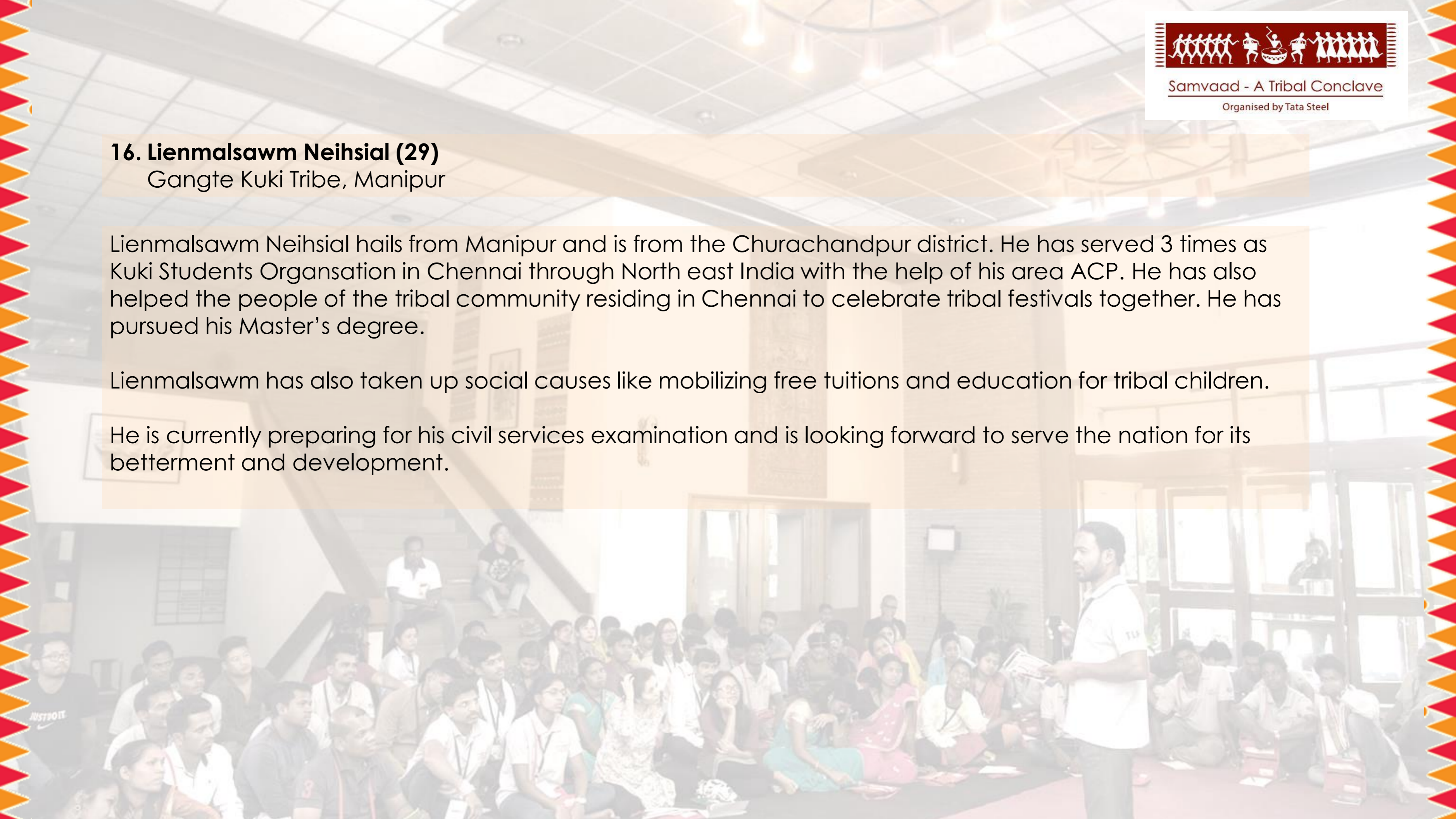


16. Lienmalsawm Neihzial (29)
Gangte Kuki Tribe, Manipur

Lienmalsawm Neihzial hails from Manipur and is from the Churachandpur district. He has served 3 times as Kuki Students Organisation in Chennai through North east India with the help of his area ACP. He has also helped the people of the tribal community residing in Chennai to celebrate tribal festivals together. He has pursued his Master's degree.

