



Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Program

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You must not lose faith in humanity.
Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty,
the ocean does not become dirty.



EDITORIAL NOTE

Greetings to the Readers!

The Program Management Team (PMT), Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF), Centre for Public Policy (CPP), Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB) is delighted to present the 6th edition of the IIMB MGNF newsletter that endeavors the pursuits of Fellows and captures the highlights of the program during May-July 2023.

Through this platform, we celebrate the successes and acknowledge the entire MGNF team for their remarkable efforts at the grassroots level. Our goal is to provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of the progress of the program aimed at enhancing the skilling and socio-economic ecosystem of the 73 districts covering 6 states undertaken by CPP, IIM Bangalore.

We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we enjoyed compiling stories from different parts of the country. We value your time and welcome your feedback and reviews.

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Vision from the Programme Directors, MGNF, IIMB



“MGNF program's 2 years are nearing its end. The results of the learning of the Fellows is blossoming and becoming visible as DSC based activities stabilize, and of their individual efforts in the district is becoming more visible. Many districts have a vibrant DSC based skill-economy ecosystem, others are witnessing stronger engagements with ITI and skill training programs, while still others are seeing interesting ideas, take shape – such as haats, youth surveys, exploring links to ONDC, etc. All in all, my sense is that the Fellows will take away lot of learning, awareness of the district and its economy and how things work, and the district will have sorted out its most pressing issues from two years ago. Wishing both the district and the Fellows a good future as the Fellows' dissertations start taking shape and identifying a potential path forward.”

Professor Arnab Mukherji, CPP, IIMB

As the Phase II of the MGNF program is coming to end, it a crucial time for the fellows to coalesce the learnings of their two years of field-immersion and academic work. We hope that this comes across in their dissertations. Along with a wrapping up of activities, there should also be a looking-back and reflection on their stint in this unique Fellowship program. How can the gains they have made be concretised? How could they have avoided some of the mistakes? What has this Fellowship meant to them, personally? These are some obvious questions for reflexion.

Prof. Rajalaxmi Kamath, CPP, IIMB



Guidance from Faculty Mentors

Professor Deepti Ganapathy, Chairperson- Centre for Management Communication IIM Bangalore



She is mentoring fellows from Yadgir, Chikkamagaluru District, Karnataka, and Dhenkanal District of Odisha. The MGNF team recognized her continuous support of the program. She took sessions during various Academic Modules and visited a few MGNF districts. She drafted an article based on the interaction with the MGNF team from Odisha.

Puri Rath Yatra and Puja of Lord Jagannath: Through the Lens of Faculty Panel and MGNF

“A celebration that brings women together” Prof. Deepti Ganapathy, IIMB. A week before the world famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri begins, women in the state of Odisha, embark on a unique journey to remind themselves and their families about the state of femininity that makes them unique. Raja festival or Rajo, according to popular belief, is observed to celebrate women. Just as women menstruate, which is a sign of fertility, so also does Mother Earth menstruate. Hence all three days of the festival are the menstruating period of Mother Earth and considered to be a way of celebrating and embracing their femininity. Pragya Ashana, who lives in Bhubaneshwar observes, “in Odisha Raja festival is a sign of celebrating womanhood. The women in the families are given new clothes, get ready, swings are put in the household, as the whole family celebrates for three days”.



*Embracing Womanhood with Raja Doli:
Celebrating strength, fertility and empowerment*



Priyadarshini Senapati on a Jhula

“Celebrating womanhood is the main idea, which I love,” says the newly-married Bengali bride. The first day is called "Pahili Raja", second is "Raja Sankranti" and third is "Bhumi Dahana or Basi Raja".

Priyadarshini Senapati, says the swing also called Jhulas are created on this auspicious occasion of Rajo for pampering and showering love on all the woman of the family in the house. While the tradition of embracing womanhood, is officially announced in many communities in the country through elaborate rituals when a girl attains puberty, as she grows up and takes on her societal roles, these moments to celebrate and embrace her feminine side are almost forgotten.

The festival of Rajo is different as it establishes her identity every year and poignantly reminds other members of the family to pamper and honour her individual self. While women in different parts of the globe are coping at different levels to pursue careers, succeed at work-life balance and embrace this through the journey of their reproductive health throughout their lives, it is notable to see certain efforts bear fruit.

Spain, for example is the first European nation to pass a legislation for the creation of sick leave if a woman employee is suffering from severe period pain.

Often, girls, especially in their teens are told to hide and not make a big fuss when faced with severe cramps, nausea, dizziness and vomiting when they are having their periods every month. This may cause several mental health issues and they can grow up to be afraid to talk about this, leading to undue pressure and stress in their work and personal lives. Advertisements and celebrity figures are often portraying a 'carefree attitude' by showcasing menstruating women carrying on their lives normally and involved in physical tasks in sports or as defence personnel. This can put undue pressure on few sections of the women population for whom the menstrual cycles may not be always physically and emotionally endurable.



*Traditional Suji Peetha
with Raja paan.*



*Simplicity and joy:
Modest celebrations of Raja in remote rural landscape of Odisha.*

Festivals like Rajo can help such women slow down and share their trails and tribulations about this topic. Shanti Murmu, MGNF Fellow, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha says, “the first thing to note is that Rajo is the festival where the entire family gathers and that includes all the cousins. Food, pana, and chhau dance are my favourite festival activities. Additionally, this festival helps me appreciate my value as a woman”.

Balabhadra Senapati, MGNF Fellow, Gajapati, Odisha, exclaims, “New clothes, another opportunity to go shopping! Now a days events and Melas are held everywhere. And who doesn't like Melas? They provide awesome Instagram moments! The best part is getting ready and clicking selfies with friends and eating the quintessential mutton-bhata. Girls can laze around all day long, especially on the swings.”

Madhusmita Priyadarshini, MGNF Fellow, Sundergarh, Odisha says, I personally like to celebrate Rajo as it is a festival dedicated to womanhood when we get three days off from the daily chores and celebrate the festival by pampering ourselves with new clothes, ornaments, alta and enjoy the swing.



*Women celebrating Raja/Rajo in a village
by applying Alta to their feet –
a representation of fertility and auspiciousness.*



Prof. Sucharita Banerji

In my opinion, a critical issue that India faces today is that despite its strong youth base, this segment of the population lacks the guidance critically required for them to contribute productively towards the nation's well-being. As I was introduced to the MGNF program, I felt, this is an apt solution, a unique teaching, learning and training program which at its heart, holds the purpose of identifying and nurturing young leaders who are passionate about transforming rural India through skill development and socio-economic change and motivating the rural youth towards a larger vision and better lives.

The concept of selecting bright individuals from diverse backgrounds and providing them with a distinctive opportunity to work closely with district administrations in selected backward districts across the country simultaneously equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills through a comprehensive and integrated curriculum is undoubtedly one of its kind.

I witnessed the journey my mentees undertook, from rookies to change agents and catalysts for development, from shy personalities to resplendent achievers, overflowing with out-of-the-box ideas and sustainable interventions as solutions, thus, resonating the purpose of the program. My deep appreciation for the team that made this possible and best wishes for many iterations in the future.

Prof. Jayendra Banerji

“Connecting the dots between district economy, youth aspirations, skill development, migration for livelihood and many such key factors that define the challenges faced by rural India, have been the key objectives of the MGNF program. Over the last two years, I have observed the development of the program fellows into resources having great understanding of the district's strengths and opportunities. The fellows are effectively using their knowledge acquired during the tenure served at the district and in-campus inputs to create, assimilate, and execute micro-business models from ground up. These small businesses are being run by Women-SHG's and tribal groups and contributing to direct improvement of monthly income of these families. In my opinion, if this program or similar variants can be implemented consistently over a decade, the rural economy will see an exponential increase and address multiple issues that trouble us as a country. It was heartwarming to see the support given to the program by district officials, project directors of central & state bodies and their respective teams.



