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
FOREWORD

- SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR REKHI
MD & CEO, SBI FOUNDATION

It gives me a sense of satisfaction that Team SBI YFI is bringing out third edition of it’s E-Newsletter which offers readers insights into various activities of fellows of the program. Who knows that a small step taken by a commercial institution called SBI eight years ago to bring urban youth in direct commune with remotest rural inhabitants through it’s initiative called SBI Youth for India Fellowship by requiring them to spare just above one year (13 months to be precise) of their lives for socio-economic ventures for the welfare of the deprived section of society, will blossom into a full-fledged movement being eagerly sought after for engagement by urban youth.

The journey upto now for Team SBI YFI, it’s active fellows on ground and strong alumni network has been quite fulfilling as can be gauged from the extent of their involvement in various developmental activities. The fact that 70% of passing out fellows remain in development sector is an ample testimony to the efficacy of program.

The E-Newsletter is a platform for fellows and alumni to share their stories which spur the readers to spare a moment for giving a thought to contribute meaningfully to the upliftment of rural India.

Shri. Mahendra Kumar Rekhi assumed charge of SBI Foundation as Managing Director & CEO on 10th April 2017. An MBA in Finance, Shri Rekhi joined the Bank as Probationary Officer in the year 1984. Presently he is spearheading SBI Foundation, a CSR arm of SBI. Prior to present assignment, Shri Rekhi held various other important assignments in the Bank which include his stint as GM (Social Media and Marketing). During his assignment, Bank’s social media presence got a due fillip in as much as it is now the No. 1 Brand in the world among Banks using social media as per the Financial Brand’s Power 100 Ranks - Banks Q1 2017. He was also Head of Corporate Communications for the Bank. Under his guidance, SBI Foundation has touched the lives of more than 10 lakh beneficiaries through various projects and received due he CSR initiatives from reputed institutions like ETNOW, ABP News, CMAI etc.
“After having my initial stint in the corporate world, I came to understand that happiness and satisfaction don’t always complement each other. I was happy, but not satisfied. I realized, I wanted to pay back to the society in whatever way I could. That was the point, I switched to development sector and joined SBI Youth for India Fellowship.” Under this fellowship, he worked for setting up ‘Digital Science Lab’ and ‘Providing Computer Literacy Through Audio-Visual Learning Resources’ projects in tribal belt of Odisha. Later, he worked with the Member of Parliament in West Champaran constituency to assist him in constituency management and development under SPARC Program of TATA Trusts. Recognizing his contribution towards nation building, QCI felicitated him with ‘Young Achievers Award’ in 2017 and Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs (GOI) rewarded him with ‘National Youth Award’ in 2018.

He is currently part of Aspirational District Fellowship program of Home Ministry (GOI), where he worked rigorously in Simdega and Ranchi (both, Left Wing Extremism affected districts of India), to assist the district administration in fueling up the development engine. He worked on projects like ‘Operation Whiteboard—replacing blackboards by whiteboards to assure freedom from chalk dust’, ‘Smart Classroom— Digital Literacy in Government Schools’, ‘Garima Campaign – A district wide MHM Awareness Drive’, ‘Health Awareness Campaigns – against Malaria, TB and Filaria’, ‘MHM Aunt— installing libraries in schools to create awareness about MHM). While he received ‘3M CII Young Innovator Award’ for working on menstruation issue, he was invited in Sri Lanka by Ministry of City Planning, Sanitation and Education (Gov. of Sri Lanka) recently to represent India in Regional Conference, held at Colombo.

Satwik graduated in engineering from VIT University in 2014 and later went to get DEBM from EDI, PGDRD from IGNOU and PGDFGR from TISS. He worked in Accenture, TATA Trusts, IPAC and Vyoma Energy before switching to development sector.
“The SBI Fellowship for me is the first instance in my life which brought me face to face to my own intrinsic capabilities both as an effective communicator and an entrepreneur. I have been on the same journey since then, communicating and inspiring people through various projects and challenges that I work on.”

Post the fellowship, Naman joined another prestigious fellowship, the Vision India Foundation Fellowship, as part of which he Co-Founded and lead the execution of Vidyalaya Vistaar across 108 government schools of Vrindavan, Mathura. He currently works as the Digital Night Schools Programme Manager at Barefoot College. Solar Digital night schools are non-formal schools running across the country during evenings or nights for the marginalised and poor children who are unable to access formal and quality education during daytime because of various social, geographical, or economic limitations. These schools are primarily located in locations which are off-grid or with intermittent electricity supply and uses digital tools and technologies to deliver education effectively. There are a total of 47 such digital night schools spread across 10 Indian States supported by Apple, Oracle, Microsoft, PayPal, WorldReader, etc.

Naman has recently been conferred with the Karamveer Chakra Awards in association with the United Nations. He continues to travel, tell stories and work for the people and the children of this country.

