

Goonj Fellowship - Grassroots

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why Goonj Grassroots Fellowship?

Most opportunities and resources in the development sector are easily available to youth from the cities, be it training workshops, conferences, fellowships, funds, exposure to new ideas or simply guidance.. And yet youngsters from the villages, smaller districts and towns of India are the ones who go and work on the ground in both urban and rural areas.. Becoming the foot soldiers of development work.

Goonj with its Grassroots Fellowship aims to reach out to this resilient force of youth and create a ground for their nurturing and fine tuning. Our goal is to value what they bring to the world - their inherent understanding of the people, their resilience of working in the toughest circumstances, their hunger to make it a better world for their own families and future. This youth is deeply invested in the change they seek to bring about. It thus makes sense to work closely on their personal and professional development to ensure that the development work in future has a force of people who have the skills, mindset and determination to work long term on issues that are bothering us today.

2. What is the Goonj Grassroot Fellowship and how does it operate ?

Goonj Grassroot Fellowship is a year long programme, where fellows will be working in various areas by engaging with the communities on ground. During the one year, fellows interact with various communities from villages as well as cities and get a deeper understanding of the realities and devise ways to act upon the needs of the communities by engaging the communities.

After the selection process, there will be a thorough induction process, where fellows will be given a detailed orientation of Goonj and its operations. Post which, they will be working on various initiatives from their locations.

If a fellow is from rural area:

In the initial phase, fellows will be working closely with the experienced on ground Goonj team members to understand and learn about the initiatives, community mobilization & engagement and communication strategy.

In the second phase, fellows will be individually taking up the initiatives on basic infrastructure, water resource management, menstrual health and hygiene, livelihood, education and disaster relief & rehabilitation in rural areas by engaging the local communities and using the local wisdom & resources.

If a fellow is from urban area:

Fellows will start working in various operational functions of city teams of Goonj Pan India. In the later phase, fellows will be given opportunities to take up implementation tasks related to multiple urban initiatives run by Goonj for resource deprived communities.

3. Where will be the fellows placed?

Goonj has its operations spread in 25 states & UT's with implementing areas across geographies. Grassroot Fellows will be placed in their own areas if Goonj has its operations there. In case we do not have operations in the state/area from where fellow is selected then fellow will be placed in one of the urban/rural implementation areas where the Goonj has its operations and fellow is comfortable with the language. Depending on the area he/she is placed in, they will be engaged in the respective implementation work. And will be working from the same location throughout the fellowship.

4. What is the application process?

Step 1: Applicants can either submit the application online **or** download the offline application and mail the filled application to **fellowship@goonj.org** or or can courier the

hard copy of the application to Goonj, J-93, Sarita Vihar, New Delhi-110076 with a label/subject-line named 'Goonj Grassroot Fellowship'.

For application form refer https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bJc4ICbET-wPxpNEnke_ktKHDLZKjyH?usp=sharing

Important Note: Application form is in both Hindi and English. In case you are comfortable in any other language, we kindly request you to take the help from anyone who knows Hindi or English to fill the application form.

Step 2: Shortlisted applicants will proceed to the final interview round

5. Who can apply?

Eligibility: Minimum of Matriculation

Age: 21 to 35 yrs, as on 20th November, 2020.

Open for only Indian Citizens

6. Will the fellows receive stipend and other allowances during the fellowship?

- Yes, fellows receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 10,000/-.
- Accommodation and food expenses are to be borne by fellows.
- Field travel expenses will be reimbursed on an actual basis.

7. What if a fellow leaves the fellowship in the middle?

If a fellow leaves the fellowship in the middle, he/she will have to serve a notice period of 15 days otherwise a stipend of 15 days will be withheld.

And he/she will not be given any certificate if he/she leaves the fellowship at any point of time.

8. Can a fellow pursue his higher education during fellowship?

If a fellow is pursuing education through open sources he/she can continue his/her education without affecting the work. However, fellow cannot pursue education through regular sources during the fellowship.

9. Can a fellow undertake any job during the fellowship?

No, fellowship is a full-time programme and a fellow cannot do any other paid job during the fellowship.