Lienmalsawm has also taken up social causes like mobilizing free tuitions and education for tribal children.

He is currently preparing for his civil services examination and is looking forward to serve the nation for its betterment and development.





Samvaad - A Tribal Conclave

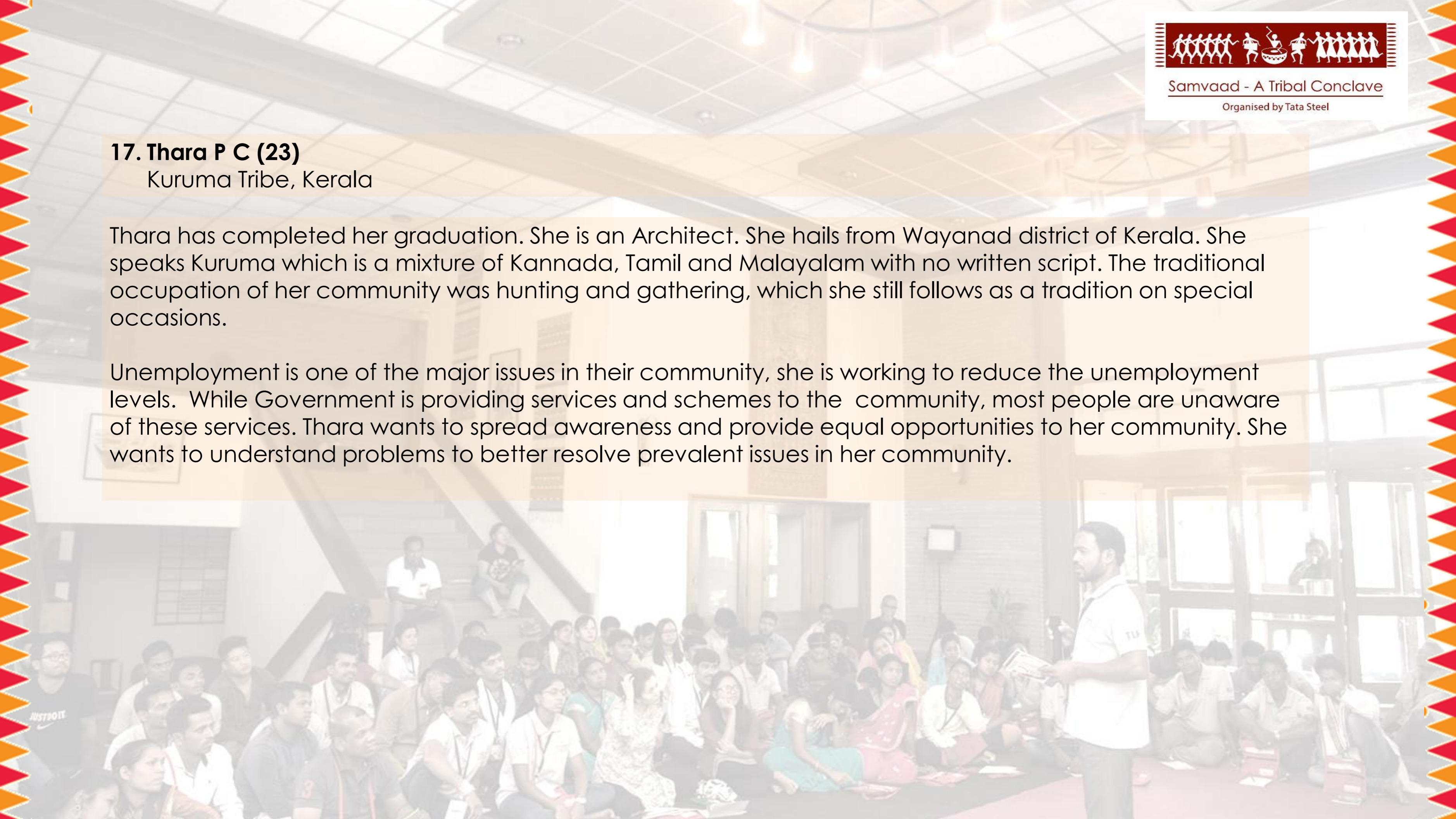
Organised by Tata Steel

17. Thara P C (23)

Kuruma Tribe, Kerala

Thara has completed her graduation. She is an Architect. She hails from Wayanad district of Kerala. She speaks Kuruma which is a mixture of Kannada, Tamil and Malayalam with no written script. The traditional occupation of her community was hunting and gathering, which she still follows as a tradition on special occasions.

