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## Not letting Constitution remain in school books only

**While government may have decided to celebrate the Constitution Day from this year, We The People, an NGO, has been creating awareness on it for over 3 yrs**

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**To raise awareness about values**  
From the Preamble of the Constitution, the author has written something about  
 caste, religion, nature, etc. He has also written something about the  
 right to equality to ensure that the rights of all  
 citizens are protected. The Preamble of the Constitution is the foundation and  
 the basis of the entire Constitution. It is the soul of the Constitution.  
 We The People

Twenty-six year-old Mahesh Aher makes it a point to dispel misgivings about reservations whenever he goes to his village near Pen. It is his way of ensuring that rights of others are protected while he sees to get his rights addresses from the same source — the Constitution.

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A mechanical engineer who lives in Kalyan, Aher has been a recent convert. 'Equality' of all things that always remained a challenge while getting justice and rights rose several notches up when his understanding of the word widened, along with others in the Preamble and the Constitution of India.

“Living all my life in city, I was against reservations. But after attending a lecture on Preamble and the Constitution, I have started to look at the same thing differently,” said Aher. He added: “While in city, people are one and the same; that thing is not in villages. People from SC, ST or backward classes are not treated as equals and they need reservations to improve their lot. You find logic when it was introduced as a time-bound thing. Knowledge of the Constitution is in general empowering because it helps you know who to approach and more importantly you know you have a right to approach.”


We The People, an NGO, targets youth and citizens who have long forgotten about the Constitution after reading about it in their civic books.

“We take the Preamble to people between 14 and 30 years of age through Citizen Cafes or Nagrik Nukkad. The reason is that the Preamble is the reflection of the Constitution and targeting people at that age can help ingrain in them a spirit of transformation,” said Bhakti Bhawe, who heads the Maharashtra unit of We The People and conducts Cafes on the Preamble and Constitution. She added: “It helps one in understanding what my country is all about and the basis on which it is built.”

“That simple words like socialism, equality and freedom impact our day-to-day lives to such an extent is realised with certain depth. Above all, we realise that we are the kings in the existing set up and having a knowledge of it helps in getting to the right person to address our issues with the right approach,” said Umesh Khade, who has been part of the Cafes that were held in Bandra last month.

An interactive session with games and stories of people helps people understand the constitution better. “When we started, the idea was to raise awareness about constitutional values. Not enough focus has been made to make them relevant to citizens to the extent that they understand and practise it. The Preamble and Constitution are like the vision and value statement of the country. In other countries values like justice, equality, liberty and fraternity is given right at the beginning,” said Vinita Singh, trustee at We The People.



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