

# March 2023 Newsletter



play  quity

**Building equity through play  
by inverting gender roles**

# President's Message



Dear Playquity family,

We hope your 2023 has begun as well as ours has! We are delighted to introduce our inspiring team of coaches, highlight our accomplishments so far, and share our plans for the rest of the year.

Since the beginning of the year, we have been taking concrete steps to empower our coaches, strengthen our NGO partnerships, and deepen our impact within the communities we serve. We have spent countless hours visiting our nine Playquity sites in person, observing the Playquity sessions in action, and meeting with community members and stakeholders.

Needless to say, our work transcends boundaries, cultures, religions, and caste. And we are constantly humbled to see how much we need one another to achieve our mission to build equity through play.

We hope that our work comes alive for you in these pages, and that the stories inspire you as much as they inspire us. Thank you for taking the time to support our work!

With love,

Swapnaa

# Coaches' Corner



Our coaches are the backbone of the Playquity Program. Today, we are proud to share that our team works across six different states to coach our girls. Each coach develops daily schedules, coaching routines, and spirit circle content for the sessions. Additionally, they spend time monitoring and evaluating the impact of our curriculum with the girls. We are very grateful to have such an incredible group of women who are at the forefront of our operations.

In the next pages, meet the women who bring Playquity to life in their communities.

**Anjona** joined Playquity in March 2021 as our first coach. She comes from the Baliyan Tea Estate in Chabua, Assam and is inspired by her father and Mrinalini, her first Ultimate Frisbee coach. She has spread Playquity to three communities thus far (and counting) with Jeevan Shiksha.

Apart from Frisbee, she drives herself towards reducing, reusing and recycling plastic that is not just harming humans health but affecting animals and the environment.



# Coaches' Corner



**Joshila** works in Udaipur, Rajasthan with our partner organization, Kshamtalya Foundation, as a Playquity Coach. She joined us in 2022 and was recently recognized by Jhed Village at Udaipur District and Kotra Block for her efforts to bring education through sports for the girls. She says, "Because of Ultimate Frisbee I am gaining so much exposure and gathering new learning about the world."

**Kavitha** previously worked in Chennai with Pudiyador and now coaches a group of Playquity girls in Arasampattu, Tamil Nadu. She has been working on the Playquity project since September 2022 after she attended the Playquity Academy. Since then, she has introduced her village to the Playquity program. She is a single mother to two children and is an active member in her village.



# Coaches' Corner



**Selvi** coaches Playquity sessions in her community, Auroville, Tamil Nadu. Additionally, she teaches at Auroville's Last School, and is a captain of Spinergy Ultimate Club. Spinergy is the only women-led Frisbee club in India. Selvi has played Ultimate at the National Level and has represented India in worldwide competitions.



**Wynonna** joins Playquity with a Master's degree in Sports Psychology and brings expertise in sports. She chooses to coach Ultimate Frisbee to promote leadership, equality, and promoting girls and women of her community to lead towards professional and personal commitment with awareness and choice. She is located in Shillong, Meghalaya where she works with our partners at Faith Foundation.

**Additionally, we are identifying and training our second line of leaders within the communities we work. We aim to have two coaches per Playquity community.**