Unemployment is one of the major issues in their community, she is working to reduce the unemployment levels. While Government is providing services and schemes to the community, most people are unaware of these services. Thara wants to spread awareness and provide equal opportunities to her community. She wants to understand problems to better resolve prevalent issues in her community.



18. Anil Narve (31)

Bhil Tribe, Madhya Pradesh

Anil has been practising law for 3 years now. He hails from Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh.

Anil is concerned about migration of people from his community. Migration is prevalent among his community people who travel to urban areas to work as labourer owing to extreme poverty in their area. He is working towards reducing migration and exploring livelihood opportunities within his district.

Anil is also working towards spreading awareness amongst his community members of their legal rights, so that they are not exploited. Anil finds ways to increase education level in his communities. Anil also wants to improve the poor health conditions of his people.



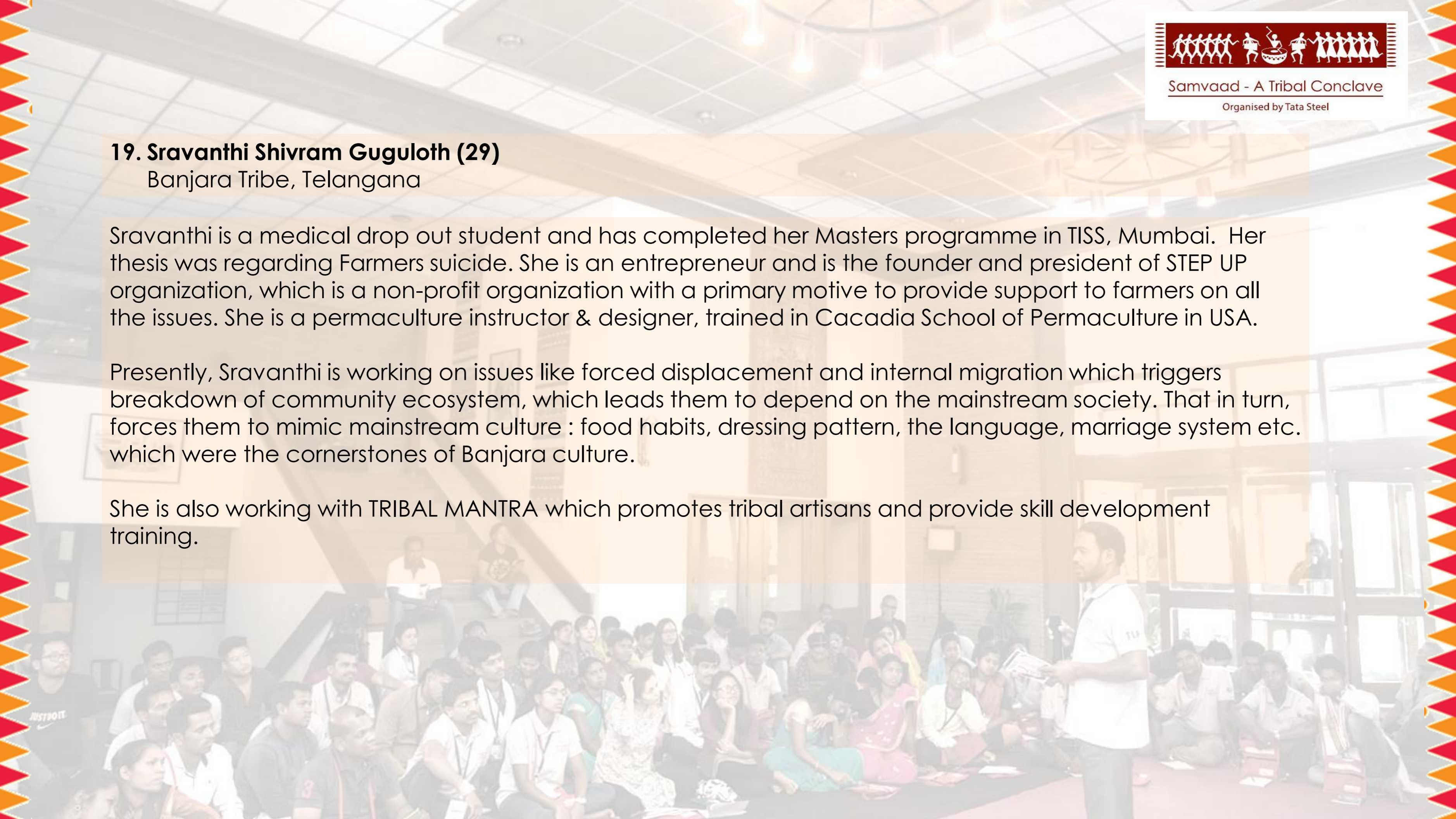
19. Sravanthi Shivram Guguloth (29)

