



Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Program

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“Knowledge gained through experience
is far more superior than bookish knowledge”



Vision from the Programme Directors, MGNF, IIMB



"MGNF Phase II is at the halfway stage, with nearly 14 months behind them since they joined the district and with 10 months still to go. Fellows have begun revitalizing the District Skill Committees, initiated projects, and plans, and developed a strong understanding of their district's economy in these months. They are poised to take their activities to the logical next step, thanks to the supportive ecosystem that has been received from the State Skill Development Missions, and MSDE. The breadth and relevance of their work are both inspiring and an example of how to engage with the skill ecosystem."

Professor Arnab Mukherji

The MGNF Phase II fellows are using academic inputs as well as local experiences to analyze the quantity and quality of human and natural resources, as well as assess institutional and financial capabilities at the district level, to develop viable plans that are expected to provide long-term economic growth and job opportunities. As part of this process, the fellows identify obstacles to growth and suggest ways to eliminate them, primarily by recommending skills enhancements.

Professor Tirthatanmoy Das



Reviews of District Immersion from the desk of SSDMs, and District officials



The MGNF has opened fantastic opportunities for educated young people interested in public policy to gain theoretical and practical knowledge. This ground-level path-breaking initiative is designed to inspire young, ambitious, and creative fellows to exceed all imaginable standards by bridging the gap between theory and practical knowledge by connecting with actual implementation. The fellows' exposure to the issues and challenges at the district level, as well as the probable or potential solutions thereto through their work at that level, will be invaluable in the development of a bottom-up approach for better development prospects than the traditional top-down approach. I have no doubt that the programme will be widely successful in its goals of improving policymaking and implementing best practices in the field.

Shri. Pankaj Chakrabarti, TCS Gr. - I (SSG), Additional District Magistrate & Collector (PP), Gomati, Tripura.

Evolution in technologies is taking place at a very rapid pace, and driving these innovations are the skilled youth of any nation. Sensing this huge unmet demand for skilled youth, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has been doing a tremendous job in devising various policies and initiatives. One such initiative is the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme. The fellows are from diverse backgrounds and often have national-level experiences, which are proven to be supportive of the administration's effort in servicing its clientele - the general public. In the district, MGN Fellow has started many initiatives like BRAIN (Bhiwani's Regional Advanced Integrated Network), which aims at integrating the skill ecosystem of the district and the Polytechnic Entrepreneurship Programme, which aims at training students of Polytechnic in business skills to successfully start their own ventures. Many more such initiatives with the support of administration have been started, the benefits of which will be reaped later by the district.



Sh. Harbir Singh, HCS, City Magistrate, Bhiwani, Haryana

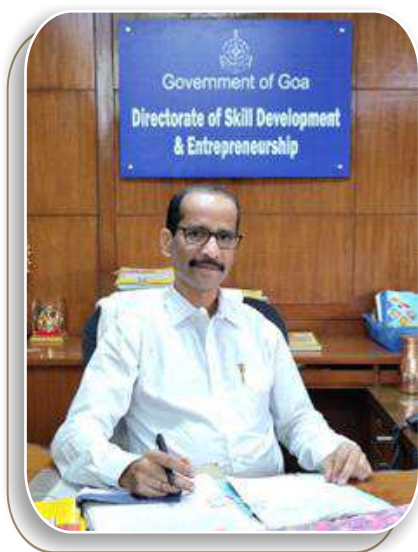
MGNF is an excellent programme to bring innovative ideas into the administration of government departments, as well as to give young professionals a first-hand experience of working at the grassroot levels, an arrangement which is a win-win for both agencies. In south Goa, this has resulted in a wider and deeper association with the stakeholders, the analysis of the skill gap, and a more practical district skill development plan. The infusion of new ideas is core to keeping up with the fast-changing market scenario and the need to be abreast of the advances in technologies and processes happening in the market, and the MGNFs are a vital contributor in achieving this effectively.



Ms. Jyoti Kumari, IAS, Collector & District Magistrate South Goa

The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship programme is a great initiative by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with various IIMs. Our honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is working hard to create an "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and our honourable chief minister, Shri Pramod Sawant, is working for a "Swayampurna Goem" to support the PM's efforts to be skilful, which entails having self-reliance. As part of our mission to drive Goa's youth toward Swayampurna Goem, Atmanirbhar Bharat, we, the Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, work to develop their skills in various fields. With backing from academia, MGNFs help to bring forward new ideas to attain our vision of a Swayampurna Goa. The two Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows appointed for Goa, Ms. Shama Kamble and Ms. Bindiya Gadkar, have instilled a new way of thinking, innovation, and ideas in the skilling ecosystem with their continuous interactions with multiple stakeholders. Their constant engagement with the local communities helps them understand their needs and provides a need-based planning approach to livelihood promotion.

