

**Statement of Purpose**  
**Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship Program**

"It is our choices that define us, more than our abilities"- Albus Dumbledore

Having chosen to read XXX at XXX, owing to my interests in social justice theory, refugee/migrant worker's rights, and the role of institutions in governance, the prospect of partaking in IIMB's Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship 2020 greatly appeals to me. I believe that the skills have acquired through my academic and professional experiences, coupled with as sustained research interest in the field of governance and public policy in the context of India makes me well-equipped to fulfil the responsibilities associated with the position.

For instance, my current role as a XXX to XXX aids me in understanding the inextricable linkages between internal and international migration in the Indian context and its reciprocal policy impacts therein - through looking at historical policy gaps in terms of refugee/migrant law and its consequences today. Moreover, my prior professional experiences have made as adept in the three main competencies required from this position, namely strong writing, editing, and communication skills, dais analysis abilities, as well as conduct of field research.

For example, as a XXX at XXX in XXX, I provided background research support to the XXX. I worked extensively on gathering and organizing relevant data from several multinational bodies XXX and various refugee law portals from across India. In fact, I was able to create research inputs which formed the backbone of my organization's judicial interventionist efforts. As a result of this, I was confident of my ability to write concisely, proofread thoroughly, and edit meticulously, whilst under the pressure of short deadlines.

My writing and editing skills as well as my ability to communicate were further honed during a Budgeting and Taxation Project at the XXX in XXX, India. This project focused on promoting transparency within budget analysis at the municipal level across several governmental bodies within XXX state of India. Thus, working in a three-member team to collect data through wide-ranging desk-research, analysis of complex policies, as well as report collation, sharpened my analysis, drafting, communication, and teamwork skills.

I even enhanced my field research competencies through my tenure as a XXX at XXX. Since, having been a major part of the XXX team, I assertively executed a three-month long data collection and analysis program through conducting surveys. The experience of working closely with the sheer socio-cultural and politico-economic diversity of profiles, mindsets and work-cultures represented in my social research team, shaped me into a good team-player able to work in a multicultural team.

Moreover, in terms of my intellectual pursuits, I have also been deeply interested in examining the social specs of institutional governance practices and public policy interventions (or the lack of it) in the XXX context. More particularly, I aim to examine the potential role of India's social protection policy framework in ameliorating the precarious livelihood conditions of informal migrant workers. To this end, I have examined the gendered role of differential inclusion (in terms of social protection policy) on informal migrant livelihoods amongst XXX women domestic workers in XXX, India - as a part of my postgraduate research Dissertation requirement. Additionally, I have recently started blogging on matters of similar concerns at XXX - an informal student collective aiming to provide public-friendly perspectives on issues of XXX from my alma mater. In a similar vein, I have also previously written for XXX - a bi-monthly student journal of XXX.

Thus, institutionalization of progressive policy frameworks is accordingly implicated throughout my research, whether it be in terms of discriminatory social protection policies which have led to their livelihoods being "brokered", or politico-economic governance structures which suspiciously look at such populations as "unsettled settlers".

Thence, in unprecedented times of XXX, when wages have stagnated amidst rising worker productivity and open unemployment levels have risen to a new-high, it would be ray of privilege to commit to a program such as this - that specifically intends to strengthen skill development and entrepreneurship institutions of my country with renewed energy and robust attention using world-leading public policy teaching and training. I am thus highly motivated to bring my development research and communication skills, keen writing and editing abilities, well as fieldwork competency to contribute to Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship's intended aims and objectives. I welcome the opportunity of meeting you and expressing my motivation further in person.