Abhivyakti Media for Development, a civil society organisation that champions plural media environment and promotes active citizenship and democracy, and an ASPBAE member in India, received an Education for International Understanding/Global Citizenship Education Best Practices 2018 award by the Centre of Education for International Understanding under the auspices of UNESCO for a project that encourages young rural women to contribute to education transformation in Northern Maharashtra, India.

The Youth-led Action Research for Transformation project is part of a two-year initiative by ASPBAE and the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), which is designed to provide young rural women in India, Indonesia, and the Philippines with the skills and competencies they need in their communities. To date, the initiative has enabled women in the participating communities to continue learning and raise voice for other marginalized young women in the area.

Abhivyakti Media for Development’s prize-winning project reached over 100 young women in 10 rural communities. Villagers call them fondly as the Shodhinis (women knowledge seekers in Sanskrit). These rural young women are becoming agents of change in their communities, representing the voices of marginalised young women. Among the highlights of the project is a community library for women, and educational campaigns to prevent forced and early marriages so that girls can continue their education.

This information appeared on the UNESCO website.

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