Naman Bansal is an engineer by qualification who found his calling by telling stories to children in the schools of rural Bihar. Before joining the SBI Youth for India Fellowship, Naman was working with Wipro Technologies as a Java Developer. However, one year down the line, he knew that he had to see the real India which live in the villages. SBI Fellowship was the perfect platform for him to try out his childhood dream of working for the people. He initiated Project Palak as part of his fellowship journey. The highlight of his journey during the fellowship was the successful crowd funding campaign which he initiated. The raised sum helped in successful digitization of the school in which he was working.
EXPERIENCES FROM THE JOURNEYS OF SBI YFI 2019-20 FELLOWS

This fellowship is like a window opening to the limitless horizon of togetherness and happiness, the quest is to be open to change. From North India to South India, everything changed, language, food, traditions, everything! And when I took these changes as an opportunity, I started learning new things and growing closer to the people. From being an outsider to now being considered family, changes are still happening. And The expedition is to welcome these changes and grow together with people.

- AVANTIKA GANDHI, SBI YFI FELLOW 2019-20

‘An overwhelming joyride’ - is all I have to say to anyone who asks me how the fellowship has been so far for I am at a loss of words to explain the sorts of experiences you live everyday because you wont understand unless you’ve been here. You wont know the feeling when a kid as young as 2 years rushes to you to tell you how their day was when they wouldn’t even leave their mother’s side otherwise, or people constantly asking how you’ve been and one slight change in your regular routine and they’re at your doorstep to ask you what’s wrong? From not having too many people showing up at your meetings to people reacting immediately as they hear your scooty driving into the village. To tell you in brief, I have learnt so much through so many new experiences from collecting wood, making fire, rice harvesting, tribal dancing, gobar flooring, kitchen gardening that I am waking up to wanting more and more each day and I am not holding back. Its a 100% true what they say, ‘This year will be one of the very best years you choose for you’ and I have no regrets so far.

- NAINA LAHOTI, SBI YFI FELLOW 2019-20
DASTKAAR Winter Mela - Pratibha from batch 14–15 and Aubrey from batch 17–18 have established their enterprises named "Himalayan Blooms" and "Kinglee Xperience" respectively. They have showcased their products such as woollens and goat milk soaps at the Dastkaar Winter Mela, Nature Bazaar, Andheria Modh, Anuvrat Marg, Near Chhatarpur metro station, New Delhi.

Monash University & SBI Foundation Collaboration - Event held at IIT Bombay in collaboration with Monash University, Australia and SBI Foundation under Global Immersion Guarantee Program. Workshop was organized on creating shared value by leveraging private sector. President & COO Nixon Joseph delivered a speech on SBI emerging CSR practices. Coordinator Priyvrat delivered a lecture on shared value creation, our 2018–19 fellows Asmita and Grusha presented their work to Monash students.

MD & CEO Shri Mahendra Kumar Rekhi received acknowledgement from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan Shri Ashok Gehlot Ji. We thank you sir for your kind gesture. This will go a long in strengthening our commitment towards rural development.

Naman Bansal, our YFI Alumni from batch 15–16 got featured in Dainik Bhaskar and Dainik Divya Marathi for his contribution towards Solar Digital Night Schools.

Kavya Raman, our SBI YFI 15–16 Batch fellow won UN Volunteers Award for her efforts towards setting up Rajasthan’s first zero-waste rural community in Chhota Narena village, Ajmer District, Rajasthan. The project was implemented over 5 months and as a result, almost all households in the village segregate their waste, the animals in the village are protected from consuming littered plastic, people do not practice open dumping and burning of waste, and all waste generated is recycled, sold, and kept away from landfills.
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM SBI YFI 2019-20 BATCH-
OCTOBER COHORT ORIENTATION CEREMONY
HELD AT BAREFOOT COLLEGE, TILONIYA

Mr. Maulik Sisodiya, Executive Director of Tarun Bharat Sangh delivering a lecture on "Integrating Conservation in Rural Development".

An SBI YFI Fellow conducting survey during a field visit in Tiloniya during Orientation.

Shri Sanjiv Malhotra, Director, Central Board, SBI in the presence of Shri Mahendra Kumar Rekhi, MD & CEO, SBI Foundation, Shri Nixon Joseph, President & COO, SBI Foundation with the incoming cohort of SBI Youth for India Fellows 2019-20 Batch October Cohort and YFI Team.

Fellows along with YFI Team while doing community visits at Tiloniya.

Shri Mahendra Kumar Rekhi on a discussion mode with incoming batch of fellows.
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS FROM SBI YFI 2018-19 BATCH-
OCTOBER COHORT VALEDICTION CEREMONY
HELD AT STATE BANK BHAWAN, MUMBAI

Gracious presence of Hon'ble Chairman SBI Shri Rajnish Kumar who motivated our fellows at the ceremony.

An SBI YFI Fellow delivering her presentation at the Valediction ceremony.

The delegation present at the Valediction Ceremony comprised of representatives from our partner NGO's, CSRs & other stakeholders from the social sector community.

Shri Kamlesh Mehta, one of the most remarkable player in Indian Table Tennis arena and our Chief guest of honor addressed the audience.

Proud moment for SBI YFI to host Valediction Ceremony for Batch 2018-19 October Cohort at Mumbai Corporate Centre with the gracious presence of Chairman SBI Shri Rajnish Kumar, MD SBI Shri PK Gupta, DMD SBI Shri Alok Kumar Chaudhary along with SBI Chief officials, NGO Representatives, our SBI YFI alumni and outgoing fellows.
JOIN US - SBI YOUTH FOR INDIA FELLOWSHIP

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

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