It's been a wonderful opportunity to be associated with the MGNF program as a mentor and to contribute my learnings to the fellows at Ganjam and Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha. During the faculty panel meetings, I have gained immensely from the wisdom of many senior faculty and mentors of IIM-B.”

From the Desk of District Mentors



MGNF is a great initiative of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. The academic module and district immersion component of the Fellowship enriches educated young individuals with theoretical and practical knowledge. This allows the Fellows to have a better understanding of grassroots-level challenges and solve them by applying their academic learnings from IIIMs. The program ensures that Fellows gain a holistic view of grassroots-level challenges, policy implementation, and associated issues through discussion with various stakeholders, field visits, and engagement with the local community, which enables them to plan informed interventions and provide support

to the district administration. In the district, MGN Fellow, Anjali Rani, have been actively engaged in various activities and projects aimed at enhancing the skill ecosystem and vocational education in the district, like skill gap analysis, employer surveys to ensure demand-based skill training, and project RPL (Recognition of Prior Learning) of automotive workers, which will enable them to acquire a formal qualification matching their knowledge and skill set and thereby increasing their employability significantly. I believe her efforts result in strengthening the skill ecosystem and the effective implementation of skill development-related schemes in the district.

Shri Parvesh Kadiyan, HCS, City Magistrate, Jhajjar, Haryana

As our country transitions from being a “developing country” to a “leading country” in this multi-polar world, rapid changes arise at the grassroots. These changes need to be in line with the aspirations of people as well as the major demand of the economy while also focusing on the optimum utilization of the country's demographic dividend.

MGNF as a program has the capability to understand, assess and suggest fruitful interventions to bring these changes. Being initiated by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, it has the required support of administrative machinery at the district level while academic support being provided by experienced faculty of Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore helps fellows streamline their understanding

of the district skill ecosystem.



MGN Fellow, Swati Aggarwal has been an asset to our district, since she started her journey in Charkhi Dadri district of Haryana in November 2021. She has been instrumental in decentralizing the skill ecosystem by reviving the District Skill Committee, initiating inter-departmental convergences and advocating for the right set of skill training, focusing upon catering to the local needs of the economy. Her work has helped us take relevant decisions for strengthening the skill ecosystem as well as to generate new avenues of employment for the district. We are proud to have her as part of our team.

Dr. Jainder Singh Chhillar, IAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Charkhi Dadri, Haryana



Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) is a pioneering initiative taken by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in collaboration with IIM Bangalore. I remember the day when Mr Balabhadra Senapati came & introduced himself as he is here to work for Skill development & employment in the Gajapati district under my mentorship. It is a win-win program where the fellow gets the experience of working with District Officials under the mentorship of the District Collector & the Professors of IIMB whereas the district gets a young handy resource equipped with management skills, innovative ideas, problem-solving & futuristic

thinking skills. Their interactions & collaborations with OSDA (SSDM), SSCs, and NSDC brings new ideas & solutions to the table. Strengthening the District Skill Committee with important representations from industries, arts & crafts, academia and institutionalising sustainable change are the key roles played by the fellow.

We have taken various new initiatives towards skill development & employment in the Gajapati district like the inauguration & operation of the Skill Development Centre at Paralakhemundi & organisation of District level Mega job fairs for the youth. Special projects include Skill development on Terracotta & local employment for Transgenders, Agniveer Pre-recruitment Training camp for Defence & Police services jobs aspirants & “Royal-Gajapati” a Platform for processing & marketing SHG Products. We have set up 2 stitching units under the Apparel sector which is making school uniforms for the schools & Anganwadis children of our district which are entirely managed by women SHGs.

This fellowship is a very uniquely designed in combination with academic modules & working with the district like an internship program to support the District Administration in formulating a need-based action plan around District Skill Development & employment ecosystem. There are challenges all around us as the district is tribal & aspirational. But the experience of working under such circumstances teaches the method on how to deal with the challenges, formulating a robust solution framework to overcome it.

Shri Lingraj Panda, IAS District Collector & District Magistrate, Gajapati, Odisha.

Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) is a great initiative by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management. This provides a unique opportunity for the young minds to associate with the district economy and contribute towards skill development. In Dhalai district, the MGNF has contributed immensely to the formulation of the District Skill Development Plan. She has identified skill gaps based on her field immersion and interactions with various stakeholders at the grassroots level which has helped the district administration in implementing need-based planning approach for job role identification and skilling. This programme encourages new ideas based on the understanding and analysis of the Fellows to strengthen institutions at the district level and promote livelihood activities.



Dr. Siddharth Shiv Jaiswal, IAS, DM & Collector, Dhalai District, Tripura



The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship (MGNF) is a distinctive program aimed at empowering young individuals across the country. Through their participation in academic modules focused on public policy, research, and project management at the prestigious Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, fellows are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to assist district administrations in designing and implementing various projects within their districts. The program has consistently proposed innovative ideas to enhance the district's skilling ecosystem. By identifying gaps in the existing skilling system, the MGNF suggests appropriate job roles

for individuals, ensuring a better match between candidates and available employment opportunities. In Khowai District, the MGNF has achieved remarkable success in strengthening the district's skilling ecosystem. Since her joining, she has facilitated nine District Skill Committee (DSC) meetings in the district. These meetings serve as platforms for discussing and addressing skill development challenges, sharing insights, and devising effective strategies to overcome obstacles. Additionally, the MGNF has played a pivotal role in drafting various project proposals and the District Skill Development Plan. These initiatives outline actionable steps to bridge skill gaps, improve training programs, and promote sustainable development within the district. Furthermore, the MGNF has actively supported the Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission in conducting a project focused on the bamboo and utility sectors.

In conclusion, the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship has emerged as a catalyst for positive change in Khowai District, Tripura. The MGNF's consistent engagement, collaboration with stakeholders, and project implementation have not only identified skill gaps but also proposed effective solutions to nurture talent and enhance livelihood opportunities in the district.

Shri D.K Chakma, TCS, DM & Collector, Khowai District, Tripura



Message from Program Management Team



As we are now on the verge of completing the fifth District Immersion module, focus is on supporting the Fellows to get along with the Dissertations/District Growth Plans. Faculty Mentors will be engaging more with the Fellows and provide inputs to finalize the various components of the dissertation. The Program Team shall intensify the field visits and also make video documentaries to cover the impact made during the program. As IIMB is also heading the MGNF Coordination Committee, support will be extended to the member IIMs towards the deliverables and plan for the closure of the program.

Dr. Paritosh Pathak, Program Manager, MGNF, IIMB

At the program's start, we were expecting the Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship fellows to be the agent of change in the skilling ecosystem. On the verge of completing the program, they worked on proposing special projects and identifying skills and livelihood opportunities in their deployed district. With this, hopefully, the generation of employment and livelihood opportunities will be increased, and good work from all the fellows.

**Mr. Guruprasad Karanam, Program Manager & SRA,
Goa and Karnataka – MGNF, IIMB**



There are immense opportunities provided by the fellowship program and its close connection with districts, states, academic institutes, and multiple stakeholders benefiting everyone in the MGNF ecosystem. Regular handholding provided to the fellows by the State Resource Associate (SRA) enables them to smoothly conduct various activities assigned by the State Skill Development Mission (SSDM) office and district.

Moreover, the academic exposure of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) plays a crucial role in enhancing the knowledge and capabilities of the fellows as well as the program team. As an SRA, I have had the privilege of connecting with fellows along with last-mile beneficiaries, with whom they are working in diverse and challenging

situations at various remote places. This interaction has enriched my own understanding of development issues and their solutions.

