

## Frequently asked questions

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### Fellowship and Value Addition FAQs

#### 1. What is this fellowship and how will it add value to my profile?

**Ans:** The **Goonj Fellowship** is our way of engaging with the youth in a deeper way. We are looking for people who are done looking around and are ready to do something. This Fellowship is about engaging with some real life challenges, tasks and timelines, to give you hands on experience and immersion into urban and rural India's realities and a precursor for your own action plan at the end of the Fellowship.

#### The fellowship will involve three segment

**First:** Engaging you in an ambitious pan India urban campaign involving strategic thinking, logistics, communication, people handling and managerial responsibilities.

**Second:** Planning and executing time-bound ideas and projects addressing an urban/rural problem, supported by Goonj.

**Third:** Making sense of it all.. You will reflect back and chart out an action plan for yourself (post fellowship) in consultation with some industry mentors, guiding you through the process.

The fellowship is designed to give an outlet to your entrepreneurial and passionate self and nudge you to work on an action plan on a social issue that bothers you.

#### 2. Why this fellowship?

**Answer:** If some things around you bother you.. Our education system, Waste on the roads or Women's safety.. This fellowship gives you a unique opportunity to not only understand the urban and rural perspective but actually get out there and do something.. build empathy and understanding about some issues, understand your strengths and potential from doing and coming up with a real action plan. Goonj, given its deeply entrenched pan India work with urban and rural masses, is in a unique position to provide you a wide ranging experience and exposure

to urban and rural issues as well as some of the resources needed to design and execute your own ideas and plan. It is about shifting your mind from the thinking mode to the doing mode. As our founder Anshu Gupta says, “ *This world doesn’t need any more thinkers right now.. We need more doers..* ” The fellowship activities are meant to finetune your values, and skills and question and reframe some of your notions, stretch you mentally and physically and build your entrepreneurial skills. It is also your chance to get introduced to another India, living in our villages, to witness and engage first hand with grassroots innovation. At the end it will culminate into you developing your own action plan, with mentoring from some experts from the field of social entrepreneurship. .

***You wouldn’t want to let this experience go!***

### **3. How will the fellowship function?**

**Answer:**

- Fellowship is for 12 months and a tough one!
- Fellows will be given 20 leaves a year + regular national holidays.
- Fellowship Stipend will be a fixed amount ranging between Rs 18000 - Rs 20000 per month, depending on the city. This will be all inclusive of travel, phone, internet etc.
- City travel allowances will be reimbursed based on actuals.

### **4. How will the rural exposure work? Are we expected to go and work on our own in villages ? What about our safety?**

**Answer:** Your rural visits will be well coordinated to be in the areas where Goonj is directly or indirectly working through its pan India network of grassroots organisations. At no point will you be left on your own. Safety of our fellows and team members is our priority. Our teams will be taking care but if you still have any specific concern, you can let us know at the interview level.

### **5. What sort of rural experience am I looking at here?**

**Answer:** Fellows will prepare a 3 month project plan focussing on any of the impact areas Goonj works on i.e water, sanitation, infrastructure, education, menstrual hygiene, based on insights gained out of Goonj’s two decades of work. These proposed projects will be presented to a panel

of experts who will help finetune them, post which fellows will get a chance to implement them, working closely with the Goonj team.

**6. What if I have to leave the program in the middle due to various reasons?**

**Answer:** If you leave at any point before the completion of the fellowship you won't be given any certificate. Additionally, there is a lock in period of first 6 months in which if you leave, you will not get a fellowship certificate and a month's stipend will be held back. This is only open to consideration in case of health emergencies.

**7. Is this a residential program?**

**Answer:** No this is not a residential program.

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**Application FAQs**

**8. How do I apply for the fellowship? What will be the application process (forms, SOP, interview) ?**

**Answer:**

**Step 1:** Click this online form link. You can also download the offline form here on this link. Check the eligibility criteria and read the FAQs thoroughly then proceed to step 2.

**Step 2:** Fill up the Google form and upload a Statement of Purpose (500 words)

**Step 3:** Shortlisted applicants will proceed to **round II** of selection process.

**Step 4:** Shortlisted applicants from **round II** will be called for final Interview..

**9. Is there any age limit for me apply for this fellowship?**

**Answer:** This fellowship is open to applicants between 21 - 30 years.

**10. What are the eligibility criteria?**

**Answer:**

- 1) Minimum qualification - graduation in any discipline.
- 2) Open for Indian citizens only..

**11. What if I have already done a fellowship like Gandhi Fellowship, Teach for India Fellowship, YIFs or any other liberal studies programmes, can i still apply?**

**Answer:** Applicants from social work, liberal arts, entrepreneurship studies, people who have done other prestigious fellowships like Gandhi Fellowship, Teach for India Fellowship, YIFs, Jagriti Yatra can definitely apply but will not be given any extra preference or advantage.

**12. What are the locations that I can apply for this fellowship?**

**Answer:** Goonj works in parts of the 23 states in deeper rural pockets and has offices in Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Rishikesh, Chennai, Kochi and Mumbai. Based on need and your interest areas you will be placed in any of these locations.

**13. Important Points to Note**

- You can't do any online/offline course during the fellowship period
- You can be placed in any city/rural setting for a short/long time during the fellowship.
- The issues and ideas you will be working on during the fellowship will be aligned with Goonj's ongoing work/projects.
- If you have a specific passion/idea that you want to work on in life. Please bring it up in the application and interview.