Shri. Dipak Desai, Director, Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Mission Director, Goa State Skill Development Mission



From the desk of Faculty Mentors of MGN Fellows



It has been a pleasure to teach and mentor MGN Fellows. I have learned a lot about the challenges of skill development in India by interacting with them and believe that a real impact on skilling is being generated by this programme and its fellows at the district levels of India.

Prof. Prateek Raj, Strategy Area [IIMB]

A very committed group of Fellows. I am sure both during their Fellowship and beyond, they will contribute significantly to the well-being of the society.

**Prof. Shyamal Roy, (Retd.),
Economics and Social Sciences Area, [IIMB]**



The MGNF is a novel programme that I have had the privilege to be associated with. The sincerity and involvement of the fellows in their district immersion, facing and overcoming challenges of quite a magnitude, is not only a life-learning experience for them but also a great benefit to the district's planning and growth. Wish more youngsters of the country get the desire and opportunity to go through a programme like this. As for me, it's been quite satisfying and a great learning - a very challenging and enjoyable experience of my teaching career.

Prof. S. Jagadish, (Retd.), Information Sciences Area [IIMB]



“Activities of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows”

Stories with Recognition

MGNF gained exposure to the National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) Initiative of the NITI Aayog

Evidently, management of data and information in an orderly manner is a problem and a common phenomenon in many rural districts in India. Ms. Gargi Sur and Ms. Saheli Chakrabarty, Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows assigned to the North and South Tripura districts, respectively, face the same problems. Along the way, they learned about an initiative/competition of the Data Management & Analysis Vertical utilizing the Meta version of the NITI Aayog-National Data & Analytics Platform (NDAP) in partnership with Omidyar Network India and the Indian Statistical Institute Delhi, and submitted a paper titled "Road to Cognitive Empowerment through Effective Skilling Policy." It sought to shed light on the relationship between a lack of market prospects, networking, and awareness of apprenticeship programmes where data is a crucial component. The purpose of this article was to explore the gap between scheme-driven MSME activities and market prospects for the same using the data available in NDAP and to demonstrate that scientific management of government-level data is essential for enhancing services to last-mile delivery.

As a token of appreciation, they were both invited to the Vigyan Bhavan in Delhi during the public launch of NDAP on 13 May 2022, and were felicitated with certificates. Writing the paper and going to the event helped them realize that it's easy to make claims about the poor status of data management in the district, and it gave them more confidence to work in the district ecosystem to solve the problem.



Fellows of Karnataka proved their potential at the state level and ensured recognition by participating and winning the Skillathon 2022 organized by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC), Government of Karnataka.

The Skillathon 2022 is organised by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation (KSDC), GoK, on the eve of World Youth Skills Day (WYSD). It is a creative problem-solving event wherein an individual or a group of 2-4 people come together virtually to solve a given problem statement. The event envisages solving existing problems plaguing the skilling ecosystem by providing a platform for passionate people. A team of four – H. P. Manoj, Shreenandan HS, Srinidhi Gurunath, and Varun K - from the Karnataka cohort worked on the problem statement of "Making Vocational Education Aspirational".

They forwarded a detailed problem analysis and various solutions and used the RICE model (which was practiced while preparing the workshop at academic modules in IIM Bangalore) to prioritize among different solutions, the budget required, unintended consequences, and their redressal.



The KSDC received many innovative proposals from all over India and, after screening them all, the 'Proposal Evaluation Committee' selected the proposal of the IIMB MGNF team as the “most innovative one” and accordingly conferred on it the first prize. Giving high recognition to the efforts of the MGNF team, the Honourable chief minister of Karnataka, Mr. Basavaraj Somappa Bommai, felicitated these Fellows with a cash prize of Rs.25,000/- and a certificate of appreciation.

During this proud moment of MGNF Cohort Phase II, Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayan, Minister Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Government of Karnataka, and Sri. Ashwin D Gowda, IRS, MD- Karnataka skill development corporation, were present.



Fellows effort in organizing 'District Level Skill Committee Meeting' creates a framework for institutional building at the grassroots

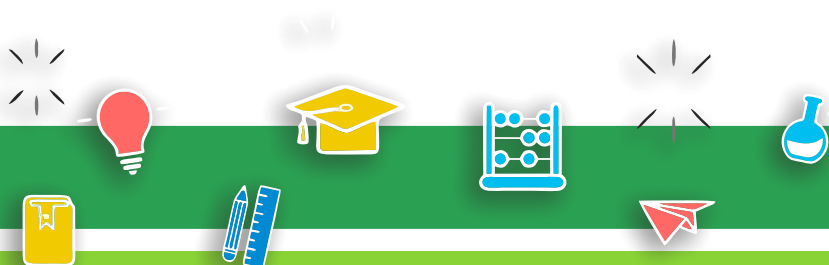
As part of the district immersion activities, each fellow has a basic mandate to ensure the strengthening of the District Skill Committee (DSC), where they regularly connect with district skill committee members and sub-committee (if any) for ensuring optimal functioning. It is quite evident that after the joining of fellows at the district, the functioning of DSC is visible in most of the districts.