Banjara Tribe, Telangana

Sravanthi is a medical drop out student and has completed her Masters programme in TISS, Mumbai. Her thesis was regarding Farmers suicide. She is an entrepreneur and is the founder and president of STEP UP organization, which is a non-profit organization with a primary motive to provide support to farmers on all the issues. She is a permaculture instructor & designer, trained in Cascadia School of Permaculture in USA.

Presently, Sravanthi is working on issues like forced displacement and internal migration which triggers breakdown of community ecosystem, which leads them to depend on the mainstream society. That in turn, forces them to mimic mainstream culture : food habits, dressing pattern, the language, marriage system etc. which were the cornerstones of Banjara culture.

She is also working with TRIBAL MANTRA which promotes tribal artisans and provide skill development training.



20. Kranthi Kiran Sodem (30)

Koya Tribe, Andhra Pradesh

Kranthi hails from West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. He is Social activist, student and a farmer. He is currently working in Tribal Community Organisation. He takes pride in traditional Bison horn dance and promotes his traditional language (koya or gondi) and culture.

Strong activism is being done by him in his community since 2014. He played an important technical role while designing National Gondri Dictionary. He is very clear about future plans and would like to continue activism to address the problems in the community.

Kranthi works in areas where there is lack of minimal facilities, and he focuses on the problem of non-tribal domination on tribes. He encourages his community members to stand up for their rights and not give in to the atrocities hurled at them.

Kranthi feels its a great honour to serve his community. He possesses good knowledge on rules and laws that govern tribal communities.