As the program approaches its end in October 2023, I am closely monitoring the transition of responsibilities owned by fellows as it is essential to ensure the sustainability of the initiatives undertaken by the fellows. By actively supporting this process, I aim to facilitate a smooth continuation of the positive impact generated by the program. I have witnessed the transformative potential of this initiative and I hope its impact continues even after the conclusion of the program.

Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, State Resource Associate, Tripura, MGNF, IIMB

Stories from District:

MGNFs and Startups - A Dream Team for Rural Transformation: Priyanka Patil, MGNF, Gadag District, Karnataka

On 3rd May 2023, NSRCEL conducted an Impact Orbit Bootcamp for over 40 Startup Founders, where Priyanka Patil, a Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow (MGNF) from Gadag District, Karnataka, had an opportunity to deliver a session on the potential collaboration between start-ups and the districts to harness the opportunities available in rural areas.

MGNF is a transformative program that immerses fellows in district-level activities, enabling them to gain in-depth knowledge of the local administration and the skill ecosystem of the district. Priyanka Patil, as an MGNF fellow in Gadag, possesses extensive insights into the district's unique dynamics, challenges, and opportunities.

During her talk, Priyanka emphasized the untapped potential that exists in rural areas and highlighted how MGNF can leverage startups in the district to create a meaningful impact. She shared examples of successful collaborations between startups and MGNF fellows, where innovative solutions were developed to address local challenges which may drive economic growth. By leveraging the MGNF program, startups can gain a competitive advantage, access new markets, and contribute to the sustainable development of rural communities. The extensive knowledge gained by MGNF fellows regarding the district's skill ecosystem can help startups identify and tap into local talent.



*Priyanka Patil, a fellow of Gadag talking about MGNFs & Startups:
A Dream Team for Rural Transformation on 03/05/2023.*



“Inter-departmental Convergence and its impact on the ground”- Chumki Das, MGN Fellow, Khowai, Tripura

Chumki Das, a Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow assigned to Khowai District in Tripura, took on the challenge of addressing the lack of active training partners in the district. During a field visit, Chumki had the opportunity to meet Mr. Himanshu Acharjee, a highly skilled and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)-certified trainer and entrepreneur specializing in the bamboo and utility sectors. She was impressed by his training centre, which produced exquisite bamboo-made products with a thriving international market. To further expand his business and empower local artisans, Himanshu submitted applications to initiate training programs under government schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) and departmental initiatives. However, he still awaited approval to proceed.



The Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) department was actively seeking a training partner who could provide skill development programs for Self-Help Group (SHG) members involved in the handicrafts sector. However, due to logistical challenges, SHG members couldn't leave the district for month-long training programs.

Recognizing the potential of his training centre and its international market, Chumki facilitated discussions between Himanshu, the District Administration, and the Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) department. As the Fellow engaged in meaningful conversations with Himanshu and gained insights from her interactions, she recognized an opportunity for inter-departmental convergence. Together, they developed a training program tailored to the needs of 20 Self-Help Group (SHG) women involved in the handicrafts sector.



Bagalkot: One District One Skill - Ilkal Saree: Mohith Gowda, MGNF, Bagalkot District, Karnataka

A unique "One-District-One Skill (ODOS)" program aimed at rejuvenating the traditional skills practiced in Karnataka was launched by Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj S Bommai during an event organized to celebrate world youth skill day in July 2022. The Karnataka Skill Development Corporation and district skill development offices will be executing and have identified various traditional arts and skills of every district in the State. This programme is designed for technological upgradation and design intervention of these special skills. As part of this programme, in a pilot around 100 skilled persons will be trained in each of the three districts for entrepreneurship, market linkages and technological upgradation. For Bagalkot, one of the pilot districts Ilkal saree weaving is the chosen skill, where the initiative will be executed in four phases for the period of 10 months starting from January 2023. Considering the inputs from the local office and MGNF Bagalkot, beneficiaries under ODOS will be skill trained for Product Design & Development, Market Linkages, and Business Development Services through workshops.

The project intends to identify cluster-based producer organisations (PGs) / master weavers from Handloom / Craft clusters in Ilkal – Bagalkot. Through the identified PGs and master weavers, the project aims to mobilise weavers/artisans to enable and empower them through capacity building and market readiness sessions. The project intends to create sustainable and scalable livelihood opportunities with measurable impact on weavers by conducting the necessary skill development training through different phases of implementation.

Fellow has been working with Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, executive body of the Karnataka SSDM from the research and ideation stage of this initiative by providing valuable inputs for selection of indigenous skills from the district. Participated in the introduction of stakeholders, current scenario of craftsmen, supply chain, challenges at the ground level and also submitted a proposal with suitable solutions. Post the initiation of the project, they have worked along with the designated training partner to provide the necessary resource for the baseline survey, design of the initiative and implementation plan, along with being a key point of contact from the District Skill Development Office (DSDO). Going forward the role of providing assistance to the execution, monitoring and detailed reporting of the project has been assigned to MGNF and under the lead of the local skill development officer.



Empowering Women in Healthcare:

A CSR Project by Edward and Cynthia Institute of Public Health- Varun. K, MGNF, Ballari District

The Edward and Cynthia Institute of Public Health, based in Mangalore and United Nations certified, has embarked on a collaborative Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project with the District Administration, Ballari, the District Skill Mission, and the District Hospital. The aim of this project is to provide training to 70 women in general duty assistant roles over a period of three months, consisting of one month of theory classes followed by two months of practical training.

The project commenced with a collaboration between the Edward and Cynthia Institute of Public Health, the District Skill Office, and the MGNF (Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow). The collective effort ensured the mobilization of 70 women who met the basic criteria of having passed the 8th grade. In the month of June, the project witnessed the completion of one month of theory classes, where the participants acquired essential theoretical knowledge related to their role as general duty assistants.

The participants actively engaged in the learning process, displaying enthusiasm and commitment. They gained a comprehensive understanding of their responsibilities and acquired the necessary theoretical foundation to excel in their practical training. With the successful completion of theory classes, the project has obtained permission from the District Hospital to commence practical training from the third week of June. This hands-on experience is crucial for the participants to apply their theoretical knowledge in real-life healthcare settings, allowing them to develop essential skills and gain practical expertise.

Upon the successful completion of the three-month training program, the participants will be awarded certifications by the Edward and Cynthia Institute of Public Health. These certifications will not only validate their newly acquired skills but also enhance their employability in the healthcare industry. Moreover, the institute has taken the responsibility of providing placement assistance to the trained women.

The CSR project initiated by the Edward and Cynthia Institute of Public Health in collaboration with the District Administration, Ballari, the District Skill Mission, and the District Hospital is making significant strides in empowering women through skill development in the healthcare sector. By providing comprehensive training, certifications, and placement assistance, the project aims to create a pool of skilled general duty assistants who can contribute effectively to the healthcare system.



