



GOONJ.. a voice, an effort
www.goonj.org

Goonj Fellowship

Frequently asked questions

1. 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 come 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 with 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 fine-tune your values, 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. In the end, it will culminate in you developing your own action plan, with mentoring from Goonj and some experts from the field of the social sector.

You wouldn't want to let this experience go!

2. What is a Goonj Fellowship and how will it add value to my profile?

The **Goonj Fellowship** is our way of engaging with the youth more deeply. 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 hands-on experience and immersion into urban and rural India's realities.

The curriculum gives you an in-depth exposure to Goonj's work, specifically designed to build and nurture specific skills and values that we take pride in.

The Fellowship involves

- Getting engaged in a unique pan India urban campaign - Joy of Giving Week involving strategic thinking, logistical management, communication, people handling, and outreach. This will be supplemented by in-depth exposure to the Goonj model and its core objectives such as bridging the rural-urban divide, valuing local-traditional wisdom, and a strong belief in a bottom's up approach to development.
- Working closely with an experienced team on various thematic verticals including volunteer engagement, Menstrual Health and Hygiene, Neglected urban & rural communities, Partnership Building, Disaster management, Communication and media Strategies for internal & external campaigns/interactions.
- An immersive phase, where Fellows will be engaged in Goonj's rural programs and operations to learn from grassroots knowledge and traditional wisdom, the very foundation of our objectives.
- Planning and executing time-bound ideas and projects, addressing an urban/rural problem, in the thematic areas in which Goonj has core competencies with the guidance and support by Goonj team members with diverse backgrounds in critical operations and thematic tasks/projects.
- Self-exploration phase: An unique window of time to explore some self-churning, and identify interest areas or domains one is passionate about.

Please note: This is a broad-dynamic curriculum, Goonj reserves the right to change or alter this during the course or as deemed necessary.

3. How will the Fellowship function?

- a. Fellowship is for 12 months and a tough one!
- b. Fellows will be given 20 leaves a year + regular national holidays.
- c. Fellowship Stipend will be a fixed amount ranging between Rs 20000 - Rs 22000 per month, depending on the city.
- d. City & Field travel allowances will be reimbursed based on actual.

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 organizations. At no point will you be left on your own. The safety of our Fellows and team members is our priority. Our teams will be taking care but if you still have any specific concerns, you can let us know at the interview level.

5. What sort of rural experience will the Fellow experience?

Answer: The rural experience is broadly divided into two phases. At first instance, Fellows will have an exposure visit to get deeper insights into the impact areas Goonj works on i.e water, sanitation, infrastructure, education, menstrual hygiene and livelihood. In the next phase, Fellows will prepare a project based on the insights from Goonj's work and the same will be presented to a panel of experts who will help fine-tune 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 would not be given any certificate. Additionally, there is a lock-in period of the 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.

Application FAQs

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

Answer:

Step 1: You can fill out the form online. Check the eligibility criteria and read the FAQs thoroughly before filling out the application.

Step 2: Shortlisted applicants will proceed to the next round of the selection process.

Step 3: Shortlisted applicants from the previous round will be called for the final Interview..

9. Is there any age limit for me to apply for this Fellowship?

Answer: This Fellowship is open to applicants between 21 - 30 years. With maximum being 30 years of age as of August 1st, 2022

10. What is the eligibility criteria?

Answer:

- a. 1) Minimum qualification - graduation in any discipline.
- b. 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 program, 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 where I can apply for this Fellowship?

Answer: Goonj works in parts of the 27 states and UTs in deeper rural pockets and has city offices in Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Rishikesh, Chennai, Kochi and Mumbai. Based on the need you will be placed in any of these locations.

13. Important Points to Note

- A Goonj Fellow cannot pursue any online/offline course during the Fellowship period
- A Fellow 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, Goonj will look into the possibility of support.

For any queries, please mail us at fellowship@goonj.org