



Being part of UDAYA: Stories from the field

In this newsletter, we bring the experiences of our adolescent respondents and young researchers of being part of UDAYA!

Several felt happy to be re-interviewed, as this 17-year-old girl from a small village of Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh told us, “The whole experience was good! It was good to know that you are interested in understanding how we take decisions, whether we are involved in decision-making that affects our life, what are our interests, what are our needs, and how we spend our time. I know I have changed a lot over the last couple of years. I wish I could go back and check my answers for some questions that I had given last time.”

They also praised the conversation and interviewing skills of the interviewers. A 15-year-old boy from Begusarai district of Bihar shared, “The interviewer took my blood sample. I was very scared. He could read my worry and told me that I would not even realize that he has pricked me with a needle [lancet]. He continued talking to me while taking the sample, indeed, I didn’t realize when he did it; it so was pain-free! I must say, he was very experienced and skilled. He also told me about what I should eat. Overall, it was a good experience.”



Some of the respondents were inquisitive. When asked to share their experience of participating in the second wave of interview, they shot questions at us. A 16-year-old boy from Lucknow asked us, “I liked being interviewed both the times, but I am not sure what do you do with this information? You mentioned that the data you collect from me and girls and boys like me can inform programs for us. Can you tell me how you do it?”

An 18-year-old girl from Patna asked, “I can understand that you want to collect information from young boys and girls on various matters of their daily life. But I don’t know why you would collect the information from the same boys and girls again.”



I think you should ask it to different set of boys and girls every time.”

A 21-year-old young man from Patna suggested, “The last time you interviewed me was 3 years ago. We should know what you are doing with the information collected from us; what all you found through it.”

It was mostly positive experience for our young investigators too! They were touched by the overwhelming hospitality and warmth experienced at respondents’ homes. One of our investigators who has been with us during both waves of the survey mentioned, “During these years, I met a lot of adolescents and their parents from different walks of life and I am amazed with the warmth and hospitality they shower on us. UDAYA study has provided me an opportunity to hone my interviewing and communication skills. This experience has also motivated me to pursue my further education and find answers to important public health concerns of adolescents and young people.”

We appreciate the commitment of our respondents who took out some important time from their busy life. A big thank you to all our respondents!

A heart-felt thank you to our investigators who travelled across Bihar and Uttar Pradesh in harsh conditions to re-interview our respondents!

Stay tuned for further updates from UDAYA study!