Polytechnic Entrepreneurship Program (PEP)

A successful initiative for students_ Shubham Singh, Bhiwani District, Haryana

The program provides thrust to the entrepreneurial spirit of polytechnic students. The idea is to take students through the processes of observation, need identification, solution development, and later handhold in successfully launching their business ideas with the support from Udhya Learning Foundation. Another important aspect which we aim to cover is to prepare students in identifying challenges in their work place ecosystem and hence coming up with

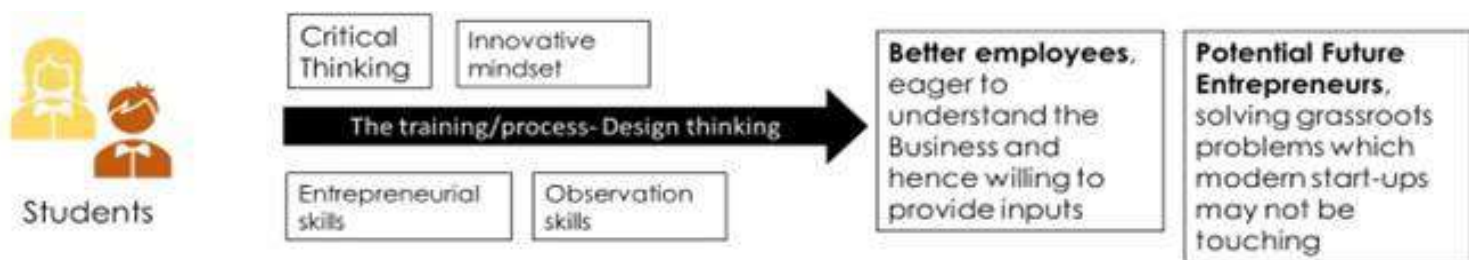
potential business ideas around the same. MGNF Bhiwani collaborated with Udhya Learning Foundation to up skill the students in entrepreneurial skills. The students were undergone training sessions based on design thinking. The students were asked to perform various exercise, went through multiple case studies and videos. The idea of these exercises was for the students to appreciate the processes happening around them, observe them consciously in order to find business ideas. Multiple observations lead to multiple problem statements, one important task which students did was to filter those problem statements. Once problem statements were filtered out, they worked on solutions considering various factors, and then filtered one solution. The MGNF Fellow, Shubham Singh is currently assisting the students in working upon that solution.

This program is completed in Bhiwani district polytechnic institute. MGNF Bhiwanhas designed a short boot camp for the polytechnic students in order to teach and train students of other

polytechnics with observation skills. This boot camp will be validated with polytechnics of other districts. Simultaneously, he proposed a plan to senior officials at headquarter levels to expand the program at other districts as well via official channels.



Model of the Program:

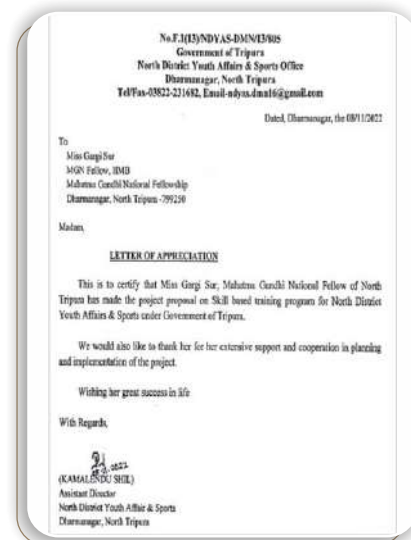


“Planning & Implementation of Demand-based training for the Youth of North Tripura”

Gargi Sur, MGNF, North Tripura District, Tripura

The Fellow appointed in the North Tripura district had a resourceful conversation with the Dept. of Youth Affairs and Sports (YAS) in the North Tripura district and had a cordial discussion with the Assistant Director of the department regarding the lack of aspiration and opportunities for the youth in the state. After a few days, they approached the Fellow for a project proposal on skill training. Following this, the Fellow took guidance from her SRA for the official procedures and faced multiple challenges to convince the officials. The budget for the proposal was less and the officials were not optimistic about designing a project within such a small budget. The Fellow was determined to accomplish the challenge.

North Tripura district is one of the landlocked districts of India. The district has no large-scale industries and the youth mainly aim for bagging government jobs. People of North Tripura district generally avoid relocating for their livelihoods and it is not possible for every youth to secure a government job due to various reasons. Various skill training is provided by the state and central government in the district. However, meeting the demand and supply gap remains a challenge. This overall scenario leads to an increase in the rate of unemployment in the district. Almost all the line departments have a certain amount of funds allocated for skill development. Keeping all these in mind, the Fellow drafted a project proposal for the Dept. of Youth Affairs and Sports to carry out a skill training program based on present demands which aim to motivate and guide the candidates for livelihood generation.



The project proposal has been approved by the Dept. of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Fellow has accomplished the task for which she received a letter of appreciation from the Assistant Director of the Dept. of Youth Affairs and Sports. The project implementation period went on from 16th November 2022 till on 6th December 2022 in 3 sub-divisions of North Tripura district on 3 different trades namely Self Employed Tailor in Kanchanpur sub-division, Food & Beverage (Steward) for Dharmanagar Sub-division, Assistant Electrician for Panisagar Sub-division. The training had a total number of 20 female participants and 25 male participants belonging to SC (16), ST(11), OBC(13), and General(5).

Currently, the Fellow is carrying out an impact evaluation study ensuring questionnaires for pre and post-knowledge testing for the candidates.



“The Journey of Unlocking Potential through Career Counselling”

Aishwarya Jojo, Angul, Odisha

Career counselling is indeed a valuable tool for the growth and development of young candidate's/job aspirants. It plays a crucial role in helping individuals make informed decisions about their career paths, explore various options, and identify opportunities aligned with their interests, skills, and goals. In this regard, Aishwarya Jojo, MGNF has realized that there was a significant lack of awareness among the youth regarding various skilling programs available in the district. Moreover, they were unaware of the opportunities that awaited them, simply because they did not have the right information.

Therefore, Aishwarya has been spreading awareness about various skilling programs available in the district through organising career counselling programs. Collaborating with schools, colleges and skill training centres, she created a platform of periodic interactive sessions, in both online and offline mode, for these young individuals to explore different career paths while directly engaging them with different industrialists, field experts and potential employers. Recognizing the need for guidance and support, she also took the initiative to counsel jail inmates aged 14-16 years in the Observation Home, Angul to facilitate their rehabilitation.

She made regular visits to the skill training institutes to study the needs and gaps in the training curriculum to understand the unemployment scenario. Further, she discovered that many of them lacked the necessary skills that would make them employable in the competitive job market. Hence, realising this, she took up this point in the DSC meeting and now, there is a dedicated foundation course offered by Jindal CSR Initiative – Lighthouse Communities Training centre – where the course is designed specifically to build employability skills among candidates. This program is run with collaboration with Angul Municipality. In addition, DMF Angul has also started an initiative called “The Job Readiness Program for Youths (JRPY)” to train youth in basic computer knowledge, freelancing, Photoshop and such other skills to make them self-sufficient.

As the counselling programs progressed, Aishwarya noticed that it was equally important for the candidates to have access to information about nearby vacancies. Hence, she along with the Model Career Centre (MCC), Angul, created a centralized database of job openings in the district, regularly updating it with the latest vacancies from various sectors. Through bulk messaging and WhatsApp groups, she ensured that candidates were aware of these opportunities and guided them in applying for the most suitable positions.



“Sustainable Development & Livelihood Generation for the BRU Tribal Community in the Dhalai District of Tripura”
Debasmita Chowdhury, MGNF Dhalai District, Tripura



Debasmita Chowdhury has been appointed in Dhalai district, which is the Aspirational district of Tripura as recognized by NITI Aayog and she is currently working with the BRU migrants from Mizoram who have been provided resettlement by the government of Tripura in various districts of the state. They are the Reang tribes who have been recognized as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Tripura and are provided with basic amenities like housing, rationing, health, education, drinking water and sanitation, financial inclusion, and opportunities for livelihood generation by the Government of India.

She chose to work on this project as this is a Priority Project under the Government of Tripura and the BRU community needs the utmost support of the government and public to resuscitate their lives and have stable sources of livelihood.

So far, around 1300 migrants have been resettled in the Dhalai district at 3 different resettlements. Debasmita has worked closely with the people of one resettlement called Haduklao Para BRU Settlement and has facilitated by providing skill training on weaving to 23 beneficiaries under SAMARTH Scheme with the help of the Handloom and Handicrafts Department. She has also aided in forming SHG groups in the community along with Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) and organized a Skill Mela with the support of district administration in the BRU settlement to encourage the tribes to undergo skill training and collectively work for sustainable livelihood generation.