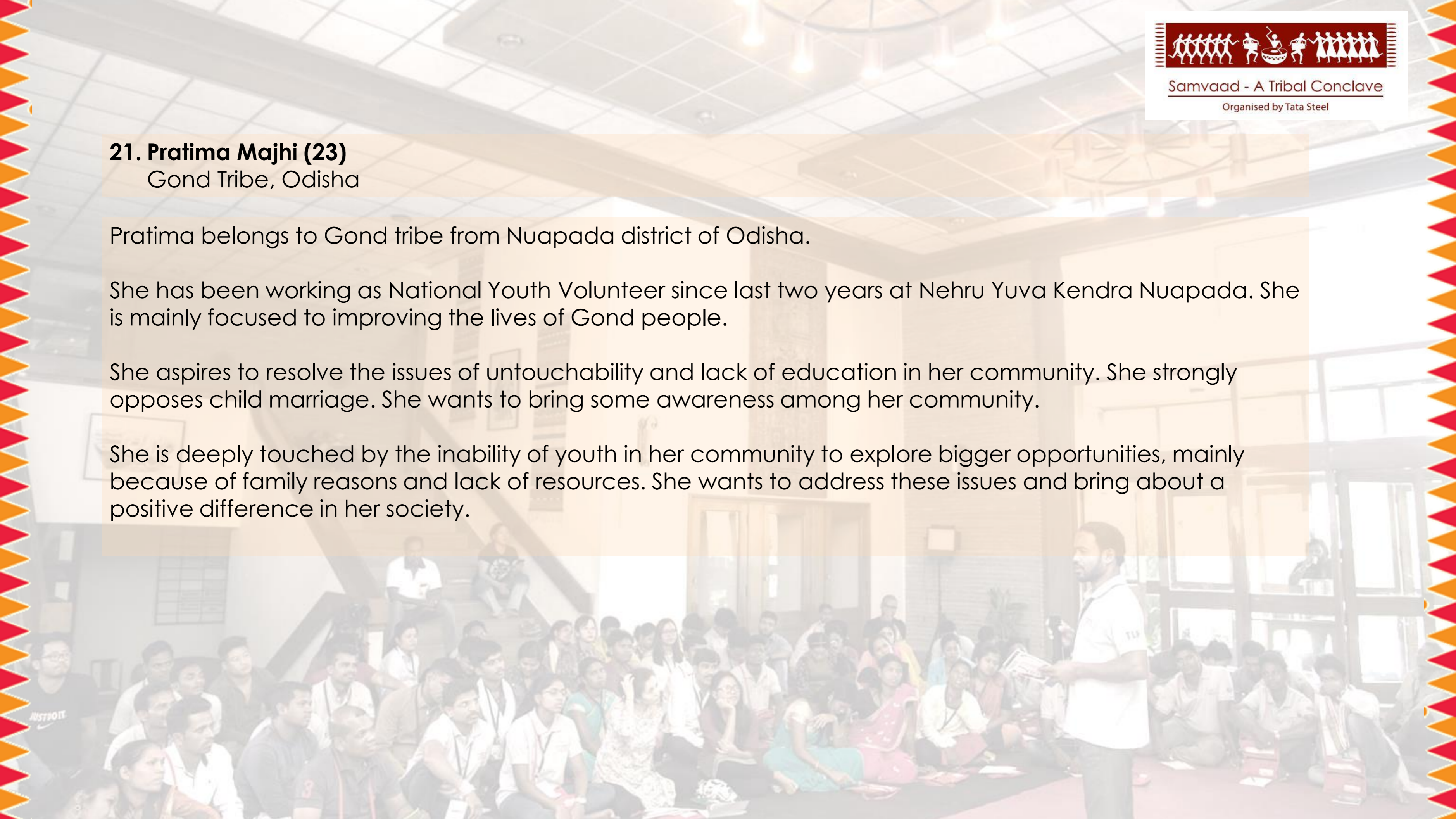
21. Pratima Majhi (23)
Gond Tribe, Odisha

Pratima belongs to Gond tribe from Nuapada district of Odisha.

She has been working as National Youth Volunteer since last two years at Nehru Yuva Kendra Nuapada. She is mainly focused to improving the lives of Gond people.

She aspires to resolve the issues of untouchability and lack of education in her community. She strongly opposes child marriage. She wants to bring some awareness among her community.

She is deeply touched by the inability of youth in her community to explore bigger opportunities, mainly because of family reasons and lack of resources. She wants to address these issues and bring about a positive difference in her society.