Out of the 73 districts where IIM Bangalore MGN Fellows are based, nearly 70 have had one or more DSC meetings; four districts have faced challenges in the regular conduct of DSC meetings due to multiple reasons, but MGNF is continuously doing follow-ups for organizing the same.

Submission of 'District Skill Development Plan' by MGNF

DSDP is a comprehensive document with a vision of a district skill development plan where the major approach is decentralized need-based planning. The process of DSDP development needs a rigorous engagement with district skill and entrepreneurship ecosystems. Along the same lines, fellows underwent multiple activities like the collection of necessary data and the conduct of need-based research studies, reviewing various kinds of literature, participation in Gram Sabha meetings, and regular consultation with various stakeholders at the district and state level such as line department officials, members of the DSC committee and subcommittee, training partners/project implementation agencies of various skill development schemes, etc. Most of the fellows developed a DSDP and submitted it to the DSC.



Successful initiatives of MGNF in various districts

Sprouting the Roots of Skill Development at Panchayat Level

The MGN Fellow of Ballari district oversees the project “Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone” (CEPMIZ), costing Rs. 55.66 crore, under the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (K.M.R.C), handed over by the DM of Ballari district, Shri Pavan Kumar Malapati, IAS. The project administration body is set up by the honourable Supreme Court of India to restore the overall welfare of the mining-affected villages using the district mineral fund. With the guidance of the District Magistrate and District Skill Development Officer, a total of 107 mining-affected villages have been identified, of which 27 have been selected in the pilot phase of the project.

The area is considered backward due to many reasons like scarcity of livelihood, lack of sufficient wages, low rate of registration in various development schemes, and lack of awareness about the government programme. So, identifying appropriate job roles, based on the need and demands of local people and successful mobilization, was the major challenge for the fellow.

These 27 mining-affected villages come under the jurisdiction of seven Gram panchayats of Ballari and Sandur taluks, where the MGNF convened Gram panchayat meetings to understand the needs and concerns of the local people regarding skill development initiatives.



The fellow initiated multiple approaches to consolidate the local demand and to ensure people's participation in the process. The fellow conducted village-level awareness programmes, meeting with Gram Panchayat and Taluk officials, putting up hoardings in various places, making and distributing posters among residents of the targeted area, using social media, and a registration desk at the local panchayats. After these activities, 12 sectors and 26 job roles were shortlisted for skill development training. As a result of this process and mobilization activities by the fellows, more than 2000 (as of 28.09.2022) applicants have registered for a training programme in different job roles, mainly in self-employed tailoring, as sewing machine operator, and in agriculture and allied sectors.



Approval of a special project can be a catalyst for the district to become truly Aspirational:

Archana M, MGNF, Yadgir, Karnataka



Ms. Archana M, a fellow of Yadgir, has been nominated as nodal officer for the Yadgir Kaushalya Kendra – a skill hub under the NITI Aayog Aspirational Districts Programme. The project, with a budget of Rs 72 lakh, aims to enhance employability, productivity, and competitiveness through skill development. Yadgir Kaushalya Kendra is a first-of-its-kind skill hub that has been approved by the NITI Aayog Aspirational Districts Programme. This project was completely designed by Archana under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner and the District Skill Development Officer.

The Yadgir Kaushalya Kendra was inaugurated on Gandhi Jayanti (October 2) in 2022 and a glimpse of the same is provided below.



In the first six months of its functioning, the skill hub would train 300 beneficiaries under the trade roles: field technician RACW, baking technician, and electrical winder. The authorities at the skill hub would also ensure that these beneficiaries gained employment or became self-employed after the completion of the training. Additionally, 360 beneficiaries can attend classes at the hub to prepare for different competitive exams on a one-time basis. After six months, the skill hub will apply for accreditation under the PMKVY or CMKKY as a training partner to ensure the project's sustainability. Henceforth, the DSC would map the district's demand and supply gap and recommend training in the trade roles that the district's youth need.



“Potential use of a harmful plant can become a source of livelihood”

HP Manoj, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka



H P Manoj, in Chamarajanagar, is proactively working for the conversion of lantana into tribal crafts. Lantana camara is one of the world's ten worst invasive plant species; this plant has affected more than 40% of the Indian forest cover. This toxic weed has created havoc in the eco-sensitive western ghats by replacing the native plants and affecting the whole biodiversity in the region. The lantana, which can be used for furniture, is in fact, a fast-growing weed which the forest department must clear extensively. Manoj is working closely with the forest department and District Administration under the leadership of the District Collector to train the tribals of the district in lantana crafts. Upon the submission of the Project Proposal by the fellow, a special meeting was called by the District Collector, which included all relevant district officials, to streamline the training in the district. Under the leadership of the Zilla Panchayat, the training is taking place at Mangala Village near the Bandipur National Park of Gundlupet Taluk, and training has been completed at Bellavatha Village of Chamarajanagar.