Currently, Debasmita is working towards setting up a weaving unit for traditional handloom in the settlement to generate a stable source of income for the interested beneficiaries by availing loans under the Hathkargha Samvardhan Sahayata Yojana (HSS) scheme where 90% of the total cost of loom or accessories is borne by the Government of India and the remaining 10% is borne by the beneficiaries. Although the bank documents and other paperwork for the tribe are still in progress, setting up a weaving unit would be viable and essential for the growth and holistic development of the BRU community.



Sustainable Interventions And Training In Handloom

Aditi Kar, Bargarh, Odisha



Handloom is a wide spread small industry, which provides employment to a large number of people in the district – Bargarh. Working closely with SIDBI Cluster intervention program, Aditi Kar, Mahatma Gandhi National fellow deputed in the district has brought about innovative and sustainable interventions in that sector with the support of Odisha Rural Development and Marketing society, Odisha Livelihood Mission and KPMG (the facilitating partner of SIDBI CIP).

With collaboration and support, training program on Sustainable Best Practices for 40 weavers was conducted at Indian Institute of Handloom Technology (IIHT), Bargarh where the weavers got the exposure to the use of azo free dyes, which is environment friendly and less hazardous in comparison to the naphthol dyes (generally used by them). The program got positive response from the beneficiaries. The other rationale to encourage the use of azo free dyes was the varied range of colours which can be used in handloom, leading to more options to the buyers.

Aditi has also given her ground level suggestions and participated in stakeholder meetings on the “Management training for the Weavers” at IIM Sambalpur to improve the curriculum which is to be imparted to the Master weavers and cooperative societies.

“Identification of bamboo as a potential sector and issues associated with it”

Asit Debbarma, West Tripura, Tripura



Asit Debbarma is a fellow of West Tripura; he is closely engaged with the District Industries Center and its General Manager (mentor). Working with the DIC office has given him tremendous experience and exposed him to the district's industrial landscape. While working with the DIC, he had the opportunity to assist in conducting a District Export Promotion Committee (DECP) meeting that was

chaired by the District Magistrate and Collector of West Tripura, and this committee has identified bamboo as a potential product of the district. As a result, to put the committee's approach into action, he assisted the DIC in developing the District Export Action Plan. Throughout the preparation, to understand in-depth about the sector with the help of the General Manager (DIC), he interacted with various stakeholders and artisans concerning the bamboo sector, and that helped him realize the existing issues like transportation, bringing innovation to the product, research and development, marketing, waste management, and upskilling are require to intervene and highlight in the DEPC and DSC meeting. Indeed, West Tripura is known for its abundant bamboo resources and the local handicraft industry, and in West Tripura, local artisans, and small industries are producing a good number of bamboo crafts such as baskets, mats, lampshades, vases, wall hangings, spoons, bowls, bottles, cutting boards, etc. and this sector has the potential to grow extensively and create demand that will help to sustain the livelihoods of people working in it. Therefore, Asit Debbarma is currently working more intensively in this sector.



Empowering ITI Students: Upskilling for Career Success

Ms. Shewta Thikade, MGNF, Rohtak, Haryana

An initiative brought forth by MGNF Rohtak, Shweta Thikade, is aimed at bridging the skill gap and empowering students enrolled in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Rohtak. As the city renowned for its fastener industry, Rohtak is home to around 7000 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) engaged in the production of nuts and bolts. The demand for skilled ITI graduates in trades such as machinist, fitter, CNC operator, welder, and electrician is particularly high in these industries.

Although the trades taught in ITIs align with industry requirements, there is a noticeable gap between the demand for qualified candidates and the availability of skilled individuals. Factors like student motivation and the need for further skill development contribute to this gap. Recognizing the urgency to address this issue, collaborative efforts have been initiated by MGNF Rohtak in partnership with the Microsoft Diversity Skilling Program and the District Administration of Rohtak.

A comprehensive two-week training program was scheduled from June 12th to June 23rd for all ITI students across the district. This program aims to enhance their skills and broaden their knowledge in crucial areas such as digital productivity, employability skills, communication skills, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies like AI and data analytics. By going beyond the traditional ITI curriculum, this intervention seeks to equip students with a well-rounded skill set, ultimately enhancing their future job prospects. Recently, a meeting chaired by the Sub-divisional Magistrate, Mr. Rakesh Kumar, HCS, SDM, Rohtak, brought together key stakeholders to plan and implement similar training sessions in all government ITIs of the region.



Launch of District Skill Web Portal in Jind

Hitesh Sangwan, MGNF, Jind, Haryana



Hitesh Sangwan, MGNF, Jind, Haryana recently conducted his 4th District Skill Committee meeting which included Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Manoj Kumar and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Harish Kumar and other District Skill Committee members. The Additional Deputy Commissioner moderated the meeting and showcased the recent progress made in the field of skilling in the district. At the end of the meeting, a plan of action is arrived which includes soft skills/placement support for ITI students, local industries cooperation, and support from all departments for the creation of district growth plan of Jind.

The meeting also saw the launch of the district skill online portal named “Kaushal Darpan (कौशल दर्पण)”, Jind that is developed as a one stop solution for every skilling, vocational, and educational related sectors/training in the district. The portal is designed by MGNF, Jind and is developed with cooperation of ITI students of Jind district.

Fellows Speak



Education provides us theoretical understanding of any subject, while field experience enhances our thought process in understanding various development issues and in turn help us in becoming better individuals. The MGNF program, gave me an opportunity to learn through academic modules and experience through "District Immersion". This two-way approach guided me in identifying the grassroots challenges and motivated me to find unconventional solutions for the conventional challenges. Working with district administration and the various other stakeholders helped me in understanding the government administrative functions and implementation process of various schemes and policies. At the same time, interactions with people from the local community helped me in understanding their needs, demands

and expectations from different skilling programs. These findings and learning directed me to undertake unique approaches in addressing the root cause of the problems that I identified during my district immersion at Sirsa, an agrarian district of Haryana.

Finally, MGNF program gave a new spark to the skill ecosystem at district level and gave us a better approach and vision for the society and in turn contributing for the holistic development of the nation.

Abhishek Gujral, MGNF, Sirsa District, Haryana



The MGNF program is a transformative journey that ignites minds, cultivates talents, and shapes the leaders of tomorrow. With its unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, & with its rich program structure, the MGNF program empowers individuals to transcend boundaries, embrace diversity, and create positive change in the districts. Having worked more than a year in the District of Nuapada, helped me delve into the heart of rural India, witnessed the resilience of the human spirit and the power of collective action, immersing ourselves in the rich tapestry of its communities through field research & Data-Analysis that has helped me in formulating credible plans for Inclusive development of the District.



Sasmini Sahoo, MGNF, Nuapada, Odisha



“The MGNF program exposes a fellow to a whole district and pushes them to learn every aspect of it. Along with focus on skill ecosystem, it also requires the fellow to study primary, secondary and tertiary sectors of livelihood including educational, labour and migration scenario, demographic and socio-economic profile of the district. Guidance of proficient Faculty Panel of IIM-B helped me to gain an in-depth understanding about the scope of skill and livelihood development in the district and accordingly prepare comprehensive reports like District Skill Development Plan (DSDP) and District Growth Plan. The fellowship also helped me to gain expertise on a completely new subject of Sambalpuri handloom and weavers on which I am preparing a livelihood development project and writing my MGNF dissertation.”

Rajiv Nayan Das, MGNF Boudh, Odisha

MGNF provided me with a broad-reaching understanding of socioeconomic realities in my assigned district Nuh (Mewat). The district immersion part constituting field visits and meetings with stakeholders and beneficiaries of various schemes reinforced the power of person-to-person connection. The fellowship has aided me to learn and grow while finding ways to collaborate with dynamic organizations and communities of the district. For Fellows, this program has promoted both professional and personal growth.