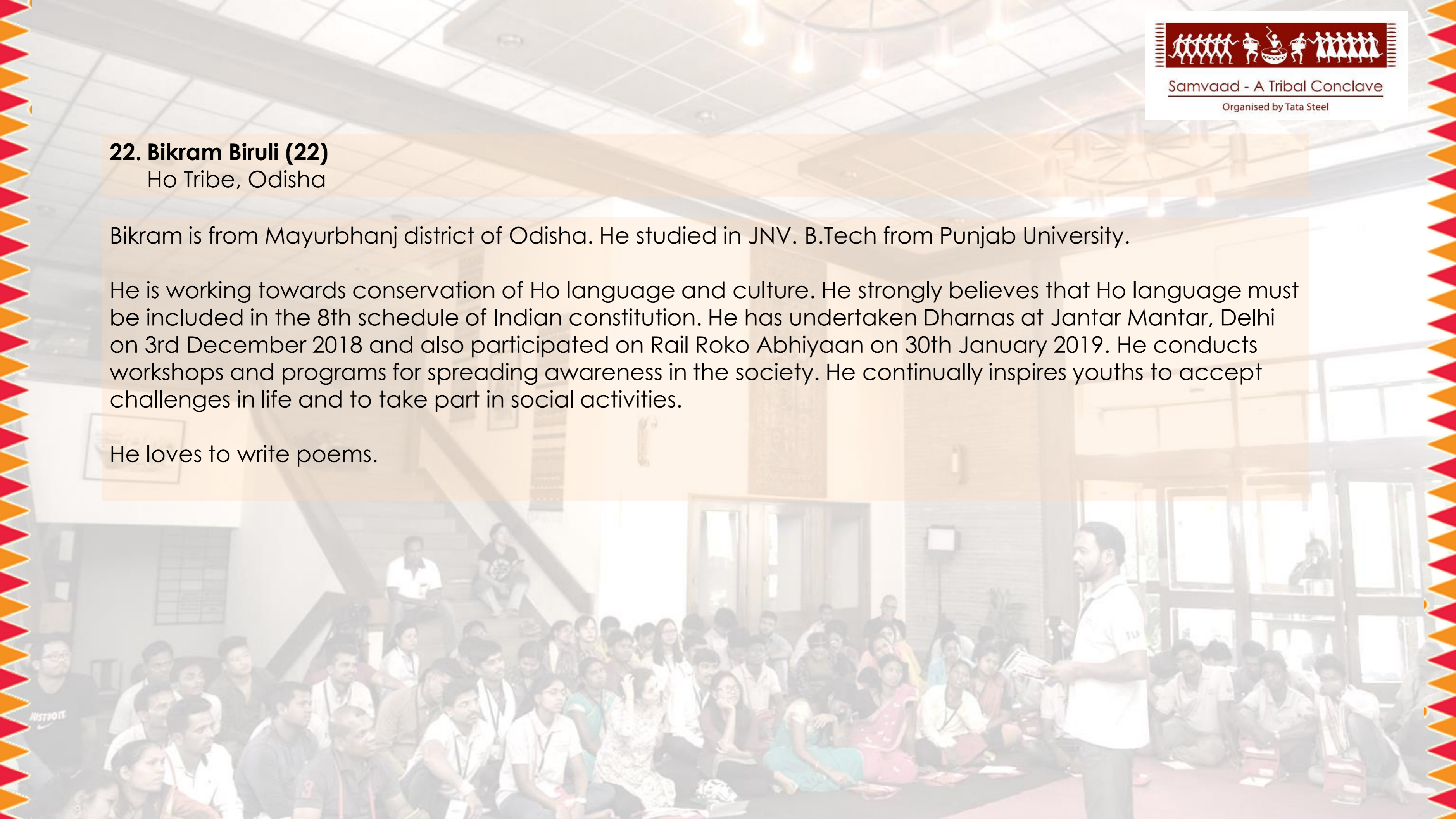
22. Bikram Biruli (22)

Ho Tribe, Odisha

Bikram is from Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. He studied in JNV. B.Tech from Punjab University.

He is working towards conservation of Ho language and culture. He strongly believes that Ho language must be included in the 8th schedule of Indian constitution. He has undertaken Dharnas at Jantar Mantar, Delhi on 3rd December 2018 and also participated on Rail Roko Abhiyaan on 30th January 2019. He conducts workshops and programs for spreading awareness in the society. He continually inspires youths to accept challenges in life and to take part in social activities.

He loves to write poems.