“Struggle is the foundation of success”-

Gargi Sur, MGNF, North Tripura, Tripura

In the initial days of her fellowship at the district, Gargi struggled to thrive in the district's administrative ecosystem as she was considered an outsider. She was unaware that there was no mechanism for obtaining ready-made data or an Excel sheet from which she could access data. On the other hand, district immersion activities require a great deal of information/data and activities from the fellow, who is expected to meet the deadlines of various stakeholders such as IIMB, MSDE, NIMI, and the district.

Hardly anyone in the district acknowledged her because they might be believed that an over-smart outsider had come for two years, prompting them to ask, "Who is this fellow?" She visited the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and met Dr. Samendra Kumar, Head & Senior Scientist, as a change of pace after visiting other district line departments. She discovered that the greatest obstacle for KVK was obtaining permission from farmers who owned land to use their property for Front Line Demonstration (FLD) intervention. The farmer is expected to receive loans from the bank to implement the skills obtained through KVK's experiment to make the intervention sustainable.



However, owing to a variety of challenges, the bank used to deny loan requests from farmers. In the meantime, the fellow met with Mr. Saibal Kanti Roy, SBI Chief Manager, Dharmanagar, and was startled to learn that the bank had set targets and was under pressure from the government to grant loans but was unable to do so due to lack of suitable applicants/farmers. At this stage, the fellow served as an instrument by advocating an awareness campaign in KVK, where the SBI manager also participated and educated participants interested in obtaining loans for establishing their poultry, hatchery, goat rearing, etc., on loan approval concerns.

The bank promptly sanctioned loans for Goatery-6 and Fishery-10, while a few – namely Poultry-8 and Piggery-15 -- remain on hold owing to insurance company issues. The bank manager was quite pleased with the MGNF's participation and wrote a letter of thanks to her, while the MGNF of North Tripura District recognized that "struggle is the key to success" and she needed to develop a data bank or excel sheet by connecting the dots.



SBI भारतीय स्टेट बैंक State Bank of India		DHARMANAGAR BRANCH(00067) CENTRAL ROAD, DHARMANAGAR DIST: S.C.T. NORTH TRIPURA STATE: TRIPURA PIN: 799250
Tel: Mobile: 9436499037(CM) E-mail: sbi.00067@sbli.co.in		Date: 01/01/2022
No. CMSLI/2021-22/ 467		
To, Miss Gargi Sur, (MGNF) Fellow, IIMB Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Programme, Dharmanagar, North Tripura-799250.		
Madam,		
LETTER OF APPRECIATION		
With reference to the above, we would like to keep on record and acknowledge the extensive support and co-operation which you have rendered in garnering many effective Agricultural loan leads from Krishi Vigyan Kendra Panisagar i.e. w sanctioning of Loans relating to Goatery/Broiler(Kadaknath Chicken). We have already sanctioned most of these loans and in the process of sanctioning the rest by this month. We will request you to explore the possibilities of schematic lending to other segments specifically in Agriculture segment like establishment of Greenfield Project Lending in Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme and also establishment of Mini Cold Store in North Tripura District.		
[2] We are ready to extend any sort of support if required for your project related work in days to come. Wishing you all the very best in all your future endeavors.		
With regards,		
Yours faithfully Chief Manager Saibal Kanti Roy		

“Success lies in impacting lives who are in need and eligible and local level public administration system can play a significant role to do it.” - Debashis Raul, Balasore, Odisha

Debasish Raul, a young and spirited MGNF fellow deployed in the Balasore District of Odisha, has a passion for social development and a sincere desire to impact the lives of people at the grassroots level. Since joining the district as MGNF, he has enthusiastically participated in numerous skill development and livelihood enhancement programmes. Based on his desk research and convergence meetings with several line departments, he discovered that northern Odisha, notably the Balasore area, was renowned for its "Tasar Fabric" and textile industry. The sector is one of the most important economic contributors to the district, consisting of around 3,000 weavers (including traditional and mechanized). To improve life and livelihood opportunities for these individuals and the society, the government must take a proactive stance in support of the entire textile and handloom sector ecosystem. In the same vein, the Handloom, Textiles, and Handicrafts Department has implemented several programmes, including workshed-cum-housing, capacity building, technological interventions (looms, accessories, weaving accessories, motor charkha, dobby), facilitation of lighting units (with 100% government assistance, up to INR 17,500/-) under the Promotion of Handloom Industries Scheme, skill upgradation training, etc.

With the aforesaid context in mind, the fellow began his fieldwork and discovered that only 400 out of 3,000 weavers had been identified as beneficiaries to date and that Rs 11 lakh (out of Rs 24 lakh sanctioned in FY 2021-22) of unutilized funds was still outstanding with the relevant textile department. The number of approved trainees is 110, but only 54 participants had enrolled in the programme.

The MGNF brought the matter to the District Magistrate's attention and proposed a plan to address the issues, which was approved. During his intervention, the fellow realised that to provide advantages to people, one must create sustainable means so that in absence of MGNF too, it should be an ongoing process where original recipients can approach and have their concerns handled. In the meantime, it was found that a local-level government system, i.e., Gram Panchayat, could play a vital role in attaining the programme's overall purpose, given that Gram Panchayat is the nearest public administrative structure in rural areas.