Sonam Yadav, MGNF, Nuh, Haryana



My journey as Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow was a roller coaster ride, filled with uncertainty and adventure. As the first active member on behalf of SSDM in the district, my major challenge was making District Skill Committee members familiar with initiatives and action plans for district skill development. The second major task was raising awareness among youths and encouraging them for placements. As is known, there are limited private and public sectors in Tripura. The tedious job of convincing them and their parents for mobilization outside state, met with another challenge which is unavailability of public transport in many places. South Tripura till date have no dedicated training centre facility for skill development which I consider to



be urgent necessity. Much of my work and success stories surrounds the Rural Livelihood Missions and District Industries Centre. I have gained extensive knowledge on micro finance and its relevance in rural economy. One of my most valuable takeaways from this fellowship experience is resource management within limited resources and problem solving. I have kept steady focus on harnessing available resources for better livelihood opportunities, women empowerment and youth counselling. My interactions with multiple stakeholders made me more empathetic to grass root issues as well as demand from higher authorities and maybe I learnt a bit about striking a balance between the two chords. While evolving the district skill ecosystem, I evolved as a person and as a development sector and policy enthusiast. It was overall a transformative and one of a kind experience. I am grateful that I could contribute for the sustainable development of our country through this fellowship journey.

Saheli Chakraborty, MGNF, South Tripura District, Tripura



The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship program has been a unique opportunity to engage with various stakeholders of the skill ecosystem. The diverse domains of skill development and entrepreneurship which lie scattered at the district level, need a point of convergence. As an MGN Fellow, I have been able to bring about that synergy amongst programs and understand policy implementation at a micro-level. The program not only helped me develop an understanding of the government machinery but also, the academic perspective of the policy research and analysis.

Anupriya, MGNF, Kurukshetra, Haryana





During my tenure as Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow in Uttarkashi, I gained valuable experience in policy making and understanding the dynamics of various stakeholders. Working closely with the Uttarakhand State Skill Development Mission, Sector Skill Councils, and district officials, I learned how first hand data can drive policy making at the grassroots level. My focus effectively is on upskilling of home-stay business and in turn assist in enhance the district domestic production. This journey proved to be a remarkable and transformative experience,

allowing me to witness the power of collaboration and community engagement. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the sustainable development of Uttarkashi and for the knowledge and insights gained along the way.

Kartikeya Kotnala, MGNF, Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand

“MGNF is a transformative journey filled with valuable experiences and learning. I closely worked with the district administration and focused on skill development, recognizing the challenges faced by local youth and the significance of skills and entrepreneurship. By collaborating with various stakeholders, I successfully identified skill gaps and implemented targeted interventions tailored to the specific needs of young people in Faridabad. Seeing the positive impact of these initiatives on individuals and their communities was incredibly rewarding. With the guidance of mentors and the support of partners, I improved my

ability to implement effective strategies and understood the importance of community engagement and sustainable development practices. Immersed in vibrant culture of Faridabad, I developed a deep empathy and expanded my perspective, reinforcing my commitment to contribute to inclusive growth. This fellowship experience has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of skill development, empowering me to continue my career with unwavering dedication to creating positive change and empowering marginalized communities.”



Rahul Chawla, MGNF, Faridabad, Haryana



Field visit by Faculty Mentor

Feedback from Prof. Deepti Ganapathy, Visiting Assistant Professor, Management Communication, Chairperson, Centre for Management Communication

My second field visit to the district of Dhenkanal, Odissa, following my first visit to Chikmagalur, earlier this year, was completed yesterday, and I am sending this mail to not only appreciate the well-planned itinerary designed by the fellow I mentor – Pallavi Mishra, but also the tremendous coordination and 'behind the show hard work' put in by the Odissa SRA– Pragya and Program Manager Paritosh.

Of course the icing on the cake was the excellent feedback showered on the Fellow by the District Collector and CDO, Zilla Parishad – both well established and highly visible IAS officers in the state, during our interaction with them. I believe that Fellow benefits from the mentors visit to the district after having spent close to 2 years running from pillar to post trying to establish credibility. When a team from IIMB visits as a culmination of this immersive work, it gives that last mile push top the finish line.

Finally, congratulations to the Program Directors and the entire team for putting together such a well-designed programme for achieving social impact in the most meaningful and methodical manner.



Support by Program Management Team

MGNF Faculty Panel Meet at IIMB



On 22.06.2023 a faculty Panel meet organized at IIMB where 20 faculties joined the meeting out of which 15 faculties joined in person and 5 joined virtually. Prof. Rajalaxmi Kamath, Program Director, MGNF, IIMB welcomed all the faculties and set up the agenda of the meeting focusing on close monitoring of fellows' academic activities and exposure along with uniformity in terms of evaluation of dissertation work. The program Team made a brief presentation on the present status of the Faculty Panel meetings and dissertation work and proposed a few measures

so that the quality of the dissertation can be improved, and all fellows can submit it within the deadlines.





Faculty Panel members shared their concerns about the fellow's multiple engagements at the district level and agree that some fellows are doing very well in the district, but the major issue will be the sustainability of their initiatives as the program will end on coming October 2023.

MGNF Documentation and dissertation workshop at IIMB:

Documentation and Dissertation workshops were held from 23rd May to 26th May 2023 where the whole program team was present. The major focus of the workshop was to discuss the dissertation template and its finalization so that all the SRAs will be on the same page while providing necessary hand-holding to fellows. The Program Manager briefed the template to the professor and based on their feedback and discussion it was modified and finalized and accordingly shared with fellows. Program Directors also briefed to Program Team about the importance of MGNF process documentation as the program will end in October 2023. So, referring to the Phase I fellow dissertation work the team instructed to do various activities so that documentation of Phase II fellow work will be ensured.



Field visit

District visit in Haryana by Program Manager, MGNF, IIMB:

Dr. Paritosh Pathak, Program Manager, MGNF, IIMB and Ms. Sushmanjali Nuthalapati, State Resource Associate, Haryana & Uttarakhand visited district Kurukshetra, and Ambala Haryana on 10 May, 2023 to assess the progress of MGNF activities where they met Fellows Ms. Anupriya , MGNF, Kurukshetra and Mr. Jaideep Mehera, MGNF, Ambala and their district mentors.

During their visit, they visited the PNB Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) of the district and interacted with the Director, Mr. Rai Singh, and officials. They also interacted with the participants of the ongoing 'Beauty & Wellness' training program. Based, on the visits, the PMT provided guidance regarding ongoing projects.

Also, they visited the nodal Govt. ITI, Umri, and interacted with Mr. Jagmohan, Principal and the placement and apprenticeship team of the institute. They visited the campus including various workshops to assess the skills and training imparted to the students.

On the same day the IIMB team also visited Ambala district and few institutions like RSETI, ITI where they met the mentor of MGNF and various other stakeholders the fellow has been associated with and provide guidance wherever required. Along with the fellow the team visited the PNB Rural Self Employment Training Institute and interacted with students where they got highly motivated by the interactive session by Program Manager, MGNF, IIMB.



(Ms. Sushmanjali, SRA Haryana, Mr. Paritosh Pathak, PM- IIM B, Ms. Anupriya, MGNF Kurukshetra, along with various officials of the districts)



Chamoli District visit by Program Management Team

The Program Manager (PM) Mr. Paritosh Pathak and State Resource Associate (SRA) Ms. Sushmanjali visited Chamoli district, Uttarakhand to monitor the Fellow Shailja Santore

activities. They visited the Tata Strive Skilling centre and met with their Program Manager Mr. Vinay Thakur. He explained about the courses which are currently running in the centre. He mentioned that hospitality is an important growth driver in the district. He explained the challenges of mobilization and lack of entrepreneurship mindset among youth in the district. The PM and SRA also met with Block Mission Manager (BMM), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and visited the lantana growth centre where women are making dustbins and other articles from lantana plant. The

BMM gave an overview on various activities of SHG in the district. He also mentioned success stories of how women have earned profits through selling local products on the yatra route.

