



Dear Friends,

A year ago [Video Volunteers](#) launched [Channel 19](#), our online platform showcasing the videos made by 64 men and women from slums and villages of India. These men and women are full-time video producers working in local 'community video units' which are based in six states of India. Community Video Units function like small production companies within the NGO that they are linked to.

The [Community Producers](#), who come from some of the most disadvantaged backgrounds possible, make 30-minute films that reflect the voices of their community, on various issues such as health, sanitation, education, women's rights and human rights. They project their films to their neighbors on movie screens in the main 'hub' of the village/town/slum and have reached more than 170,000 people in these screenings.

When we launched Channel 19, it was a way to share their stories and vision for change with a wider audience - the global audience such as you.

What's new on Channel 19?

We've revamped the site and now you can:

- [Watch videos & add comments](#)
- [Read blogs and comment or cross-post](#)
- [Take action and contact the partner NGO](#)
- [Donate and support our Producers Fellowship fund](#)

## VIDEOS

This month we are featuring 3-5 minute video clips from the urban CVUs to give you a sense of the issues slum dwellers face everyday. View them at [Channel 19](#)!

**TOPIC: [Peace between Hindus and Muslims](#):** "Happy Eid and Diwali" was made by [Samvad](#), the CVU of [Saath NGO](#) based in Ahmedabad, a city that was torn apart in 2002 by riots based on religion. When Eid, the major Muslim festival fell on the same day as Diwali, the Hindu New Year, the Community Producers urged their fellow slum dwellers to celebrate the festivals of both communities. This was their attempt to unite the two communities, which is still very relevant given that India, like other parts of the world, is wracked by communal tension and terrorism.

**TOPIC: [Housing Rights of the Poor](#):** Watch the latest video made by [Hamari Awaaz](#), the CVU of Yuva NGO about a major protest day called 'Black Day in Dharavi' by slum dwellers living in the largest slum in Asia. As Mumbai globalizes and grows in wealth, the losers are usually the poor slum dwellers, whose homes are being torn down to make way for luxury apartment blocks. The government promises to find alternative housing for them, but rarely does. The latest action by the government was to reduce by 25% the size of the already tiny plots they were giving

slumdweller to build their houses, and major protests took place throughout Dharavi. Hamari Awaaz helped the movement by publicizing the protests online with this video.

**TOPIC: *Elections*:** As the United States celebrates its history-making election of the first African American as president, Channel 19 showcases a video on elections in Mumbai. People in the Bombay slums are so disillusioned by politicians who don't keep their promises, that they generally vote on the basis of regionalism, language or religion - not on the quality of the candidate's plans for the city. This video by [Apna TV](#), the CVU of the [Akshara NGO](#), informed slumdweller of how they could hold the politicians accountable, and proved a huge hit in the slums. The story of the video was covered by many TV stations and newspapers in Mumbai, and slumdweller themselves organized dozens of independent screenings of the film. People were evidently starving for information on how to improve governance, and this desire for political reform is the first step to getting a better leader.

## BLOGS

Follow [our blogs](#) written by the team at Video Volunteers about the Auto-rickshaw and Taxi drivers' strike in Mumbai, and thoughts on terrorism and violence in India which has heightened in the past 6 months. Also read about Video Volunteers' [plans to bring the CVUs into the mainstream media and online](#). To connect these macro issues with the issues of the CVUs, the blog posts have videos which refer back to the bigger picture and are embedded in the post, so feel free to comment and/or copy-paste them and cross post on your own blog.

If you haven't already, please do [signup for our newsletter](#) and spread the word about Channel 19 as we are growing our online platform.

Check out our Facebook group and join our [Facebook Cause page](#) as we are posting our news there too. ☺

Finally, we are a contender for a 20,000 Euro grant, and to help us win all you have to do is connect with us on the very inspiring new website [neo.org](#) by the end of November. All money will go to the Producers Fellowship Fund. Here's the information: go to [neo.org](#), a new website for sharing causes and declarations. Sign up and become a member. Then search for "Jessica Mayberry" and sign our declaration to work for voice and diversity in the media. We are one of less than 30 contenders for a 20,000 euro grant, which will be given to the non-profit that gets the most number of 'followers' on the site.

Video Volunteers is hiring video trainers in India, so be in touch with us at [info@videovolunteers.org](mailto:info@videovolunteers.org) for more information.

Thanks for reading!

Sincerely,  
The CHANNEL 19 Team at Video Volunteers

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