Therefore, the fellow proposed panchayat-level campaigns (especially in panchayats dominated by weavers) to identify textile clusters, register them on the necessary portal, and provide them with the benefits of the schemes. He also found a lot of individual weaver families in the district who didn't have enough money to initiate their own full-fledged manufacturing units, so under the guidance of Collector & District Magistrate, Balasore, he is working on coordinating between Asst. Director Textiles and DDM, NABARD for the easy facilitation of working capital to the marginal weavers.



“Bamboo is referred to as wise man's timber.”

Mukesh Kumar Sahoo, MGNF, Rayagada, Odisha



Mukesh Kumar Sahoo has led an impressive initiative for bamboo artisans and encouraged aspiring tribal girls of Rayagada district to inherit traditional bamboo skills from the elders and seniors. Bamboo is a naturally abundant resource available in plenty throughout the district, so the availability of raw materials helps the whole entrepreneurship and skill ecosystem of the district to think of innovative ideas about its optimal and significant usage. Despite the product's widespread availability, significance, and usefulness, little has been done to develop, promote, or monetize it. In the tribal belt of Rayagada, a significant number of tribal farmers still rely on traditional bamboo artisans and their farming for their livelihood.

So, the fellow tried promoting the manufacturing of bamboo jewellery with modern design and apparel, and moving towards bamboo handicrafts, home decor, furniture, and bamboo packaging etc. which may meet the current market demand. To understand the whole ecosystem, the fellow conducted research in Badachandili village (Rayagada Block), where he discovered that a significant number of tribal girls were actively engaged in the production of jewellery made from bamboo. He further found that exposure to modern design among the existing artisans/tribal girls may help the ecosystem in many ways. He contacted the NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology) Bhubaneswar, for the training of these tribal girls, which has since been arranged by the NIFT. His research also explored that these illiterate girls had achieved a record sale of Rs. 3.5 lakh of their handcrafted products by selling them at annual district and state-level exhibitions. Looking at the demand, it has been concluded that the product has good demand, and they were getting orders through social media also. So, the MGN Fellow started his intervention by developing a project proposal of Rs. 1 crore for the aspirational district with the goal of producing 300 skilled bamboo artisans. Meanwhile, MSDE, GoI, also asked all aspirational districts for innovative project proposals, so the fellow decided to submit the same project proposal to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India (MSDE, GoI). The fellow was in constant touch with the Asst. Director, Handicrafts; Dy. CEO, ORMAS; Dist. Employment Officer; Director, RIC Rayagada, CSR foundations, and NGOs for finalizing the proposal, along with the funding source for the same.

After finalizing the proposal and receiving approval from the District Collector, it was submitted to the MSDE, GoI, for final approval. The fellow was able to convince the General Manager of SPARSH social foundation (the CSR body of J.K Paper), who agreed to provide one-third of the overall project cost if the MSDE, GoI, approved the project proposal and assured the remaining funding.



“Local youth should be encouraged through local opportunities”

Tapaswani Das, MGNF Nabarangpur, Odisha

On 18 December 2022, Ms. Tapaswini Das, MGNF, participated in the Aspirational District review meeting held at Mission Shakti Conference Hall, Nabarangpur. During the review meeting, she got an opportunity to interact with Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. Discussions were held around poor placement results, skill gap identification and analysis, and skill development in the district. The Hon'ble Minister recommended preparing skill mapping reports of all blocks and to promote local employment opportunities to overcome the challenges.

Different skills are required under the projects like Bharat mala, PMEGY and MGNREGA, and any other schemes run by the government should be promoted on a priority basis, which can be the roadmap to meet the basic needs of the people. New technical education and evolving trades like drone camera operating and graphic designing must be introduced to training centres that will benefit the youth. A roadmap for a five-year plan must be prepared to ensure quality education for all students, the discussion concluded.



“Proposing change a process of seeding change”

Shweta Thikada, Rohtak, Haryana

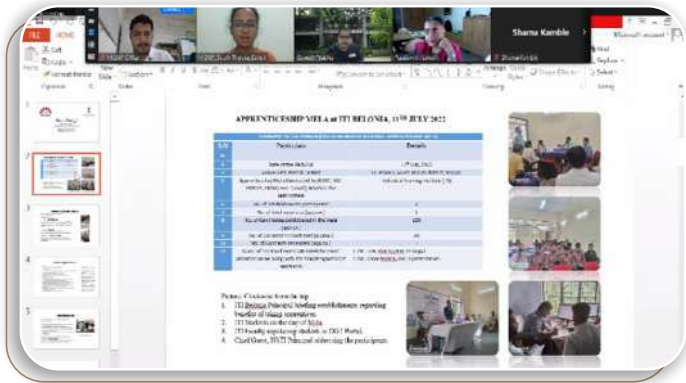
Shweta, under the mentorship of DC, Rohtak, did a study on the Gaps and Challenges in the Apprenticeship Scenario of Rohtak. The same was presented in the Apprenticeship Committee meeting chaired by DC, Rohtak, in the presence of heads of government departments and industries. The next step Shweta is focused on is making sure that all industries and departments in the district are engaging apprentices. She believes this step will give rise to more opportunities for apprenticeship in the district, resulting in the creation of a better-skilled workforce in Rohtak.