The team then visited Chief Development Officer (CDO), Chamoli, Mr. Lalit Narayan Mishra. The CDO expressed his concern about the lack of marketing of local products of the district and requested assistance from the team for the same. The team ensured to plan a project proposal for enhancing visibility of local products.



SRA visit in Dhalai District, Tripura:

Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, IIMB visited two different blocks of the district from 10th June to 11th June 2023. On 10th June the SRA along with two Fellows Ms. Debasmita Chowdhury, MGNF, Dhalai, and Ms. Gargi Sur, MGNF, North Tripura visited SHG groups related to non-Farm activities in Dumburnagar block, which is one of the 12 Aspirational Blocks of Tripura. Block-level TRLM team facilitated the visit where the IIMB team visited 3 women entrepreneurs, and local artisans for handloom and handicraft products and attempted to understand the issues and concerns of those producers.

They also visited a Van Dhan Vikas Kendra (VDVK) where the members are involved in the processing and packaging of banana chips. They saw the entire process of banana chip making and discussed the entire process from collecting raw materials to marketing the products in detail followed by a conversation with the officials on the challenges in utilizing funds to buying machinery and equipment, and the lack of proper training to use the machinery leading to wastage of resources.





Meeting of SRA and MGNF Dhalai with VDVK members



Handloom and handicraft products by Dumburnagar SHG



In conversation with idol making and pottery artisans



The team of officials with the owner of the mango orchard in Gandacherra

On 11th June, 2023 the IIMB team visited to Dumbur Lake, one of the renowned tourist attraction spots in Raishyabari Block of the Dhalai district. They explored the tourist spot and talked to locals working there about the traditional and local cuisine available, facilities provided by government to attract tourists including homestays and water sports activities like speedboat, water cycling, etc. and gathered information to get an idea on the sources of livelihood generation in the area. They also took a boat ride to one of the small nearby islands and had conversation with a local fisherman family about their source of income, hardships, skill sets obtained, and facilities provided by the government.

Consultant, MGNF, visit in Tripura:



In conversation with idol making and pottery artisans

A team comprising Mr. Habib Raihan, Consultant, MGNF, IIMB, and Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, IIMB visited Khowai and North Tripura District of Tripura state on 13th and 14th July 2023 respectively. The major objective of the visit was to understand the impact of fellows' intervention for the last 1.5 years so that inclusive documentation can be attempted in the name of 'Stories of Change'.





On 13th July the team visited Khowai District and met with Mr. George Hrangkhawal, GM, DIC, Khowai and Mentor of the fellow where the GM DIC shared insights on how the Fellow has contributed to institutional strengthening by conducting regular meetings, workshops, developing project proposals, etc. After the meeting the team visited a startup named 8 Sis and met with Shri Himanshu Acharjee, Center Director, and other artisans were interviewed to gather feedback on the

MGN Fellow's contribution to the project, particularly assisting with training completion and understanding the future course of action. The fellow also documented stories of the same person and his journey under the district skill ambassador initiatives.

On 14th July the team visited the North Tripura district and met with multiple entrepreneurs such as Mr. Anfor Ali, Agarwood entrepreneur and president of Agar Association of Tripura, Mr. Reuben Ranglong, Facilitator, Vandhan Vikash Kendra, TRLM. The team attempted to understand the level of engagement and impact created by the fellow for the betterment of those entrepreneurs by providing necessary market linkages and facilitating training through the



government ecosystem. After this, the team met with Mr. Amit Kumar Yadav, Assistant Director of Dept. of Youth Affairs and Sports, and discussed the skill training project implemented where the fellow played a crucial role.



After the field visit, the team met with Mr. Gulam Sadek Miah, District mentor of the fellow, General Manager, of the District Industries Centre (DIC). The team discussed the sustainability of the initiatives taken by the fellow.



Program Team Participation in DSC Meeting at Dhalai and Khowai District, Tripura:

Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, IIMB attended the District Skill Committee (DSC) Meeting at Khowai and Dhalai Districts on 19th May and 9th June respectively. In both the district post-DSC meeting the SRA met with the District Collectors & Magistrate (DC&DM) and District Mentors of MGNF and attempted to understand the engagement of fellows in the district skill and entrepreneurship ecosystem. The major issues discussed in DSC and during personal meetings with DM&DC were ongoing activities for the preparation of the District Skill Development Plan, sustainability of initiatives taken by the MGNF, and post-MGNF district office setup for ensuring skill development deliverables. The SRA requested the DM and mentor to kindly take necessary measures so that good initiatives taken by fellows may be sustained for long.

Both the DM praised the performance of fellows and shared that they are closely connected with the various development activities of the district, and it's not limited to only skill and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

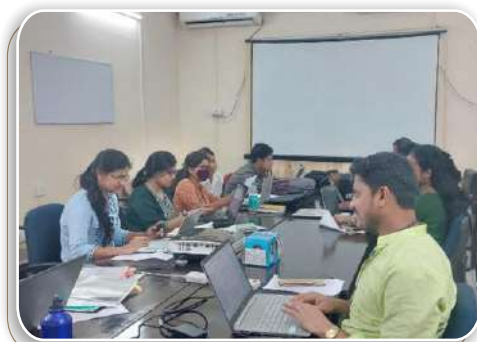


Engagement with SSDM:

Workshop on SSDP, Tripura

Prepared the State Skill Development Plan (SSDP) under the Sankalp scheme, MSDE, GoI, Tripura.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Fellows team, led by Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, undertook the tedious but appreciative task of drafting the State Skill Development Plan (SSDP) on May 11th and 12th 2023. Two days was a great self-learning exposure for the team where each one of us referred DSDP of other districts and



consolidated the SSDP. The plan was reviewed by the Directorate of Skill Development (DSD), Govt. of Tripura, and other concerned officials, who further improvised the plan with their expert inputs. After review, the final draft has been submitted to the DSD.



Workshop at SSDM for review of DSDP:

Review of District Skill Development Plan FY 23- 24 under Sankalp Scheme, MSDE, GoI, SSDM_Tripura

On the 12th and 13th of June, the Directorate of Skill Development, Govt. of Tripura, invited all the MGNF fellows to discuss and review the District Skill Development Plan FY 2023–24, where SRA led the whole exercise. Each fellow from seven districts, viz. North Tripura, Unakoti, Dhalai, Khowai, West Tripura, Gomati, and South Tripura, presented their DSDP, in the presence of Mr. Sanjay

Chakrabarty, Director, SSDM, and two joint directors, along with other officials of SSDM, and Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, State Resource Associate, IIMB suggested the necessary adjustments in their plan as per guidelines of the MSDE, GoI, and mandate of the State Skill Development Mission (SSDM), Government of Tripura (GoT). This cross-learning experience proved beneficial as fellows learned from each other's best works and mistakes, which will be imperative in attaining near perfection with regard to the District Skill Development Plan.



Jan Bhagidari Initiatives_ SSDM Tripura and MGNF



The Jan Bhagidari workshop and various other initiatives were held on the 13th and 14th of June 2023 at SSDM Tripura where Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA (State Resource Associate) and MGN (Mahatma Gandhi National) Fellows team, (Debasmita Chowdhury, Saheli Chakraborty, Ashis Paul, Subhasis Mondal, Chumki Das, Asit Debbarma, Gargi Sur) Tripura take the lead for all activities. The event is intended to increase the involvement and engagement of various departments and development activities.

The program started off with a tree planting session with the

Principal Secretary, Director of Industries and Commerce, and Director of Skill Development, Government of Tripura. Following the tree plantation, the Principal Secretary had an interactive session with all the MGN fellows to learn about their accomplishments to date. Each fellow discussed their work with an emphasis on insight into their projects and efforts.