# Field Partners

★ Headquarters

📍 Community Site

## Assam:

1. Jeevan Shiksha
2. Rural Volunteer Centre

## Manipur:

3. Centre for Women & Girls
4. InSIDE Northeast
5. MANEDA

## Meghalaya:

6. Faith Foundation

## Pondicherry:

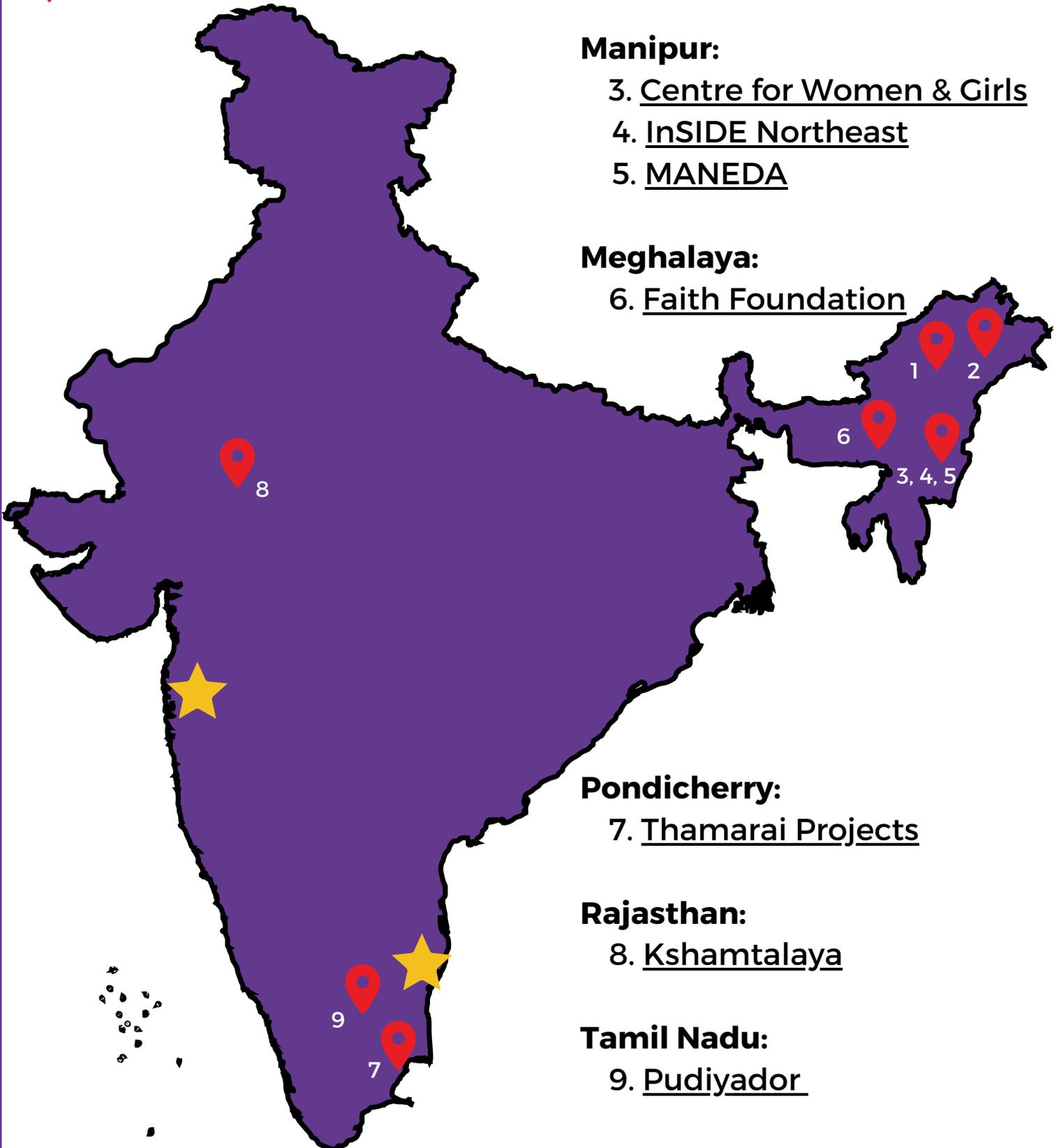
7. Thamarai Projects

## Rajasthan:

8. Kshamtalaya

## Tamil Nadu:

9. Pudiyador



# Partnerships

In 2023, we are developing and strengthening our partnerships across India. From the implementing partners in the field, to strategic thought partners, we are building relationships to deliver our mission.

In addition to our existing NGO partners, we launched the Playquity curriculum with three new NGO partners in 2023! We have built partnerships with Rural Volunteer Centre in Assam, InSIDE NorthEast and MANEDA in Manipur in an effort to continue sharing the Playquity Program throughout India.



Together with the Action Northeast Trust (The ANT), we have been able to identify rural communities and NGO partners to implement the Playquity curriculum.

We are happy to announce our partnership with Kickoff Solutions as part of their Rural Girl Coach Initiative. Coach Anjona will be sponsored in an effort to build capacity and maximize potential for women coaches .



# Flying Rabbits

We have been fortunate enough to partner with the Flying Rabbits club team from Brussels, Belgium this year. Their club includes likeminded players who care deeply about gender equity and have been experimenting with various ideas within their own mixed-gender team in Belgium to maximize gender equality.



The four coaches (Charlotte, Corinne, Rachel, and Ysaline) are volunteering in seven of our nine program sites to upskill our existing coaches and introduce frisbee to our new communities.

The partnership has been very positive for Playquity and our partner organizations alike as the four coaches bring a combined level of 25+ years of Ultimate Frisbee experience. Already, they have positively impacted the coaches and site's alike with their knowledge sharing, cross-cultural engagement, and the friendship shared.

Thank you to Charlotte, Corinne, Rachel, Ysaline and the entire Flying Rabbits Club of Brussels Belgium for the time spent, discs donated, support, and partnership!



# Impact



250+ Participants

9 locations

3 New NGO Partnerships

300+ Hours of Sessions

150+ Strength & Skills Assessments

3 Community Tournaments

1 District Level Recognition

**"Playing Frisbee has increased self confidence, helped control emotions, build trust with others and respecting strengths and weaknesses of individuals."**  
-Junmoni, Rural Volunteer Center

**"Before Frisbee, I had never played on the ground. Now I play with the children and I feel like a child myself. I can see that they are interested and everyone feels happy to be there. There was a change with the girls' dress, they now wear trousers and the parents allow it"**

**-Logeswari, Thamarai Foundation**



# Looking Ahead

For the duration of 2023, we are focused on strengthening our foundation through capacity building, strategic planning, and process creation throughout our nine program locations and with our Operations Team.

Additionally, we hope to expand our team and hire a team of likeminded individuals to support our work. We have begun to build a network of individuals and interested parties to support our work.



We are hosting the second annual Playquity Academy for our coaches! This training is a two-month long camp where coaches will live together, practice frisbee, and learn coaching techniques alongside one another.

This year, our Academy is going to be hosted by two American coaches, Samantha "Broccoli" and Marie, who will share more than 20+ combined years of Frisbee experience with us.

# Get Involved

## Coach & Volunteer

Playquity welcomes individuals and groups interested in our project. We accept volunteer coaches, trainers, and those who are hoping to get involved!

## Follow us

Follow us on social media and share our organization with your network!



Playquity @Playquitysocial

## Donate

Your contributions ensure that Playquity's operations continue to empower and maintain ongoing programming for our girls and members of the community.

## Partnership

Help us partner with organizations you know so we can conduct events and start new projects!

**For more information:**



[info@playquity.org](mailto:info@playquity.org)



[playquity.org](http://playquity.org)



+91-98849-81941  
+1-734-709-8953