Monthly Meet on National Apprenticeship Promotion chaired by Respected Deputy Commissioner of Rohtak, Shri Yashpal Yadav, IAS, discussing the need for an in-depth study on the apprenticeship scenario



Academic Exposure of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows Faculty Panel (FP) Meeting 3 & 4



The Faculty Panel meeting is a very important activity for the MGNF programme, where fellows get necessary guidance from their respective faculty mentors of IIMB. The MGNF programme team is thankful to all Faculty Panel Members for their continuous support and successful coordination for ensuring academic deliverables to all fellows. All SRA also played the role of catalysts to complete Faculty Panel meetings 3 and 4 through their constant engagement with fellows and handholding support for district immersion activities and academic deliverables of IIMB. Faculty Panels 3 and 4 were completed in the months of July, September and October 2022.

Academic Module 3

From 18 to 30 July 2022, Academic Module 3 was organized at the IIMB campus, which was attended by all 75 fellows. Academic Module 3 gave a wide platform to all Fellows, with sessions ranging from top-level functionaries of NABARD, various Sector Skill Councils (SSCs), NGOs, Academicians from reputed institutions, and IIMB etc. The 14-day event witnessed enthusiastic participation from MGN Fellows, great coordination of the Programme Management Team, guidance from Faculty Panel members, and direction from Program Directors (PDs) of MGNF.



A group of Fellows during presentation of group work



Market and Economy Workshop

The Market and Economy workshop is an important part of the MGNF programme where fellows presented their views with respect to the market and economy of the district. During the academic module after the regular classes were covered by resource persons and faculties, the workshop was scheduled and fellows shared their views by using small PowerPoint presentations with nine slides and nine minutes of pre-recorded videos, which were presented to their respective faculty panel mentors. Based on the presentation, faculty-initiated discussions with fellows raised questions and provided valuable guidance, which can be applied to their District Immersion activities after the workshop when they go back to their respective districts.



Mr. Bhomiya Kalo, MGNF, Kendrapada district, Odisha, presenting his case in the presence of FP members during the Market and Economy workshop



Mr. Ashis Paul, MGNF, Gomati District, Tripura, presenting in the presence of FP members during the Market and Economy workshop



Stakeholder Meeting

MGNF Coordination Committee Meeting with 8 IIMs

An interactive discourse was held on 26 August 2022 at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore with a major focus on several issues of MGNF Phase 2 across the nine IIMs that are the academic partners for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, India (MSDE), GoI, in implementing MGNF. The meeting was attended by Programme Directors (PDs) of seven IIMs such as IIMB, IIMA, IIMJ, IIMK, IIML, IIMR, IIMV and four officers from MSDE, GoI, including Mr. Sandesh Tilekar, Director, Sankalp, MSDE, GoI. The participation from Sankalp and IIMs made the programme very fruitful. PDs of various IIMs shared their issues and proposed multiple suggestions about how the MGNF programme and the rest of the year can be made more meaningful with maximum benefit to ensure the development of local economy and market by proposing need-based and skill and entrepreneurship activities.

SRAs and PMs from seven IIMs also attended the programme and shared their satisfaction as this was the first initiative where all SRAs and PMs were in attendance along with PDs and representatives from the MSDE. The programme concluded by stating that this cross-learning discussion would help for better execution of the programme in a more efficient and focused manner.



During the MGNF coordination committee with Mr. Sandesh Tilekar, Director, Sankalp, MSDE, GoI. SRA, PMs of all IIMs assembled at IIMB



State-level workshops at SSDM

Two days workshop with Odisha Skill Development Authority-Odisha

A two-day deliberation with Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows (MGNFs) has successfully conducted at the World Skill Centre, Bhubaneswar, on September 26 and 27 2022. The workshop was graced by bureaucrats and representatives from different elite skill institutions and the respective District Employment Officers from 29 districts. In these two days, Prof. Arnab Mukherji, Programme Director, MGNF, IIMB, and Prof. Sankarshan Basu, Prof. IIMB, were also present along with the SRAs of Odisha and 29 MGN Fellows.

Fellows were introduced to the infrastructure of the World Skill Centre. The labs of Robotics and Mechanics were an eye-opener for the fellows. The facilities were not only world-class but also offered a tremendous learning experience to develop the best skills in the country. Mr. Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, OSDA, shared his insights on why the Odisha Government developed WSC to place Odisha as a skill centre for the world and provide the finest skills for the country. Interacting with him was a learning experience. Different bureaucrats from their fields shared their experiences on handicrafts, handloom, agriculture, ITI and other industries.

