

# Code for Good



**Organization:** Janaagraha

**Website:** [www.janaagraha.org](http://www.janaagraha.org)

## Mission

Janaagraha was born on December 2001. Its mission is to transform quality of life in India's cities and towns. Janaagraha works with citizens to catalyze active citizenship in city neighborhoods and with governments to institute reforms to city governance (what we call "city-systems"). Civic Learning, Civic Participation and Advocacy and Reforms are Janaagraha's three major strands of work to accomplish its mission. Bala Janaagraha is Janaagraha's Civic learning programme which aims to empower and enable every child to be an Active Citizen.

## Context

Bala Janaagraha vision is to demonstrate how they can potentially influence quality of life through their act of active citizenship. It is designed to bring behavioral changes in students and develop in them a deep sense of awareness and responsibility towards community through civic activities.

The organization runs a country-wide competition called 'Our City, Our Challenge' where students from grades 6-8 create & submit projects on a theme of their choice and competing individually or in teams. Students identify real-time civic, social, environmental issues in their surroundings / community like: waste management, road safety, water conservation so on and propose and implement solutions by engaging the concerned stakeholders - community/parastatals/ elected representatives/school management. Teams are guided to follow a 5-I model - Identify, Investigate, Ideate, Implement, and Inform - to complete their project. The students then submit these projects as hard copies to Bala Janaagraha. The team at Bala Janaagraha goes through a layered evaluation process to judge the efforts put forth by the students to identify best among them.

Bala Janaagraha also enlists Mentors from across India, who are either college/corporate volunteers, to assist the student teams in their projects by providing guidance in various ways - content drafting,



## Challenge

Bala Janaagraha's challenge is in moving Our City, Our Challenge to an online platform, starting all the way from student submission to project evaluation and determining winners through their videos/photos/write-ups submitted on portal. They seek to create a simple, easy, colorful, and user-friendly online experience for their participants that is visually impactful and easily accessible.

By moving from hard copies to an online submission, they hope to see the entire journey of a team's project rather than just the end-state, enabling them to identify where teams need intervention/help/guidance and whom they are engaging at each stage of the 5-I model.

## Additional Considerations

- Consider what reports the platform can generate based on project data, like student participation per school, types of schools and impact of the solution(Ex: before vs after carbon footprint ), the number of citizens/stakeholders engaged at different stages etc.
- What ideas do you have in terms of maintenance, and on making the platform available 24x7?

## Technology Baseline

Bala Janaagraha serves current need through simple application.