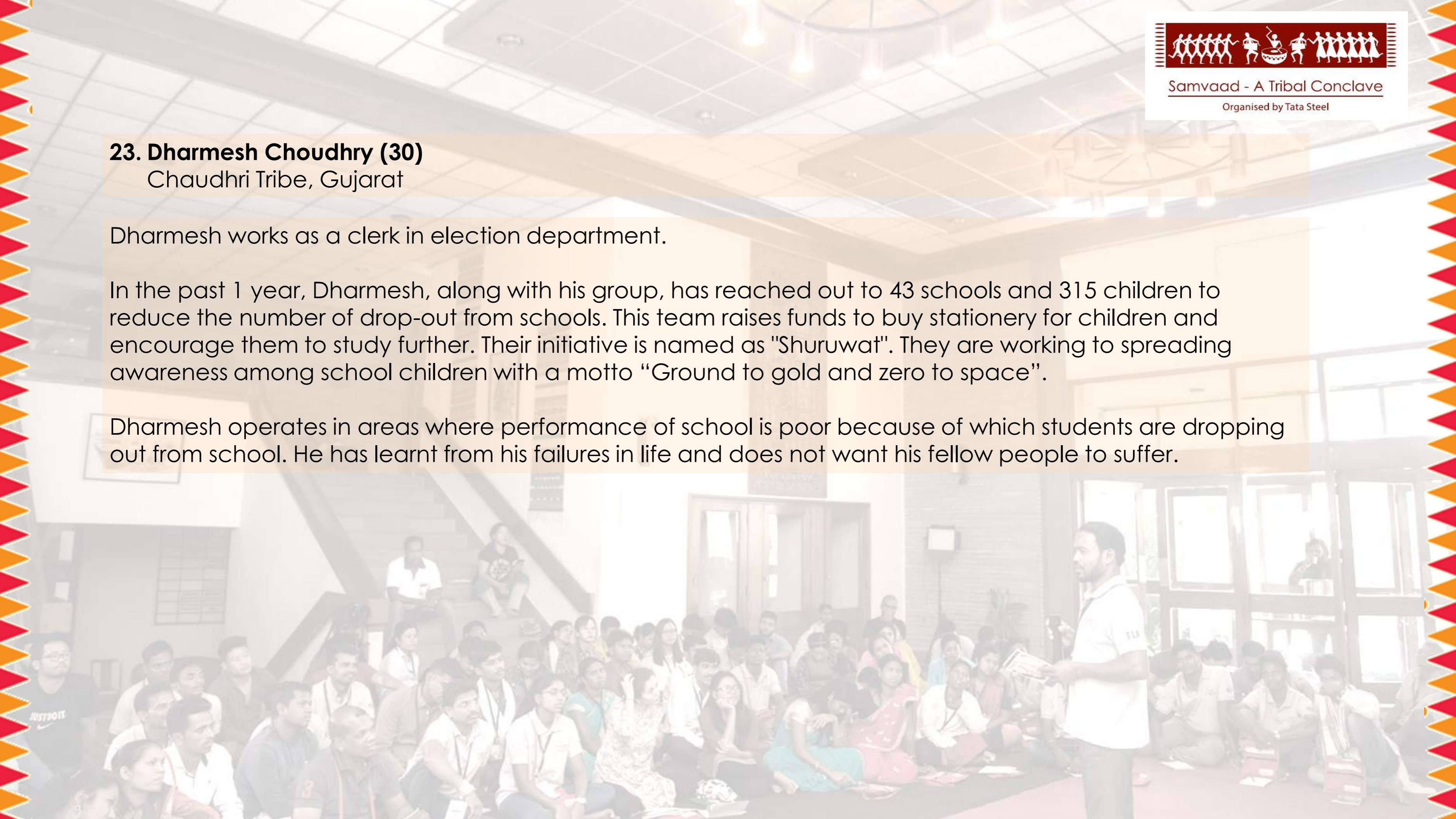


23. Dharmesh Choudhry (30)
Chaudhri Tribe, Gujarat

Dharmesh works as a clerk in election department.

In the past 1 year, Dharmesh, along with his group, has reached out to 43 schools and 315 children to reduce the number of drop-out from schools. This team raises funds to buy stationery for children and encourage them to study further. Their initiative is named as "Shuruwat". They are working to spreading awareness among school children with a motto "Ground to gold and zero to space".

Dharmesh operates in areas where performance of school is poor because of which students are dropping out from school. He has learnt from his failures in life and does not want his fellow people to suffer.



24. Mita Patel

Dhodia tribe, Gujarat

Mita is from Tapi district, Gujarat and has completed her Bachelors in Education.

Mita is currently works on spreading awareness on Schedule 5 in her area. Jan Jagruti is her main agenda.

While issues related to Sumul dairy were rising and milkmen (from tribal communities) were not getting their due share from the middlemen, Mita along with others protested against the system. They held a conference, some of the officials fled. The case is still not resolved but their protests continue.

Mita wants to work together with other women of her area to solving the issues in their community. She wants that the tribals in her area should not be suppressed and should be paid right price for the work done.