Here are a few glimpses of the event:



Fellows along with their respective District Employment officers and Prof. Arnab Mukherji



Prof. Arnab Mukherji with the Mission Director, Shri Reghu. G, IAS, OSDA



Fellows visiting the World Skill Centre



Subroto Bagchi, Chairman, OSDA, giving a talk during the workshop



A clock made by the ITI Berhampur students out of scrap materials was presented to the Programme Directors by the Principal of ITI, Berhampur



Tripura SSDM workshop, meeting with Ms. Santana Chakma, Minister, Industry and Commerce, and Mr. Abhijit Chandra, Secretary, Industry and Commerce



On 7 September 2022, a state-level workshop was arranged by the Directorate of Skill Development, Govt. of Tripura, especially for MGNF of Tripura state, where all seven fellows were present. The first meeting was chaired by Mr. Sanjay Chakrabarty, Director, DSD. Fellows shared their district-level issues and concerns with the DSD officials. The Director made a review of the fellows' activities and performances, briefed them about some priority projects which the DSD is working on and asked the fellows to work on the same.

After the first meeting, all fellows met with Shri Abhishek Chandra, IAS, Special Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Tripura, and Smt. Santana Chakma, Hon'ble Minister, Industries and Commerce. Each fellow shared their experiences in the district immersion, and the secretary told them to work on some innovative areas.



During the review meeting at the Directorate of Skill Development (DSD), Govt of Tripura (GoT), Agartala, MGN Fellows of Tripura are with Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, Tripura, IIMB at the DSD office.

Review meeting under the chairmanship of Director, DSD, GoT at DSD, GoT, Agartala. All MGN Fellows from Tripura were present during the meeting.



Field visit by IIMB Programme Management Team (PMT) and Programme Directors (PDs)

PDs visit to Odisha

Programme Director, Professor Sankarshan Basu, visited Odisha as part of the field visit. Along with the SRAs of Odisha, he visited Khordha, Cuttack and Puri, where he met different officials and fellows in the respective districts, and visited different training institutes. The experience of the field visit was very enriching as ITI Cuttack is one of the finest in India. He visited the L&T training centre and met with trainers and officials, and tried to explore placement status. The professor also visited Raghurajpur, a village famous for its art and handicraft in Puri district, where the team also got the opportunity to interact with a few artisans.



Program Manager (PM) & State Resource Associate (SRA) visit to Goa

PMT visited Goa SSDM, had a meeting with the MD, Goa Skill Development Mission, and enquired about the fellow's performance and the way forward. The PMs and SRAs visited the Cacora Government ITI and met with district mentors of fellows, Shri. Ravikiran Pawaskar, Principal, ITI, GI, Shri. Vinod Zambaulikar and enthusiastic staff work towards the self-sustainability of the ITI. Their workshops' structural components to flooring, plumbing, and wiring have all been set up by the trainees with help from their trainers. They have taken up various projects and converted many scraped vehicles into usable ones. The Staff of Cacora ITI has constantly been working on upgrading with new trades, keeping in mind the future trends. They have started various new-age courses like Mechanic e-Vehicle, Drone Technician, and Solar Technician.

The fellow is working on the project of mechanic e-Vehicle trade setup and to make it a Recruit, Train and Deploy (RTD) model of training. For the syllabus of the electric vehicle training course, the fellow and the ITI principal referred to Tata Technologies and the DGTs' mechanic e-Vehicle trade for establishing a detailed course of study with a robust, practical approach. The setting up of labs will be assisted by Tata Technologies under their Upgradation of ITI project. For the recruitment of trained candidates, fellows are working with various stakeholders like Olectra Greentech Limited, manufacturers of electric buses in Goa, and EV motor assembly line manufacturers from Bengaluru. The project has been made possible owing to constant support from Group Instructor Shri. Vinod Zambaulikar and his vision to enrich and equip young minds with practical knowledge for an exciting future.



SRA Field Visit in Tripura

Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, Tripura, visited North Tripura and Unakoti Districts and met with Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows, Ms. Gargi Sur and Mr. Subhasish Mondal, respectively. Meeting with fellows in their district gives a clearer idea of the grassroot intervention of fellows during their district immersion activities and also helps the SRA to be able to better guide and support the fellow for their district immersion and academic activities. During the visit, the SRA met with the mentors of the fellow and visited a few field areas where the fellow proposed his/her intervention.

The SRA visited Damcherra, Wainbukcherra/ Khahamthai para, and Kaskau Lalbaithang, which are BRU, Riyang community settlement villages. The fellow and SRA jointly attempted to understand the skill aspirations of these new settlements with prior permission and guidance from the district.



