About SBI Youth for India Fellowship

SBI Youth for India, recognized as the flagship program of SBI Foundation, is a 13-month long Rural Development Fellowship Program in partnership with 10 reputed NGOs spread across India.

The Fellowship provides a framework for India’s best young minds to join hands with rural communities, empathize with their struggles and catalyze their needs and aspirations.

Our Partner NGOs

Our Supporters
It is with great pleasure I write the foreword for this edition of e-newsletter of SBI Youth for India fellowship, the flagship program of SBI Foundation. As all of you know, this program, is an opportunity for India’s brightest youth, to get exposed to the grassroots realities of India’s rural areas and also to help them cultivate the knowledge, skills, and mindsets necessary to attain positions of leadership in the development sector and identify their role in building a wider movement for social equity in the country.

This Newsletter showcases the activities and achievements of the current fellows and alumni as well, as they continue their journey to bring innovative and creative solutions to rural issues. These activities reflect the vibrancy, tenacity and dedication of our fellows, reasons for distinguishing SBI youth for India fellowship as the most premier rural fellowship in India. Their initiatives in empowering the rural disadvantaged are moments of pride and satisfaction not only for them but also for us and for everyone who had some role in mentoring these youths especially their parents who gave their kids the space they needed to explore.

I hope that this newsletter highlighting the challenging and exciting experiences of our fellows will inspire many more compassionate youths to apply for this fellowship and be changemakers. I also take this opportunity to announce that the online applications for selection of new batch of fellows (changementakers) is now open.

As all of you know, the worst health crisis of a generation is challenging us. An unprecedented crisis demands unprecedented response. The best we can do is to strengthen the support to those who are on the frontline of this response and strictly follow the instructions of the State and Central Governments. Together we will overcome.
“SBI Youth for India fellowship has been a defining point in my personal and professional life. The engagement during the fellowship has crafted me in defining a completely different outlook of work approach and empathy it holds, contrary to the roots of the corporate world I have delved into. Now your cabin is a huge rice field and your colleagues are rural women and their wonderful kids”.

During the fellowship, Kriti has worked tirelessly with the tribal women of Dangs, Gujarat. She has motivated the rural women in taking up the entrepreneurship model in post-harvest management and marketing of a high but forgotten nutritious grain crop, Finger Millet (also known as Nagli by locals), faded in the limelight of rice. The engagement involved working with the Self Help Group to revive finger millet’s consumption and production in the very apt and friendly climate of Dangs. The idea was to set up a bakery unit to bake biscuits and other food products of finger millet.

Post completion of her fellowship program, Kriti along with 2 other fellows, took forward the learning from the tribal areas of Dangs and other districts to start their own social enterprise, “Tales & Treasures”. This new venture opened her horizons in exploring the depths of the rural engagement, which work towards building a transparent marketing channel of Rural products for Urban Market, through corporate giftings, eCommerce platforms, and workshops.

Along with that, she also works on the development of traditional crafts under the SFURTI Scheme of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Kriti graduated in commerce honours from Delhi University in 2012 and later went to pursue Chartered Accountancy by 2015. She worked with KPMG in the past before switching to development sector.
Sameer took a leap of faith to quit his well-paying corporate job and join SBI YFI Fellowship and he believes that it was one of the best things that happened to him as it made him grow as a person and think “what it is like to be the other guy” as Joaquin Phoenix (Best Actor 2019–20 Oscar winner) says in one of his recent films “Joker”. He has since conducted rural school sports leagues, built science and technology labs for kids in rural areas schools who are working with 3D Printers, robots, water rockets and sensors and developing award winning projects.

Sameer continued in Gram Vikas as a full-time employee after completing the fellowship and wrote a proposal to NITI Aayog through which he secured a funding of Rs 20 lacs for 5 years to turn his lab into an Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) under Atal Innovation Mission. The lab was recently inaugurated by the Honourable Speaker of Odisha Vidhan Sabha Dr. Surjya Narayan Patro and his school has become the only rural tribal residential school in India to have such a lab. Sameer has impacted 1200 tribal kids in Gram Vikas Schools through his work. He has been able to collaborate with an NGO Pratham Education Foundation to carry out science-related training for free of cost in this school. The kids from his school were the winners of Top 20 and Top 100 stories at the DFC I CAN Festival 2018 and were awarded by renowned Indian actor Rahul Bose for their wonderful design projects.