During these two days, long events fellows participated in multiple events such as a slogan writing competition, and tree plantation, and visited various relevant departments and institutions to understand their skill requirements and possible opportunities for convergence, etc.



Participation in North Eastern Global Investment Summit:

On May 2, 2023, Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, Tripura got the opportunity to attend the B2G meeting at the Tripura Round Table on Investable Opportunities at Pragna Bhavan, Agartala, Tripura, as part of the North Eastern Global Investment Summit. It was a beneficial exposure for him to represent the Directorate of Skill Development, Government of Tripura, and try to comprehend the numerous proposals made to the State Skill Development Mission, Government of Tripura, by various corporate entities across the nation. Accordingly, SRA also may use this exposure while guiding fellows of the state.



Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, IIMB, Mr. Sanjay Chakrabarty, Director, SSDM, and Supriti Chakrabarty, Team Leader, SSDM, Tripura (Starting from left)

MGNF_Odisha team supported for G-20 Consultation at Bhubaneswar



Fellows with Ms. Pragya Ashana, SRA, Odisha during G-20 event at Bhubaneswar

The third Education Working Group conference, with the theme "Future of Work," was successfully hosted in Bhubaneswar, where delegates from 20 G20 countries participated and deliberated on how the future of work would be and emphasised strategy and preparedness to cope with it.

Various precursor events were organised on the side-lines of this main event in Bhubaneswar by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India. As part of this precursor. All MGN Fellows played an important role by connecting with all assigned institutions in

their respective district for a follow up their travel plan and ensure 100% participation of students and faculties. The MGNFs facilitated the whole G 20 event held in Bhubaneswar held from 23rd April-26th April,2023.



Other activities:

Apprenticeship Conclave, IIM Ranchi

Dr. Paritosh Pathak was invited to participate in the “Apprenticeship Conclave” organized by IIM Ranchi and Regional Directorate of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Jharkhand on 3rd and 4th May 2023. He shared his experiences and thoughts on “Industry Partnerships” for creating an enabling ecosystem for passionate apprentices and what role can MGNF's play in mobilizing the candidates on the supply side and liaison with MSMEs on demand side. The two-day conclave was based on to bring the stakeholders from Industry

and Academia on one platform and discuss how apprenticeship can be made more meaningful and aspirational among youths. Since apprenticeship is one of the broad KPIs of the MGNF program, therefore, this event was quite useful for the MGN Fellows. The Fellows from Jharkhand participated physically while others joined online.



Participation in a training program on “Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Livelihood Models for Rural Communities” at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

MGNFs from Karnal, Kurukshetra, Ambala (Haryana); Gadag, Chikkaballapura, Bagalkot (Karnataka); Angul, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Kalahandi (Odisha); along with Prof. P.P. Sahu and Prof. Ramesh Sakthivel, at NIRDPR, Hyderabad.

Fellows from Haryana, Karnataka and Odisha cohort attended a 5-day Training of Trainers (ToT) program on "Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Livelihood Models for Rural Communities" at National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR),

Hyderabad. The program witnessed a mix of participants from CSR wings, State Rural Livelihood Missions (SLRMs), Policy researchers, Gram Panchayat representatives, etc.

The program covered themes such as Inclusive and Sustainable Rural Enterprise Development, Mainstreaming Gender in Rural Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, Potentials of Mushroom Cultivation in Promoting Entrepreneurship, Skilling Strategies towards Sustainable Rural Enterprise Development, Promoting Entrepreneurship through Crafts, Rural Tourism and Homestay, etc.

As a part of the program, the Fellows visited the Rural Technology Park (RTP) established for incubation and technology transfers through demonstration. The RTP hosts sustainable housing models, livelihood generation models, and technology units such as Green Technology Park, Handmade Paper making units, Mushroom cultivation units, Leaf Plate making units, etc.





*Participants at TATA STRIVE Skill Development Centre,
Hyderabad, Telangana*

A monitoring visit at HSDM training centers by Mr. Sunil Kumar, MGNF, Rewari, Haryana.

Haryana Skill Development Mission (HSDM) is running various training courses at district level through training providers (TP). MGN Fellow, Rewari along with his mentor additional deputy commissioner did a surprise inspection to these training centers based on the various complaints



received from the students. Currently 3 courses are operational at the district level under the SURYA scheme. The courses are assistant electrician, LED light repair technician and domestic data entry operator. These courses are included based on skill gap studies done by MGNF. Some of the training centers are doing well but in some training centers the infrastructure and lab equipment are not up to the mark. The matter has been discussed in the district skill committee (DSC) and efforts are being made by HSDM to improve the infrastructure of these training centers.

SRA participation in Y 20 Consultation Workshop, Imphal, Manipur



Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, Tripura, MGNF, IIMB got selected as a youth delegate and attended the Y20 Consultation at Hotel Radisson, Imphal organized by Manipur University on 4th of May 2023 under the theme "Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance" as a part of the various seminars to be organized under the G20 Summit which India is assuming the G20 Presidency this year 2023. During the workshop, he shared his views on the theme and participated in various panel discussions chaired by renowned academicians and experts on the theme.



District Snapshots



MGNF Rohtak participated in the Government's Yuva Sangam Initiative, which aims at cross-cultural learnings celebrates the unity of our diverse nation. The program was organised by IIT Bombay and NIT Jalandhar



Ms. Shailaja Santore, MGN Fellow, Chamoli, Uttarakhand, organized job fairs in the district, recently. The fairs received over 100 registrations. The job opportunities within the state and outside of the state were offered.



"Empowering the Future: Mahatma Gandhi National Fellow Megha Agarwal engages in career counselling with high school girls, inspiring them to join ITI and Polytechnic college



Interaction with SHG_ Survey on Skill training, Madbusmita Priyadarshini, MGNF, Sundergarh, Odisha



Fellow interacting with Adolescent girls and trying to understand the skill aspirations. Pranay Kumar Saboo, MGNF, Puri, Odisha



Interaction with members of Radbarani SHG, Rural Mart, funded by NABARD along with Ms. Debasmita Chowdbury, MGNF Dhalai District, Tripura





Mr. Santanu Bhowmick, SRA, IIMB visited multiple handloom units at household level of Salema RD Block, Dhalai District.



District Skill Committee meeting facilitating by Ms. Gargi Sur, MGNF, North Tripura District, Tripura



Visited Mahabir Tea Garden along with Ms. Debasmita Chowdhury, MGNF, Dhalai District and met with Mr. Subhan Jindal, Owner. A brief discussion on the assessment of skill requirements to revive tea industry in the district.



Mobilization of Candidate for International Job Fair, NSDCI, SSDM Tripura at Unakoti District, Tripura, facilitated by Mr. Subhasis Mondal, MGNF, Unakoti District.



District Skill Committee (DSC) Meeting at Gomati District, Tripura, facilitated by Mr. Ashis Paul, MGNF, Gomati District.



Ms. Sabeli Chakrabarty, MGNF, South Tripura successfully mobilized 1 ANM and 1 GNM candidate Ms. Sampa Bhowmick and her guardian for Specified Skilled Worker (SSW), Japan. Meeting with Mr. Saju Vajeed, DM&DC, along with Ms. Baishali Singha, Counsellor and District coordinator.



Professor Rajalaxmi Kamath, Program Director, MGNF, IIMB, Mr. Guruprasad Karanam along with a team from Communication, IIMB visited Goa and met with two Fellows (Shama and Bindiya) and interacted with the Deputy Manager of Kadamba Transport in South Goa.



Mr. Guruprasad Karanam, Program Manager and Mr. Habib Raihan, MGNF, Consultant visited the Lantana craft centre at Chamarajanagar, Karnataka along with H.P. Manoj, MGNF, Chamarajanagar, Karnataka



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