SRAs Field Visit in Odisha

Mr. Debadatta Das, SRA Odisha, visited the Sundergarh and Bargarh districts of Odisha as part of his field visit, where he met fellows, inspected their work, and visited many livelihood groups as well. He had a focused group discussion with the women of the producer group about their business and provided valuable insights on business escalation ideas. He advised fellows of the district to facilitate the group with the same for the promotion of their livelihoods. During his training centre visit, he could notice a gap between the number of candidates enrolled and the number of candidates sitting in the class. He advised the fellow to look into the matter and present a gap analysis soon



Ms. Aditi Kar, MGNE, Baragarh District, Odisha, along with Mr. Debadatta Das, SRA, IIMB, during a visit to SHGs involved in entrepreneurship activities of traditional Sambalpuri handlooms

Miss Pragya Ashana, SRA Odisha, visited Khordha, Puri, and Cuttack districts of Odisha, where she met fellows, inspected their work, and visited many skill institutions. During the visit, the SRA could identify both the pros and cons of the training centres such as a gap in the files presented by the PIAs, placement data and training data as well as positives such as seeing a large number of female candidates getting trained, which showed the interest and awareness of the female candidates in getting properly trained and placed so that they could stand on their own feet after getting employed.



Thoughts from Fellows:



"Working on the ground trains your mind to think beyond the limits and identify multiple solutions towards one problem."

Chumki Das, MGNF, Khowai, Tripura

"The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship is dynamic in its approach, which has allowed me to traverse different sectors from agriculture to education. The sessions in IIMB by highly esteemed faculties and guest speakers helped broaden my horizons. Exploring the hinterlands of the district and helping in the development of Producer Groups has been a pleasing experience."

Manish Kumar, MGNF, Ganjam, Odisha



"MGNF has opened the door for gaining practical field experience under district administration while at the same time being guided by experienced IIM professors. It is a perfect bridge to connect the common problems to achievable solutions, taking into account the viewpoints of all the involved stakeholders and using all the available resources to fulfil the objective."

Pranay Pritam Sahu, MGNF, Puri, Odisha

We have all been told how our rural youth lack resources to be skilled but after joining this fellowship and watching the ground level scenarios of the district, it is evident that more than the resources, they lack proper guidance, which this fellowship has allowed me to impart in the district. As Franklin D. Roosevelt said, 'We can't always build the future for the youth, but we can always build our youth for the future'.

Nitin Kumar, MGNF, Mahendargarh, Haryana



Thoughts from Fellows:



From rural communities to students and professionals, MGNF has made me realise the wide scope of skill development present at the grassroots. Though seen as a homogeneous entity from a bird's-eye view, the demands vary at a decentralised level. It also provided me an opportunity to assess those demands, in collaboration with various stakeholders, and to suggest interventions to bridge the gap, with the required skill set.

Swati Aggarwal, MGNF, Charkhi Dadri, Haryana

The journey of this fellowship has been a rollercoaster ride with excitement, disappointment, hope and frustrations. As Edward Everett Hale (US historian) said, 'I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do'. That really resonates the work in public policy field. I have learnt patience and gained new perspective thorough stories and struggles of people.

Shailja Santore, MGNF, Chamoli, Uttarkashi



Working in an expanding city like Bengaluru with start-ups and skills, abound with its watershed rural habitations in need of focussed development, allowed me to look at the ecosystem from a holistic perspective and plan for pilots that are impact-focussed and scalable. The training offered at the IIMs in Data Analysis, Communication, and Negotiation greatly helps me as I try to work towards the District Skill Mission's objectives.

Navaneeth Ganesh, MGNF, Bengaluru, Karnataka

MGNF creates a platform which allows young and aspiring minds of India to get to the grassroot level and work on skill development, which directly influences the livelihood of people. Members of the Soliga tribal community on Male Mahadeshwara Hills of Chamarajanagar are one of the first to use the invasive lantana plant to earn a livelihood by making furniture from them.

HP Manoj, MGNF, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka



SNAPSHOTS



Chumki Das, MGNF, Khowai District, Tripura, at a Youth Awareness Programme with ITI students from Khowai district



Debasmita Chowdhury, MGNF, Dhalai District, Tripura, at an SHG meeting



Aditi Kar, MGNF, Baragarh District, Odisha along with Mr. Debdatta Das, SRA, IIMB during a visit to SHGs involved in entrepreneurship activities of traditional Sambalpuri handlooms

Sasmini Sahoo, MGNF, Nuapada district, Odisha during a career counselling and certificate distribution event



SNAPSHOTS



Rahul Saini, MGNF, Panipat, Haryana at the project launch of PARICHAY (Panipat Redefining Internet Culture Holistically Amongst Youth)

Debashish Acharya, MGNF, Khordha District, Odisha State, during a visit to Bandhan Skill Development Training Institute, Bhubaneswar



A participatory session by Mr. Shri Nisheeth Kumar, Director, Knowledge links during Academic Module (AM3)



Sobhit Kr. Bishi, MGNF, Jajpur District, Odisha facilitating Pradhan Mantri National Apprenticeship mela





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This newsletter reflects activities from the preceding period on which we reported until September 2022.