25. Navali (29)

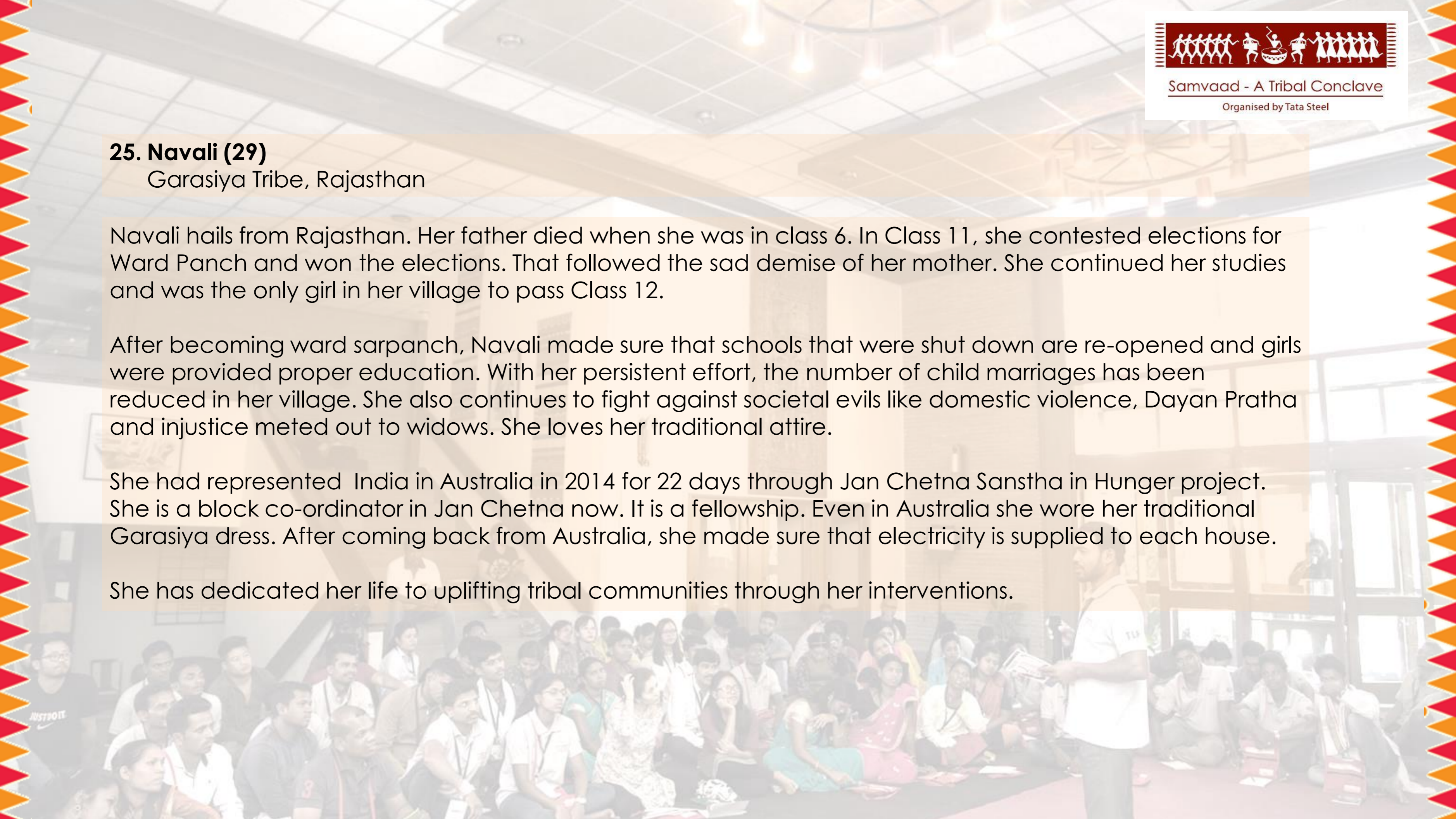
Garasiya Tribe, Rajasthan

Navali hails from Rajasthan. Her father died when she was in class 6. In Class 11, she contested elections for Ward Panch and won the elections. That followed the sad demise of her mother. She continued her studies and was the only girl in her village to pass Class 12.

After becoming ward sarpanch, Navali made sure that schools that were shut down are re-opened and girls were provided proper education. With her persistent effort, the number of child marriages has been reduced in her village. She also continues to fight against societal evils like domestic violence, Dayan Pratha and injustice meted out to widows. She loves her traditional attire.

She had represented India in Australia in 2014 for 22 days through Jan Chetna Sanstha in Hunger project. She is a block co-ordinator in Jan Chetna now. It is a fellowship. Even in Australia she wore her traditional Garasiya dress. After coming back from Australia, she made sure that electricity is supplied to each house.

She has dedicated her life to uplifting tribal communities through her interventions.



Johar!