Sameer initiated and currently heads the Science and Innovation Program of Gram Vikas as STEM Coordinator and aims to expand it to other schools as well. Sameer has also been awarded the Aryabhatta Award by Jitan Ram Manjhi ex-Chief Minister of Bihar at the prestigious Bihar Awards Ceremony 2018 for his excellent work.

Sameer graduated in Mechanical Engineering from Manipal University Jaipur in 2016. He has also done a Continuing Education Program (CEP) course on Exposure on Product Design and Innovation from IIT Bombay. He worked as an Intern at IIT Ropar and was placed at Gravita India Limited before burning the boats and joining SBI Fellowship.

Previously he has also won awards from NASA and German Aerospace Agency for his design projects and also for one his poems on space.
On a rainy night, sitting in the train, waiting for the green flag for both the train and the new beginning. The signs, however, were all ominous: the down-pour wanting to ruin everything it touched. Nothing apart from the location changed during the orientation, the same dark clouds and me wondering if it was the right decision. All those doubts, however, vanished on that fateful evening in Doba. We were conned into staying at the residence, rather than the NGO office, by one of the staff. The feeling of being treated as a brother and family, even when being a stranger, was a high that I never experienced. That one night is what keeps me going when in doubt.

- HARS wards HAN RATHOD, SBI YFI FELLOW 2019-20

Having worked in rural parts of north India before, I had fairly come to learn that the people of the villages are instantaneously welcoming. It was gratifying to be welcomed to every household with a warm smile and a cup of chai where all the discussions happened and friendships were formed.

“How different can Kerala be?” I thought when I landed in Wayanad, which seemed like a dreamland with lush greenery. The staff of MSSRF was very welcoming and since I had expressed the desire to work with tribal communities, after a month of field visits I was able to narrow down to one tribal community - the paniyas living in 2 hamlets called Madoth Poyil colony at Panamaram, Wayanad.

- ISHA MISHRA, SBI YFI FELLOW 2019-20
The Yoga week organized in 6 villages of Raghunathganj, Murshidabad. Pratibha and Ayushi are working with the women bidi workers in Raghunathganj, Murshidabad. This requires them to sit constantly for long hours, causing back pain, gas and respiratory problems. To address these issues and enhance their current bidi making process to generate more income, they conducted Yoga week from 6th to 11th January in 6 villages, with over 100+ women.

Yashika Mallik attended Harvard US India Initiative Conference in Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai dated 3rd-4th January 2020. The main idea of the conference was to bring together students, professionals, social entrepreneurs and other development sector practitioners to have conversations around the most pressing political, social and economic issues faced in India today. The keynote speakers for the event included Subramanian Swamy, Aditya Thackeray, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathor, Niranjan Hiranandani and other panelists representing their fields of specialization.

Our fellow Sriparna with partner NGO MSSRF initiated COVID Awareness activities in the premises of Pal (Milk) Society in Semmedu (Kolli Hills) with the community members. Community responded well to the activities and pledged to maintain proper social distancing.

On National Youth Day fellows Rajneesh, Kittiy, Gauri & Bushra participated and presented in competition for Lake Revival Design Camp along with many architects and engineers with PWD officials and other environmental activists on Vandiyur Lake at Madurai.

Piyush Yadav, working in Kerala for sustainable village development recently organised a workshop on "International Day of Women and Girls in Science" and explained the kids, why this day is being celebrated and why we need women in science. Women scientists from our Partner NGO MSSRF interacted with the children and told them about their journeys and encouraged them to pursue science and technology as professions. A science quiz was also conducted.
JOIN US - SBI YOUTH FOR INDIA FELLOWSHIP
Applications open for 20-21 Batch

Working on bringing about positive change across rural India

The Fellowship is an opportunity for young aspiring leaders to develop their social entrepreneurship and leadership skills while working alongside their rural communities.

300+
YFI Alumni
Join a growing community of SBI YFI fellows

70%
Social Leaders
Most fellows continue their social work even after

Here's your chance to make a positive difference in hundreds of lives.

ARE YOU THAT CATALYST

‘You will live miles away from home in an unfamiliar community, empathizing with their problems and innovating solutions that fuel change. You will live in a mud house relishing the local food, experience local culture and learn human values that are slowly diminishing in the pretext of development’ - though it sounds interesting, it is equally challenging. Can you give up on the urban comforts to adapt to a much backward lifestyle?

Passion, dedication, empathy, sincerity and enthusiasm - a bit of each ingredient makes our ideal fellow.

visit- www.you4.in

For more information about the SBI YFI fellowship, please write to contactus@youthforindia.org
For feedback on the newsletter, please write to media@youthforindia.org