



school for
social
entrepreneurs
india



SOCIAL START-UP FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2019 PROFILE BOOKLET



DOING LEARNING DIFFERENTLY



AMBAREEN
ABDULLAH,
27

"The question is not how to get cured, but how to live."
~ Joseph Conrad

INCLUSION; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh



It all started when I was working as a mental health researcher in hospitals. There, I witnessed that adults who had completed treatment for a mental illness were sent back home with no direction about what to do next – resulting in them being re-admitted in a few days.

Labelled as 'mad' and 'dangerous', these individuals already suffer from a lack of opportunities for meaningful engagement and reintegration into mainstream society. They remain isolated and deprived of legitimate social interactions such as attending a wedding, going out alone, or making friends.

Believing that no human deserves this life of seclusion, my partner and I founded our social enterprise, Kaitley. Our aim is to create opportunities for people living with serious mental illness to secure and sustain meaningful employment and/or sustainable income.

We utilise a supportive-employment model in which persons recovering from mental illness are engaged in making and selling tea on designer tea-carts with the support and assistance of a peer/team member. This is backed by robust training that helps them to re-engage in simple daily living activities and basic life skills.



ARPIT
JAIN,
24

"There is no greater agony than
bearing an untold story inside you."
~ Maya Angelou

EDUCATION

Surat, Gujarat

Everyone nowadays believes in education; children are trained in math and surgeons are trained to operate. But, there is one area where people don't seem to believe in education at all and just leave individuals to figure it out themselves: life, itself!

After completing my Engineering, I joined the Gandhi Fellowship and worked in the field of Education. While visiting government schools, I observed that the critical area of Emotional Intelligence (EI) was not being covered in the curriculum or method of teaching.

I then worked with experts in the field to create content for secondary school students, and started conducting interactive sessions and courses on topics of importance: Sociability, Self-knowledge, and Relationships.

My vision is to be able to fill the gap of education in EI, in schools, colleges, and for the wider society, and help people live a more fulfilled life.





AMIT
NARAYAN,
25

"Be the change you wish to
see in the world."
~ MK Gandhi

EDUCATION; RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Nalanda, Bihar

Why are little children working at a dhaba? Why are their parents not sending them to school? Don't these children have their own dreams? These questions arose in my mind during my own childhood, but took years to evolve into the core of my life's purpose.

The foundational period in a child's life (0-8 years) is when the brain develops rapidly, solidifying the basis for a lifetime of physical, emotional, academic, and overall wellbeing and success. But, what can a rural poor child do during this time – without the right learning environment, exposure, and guidance?

There is a distinct unavailability of organised early childhood education opportunities for children in rural areas.

Our vision is to create an integrated playschool network for children in rural areas. We aim to empower capable and passionate women to open and sustain these playschools, and bring existing ones into the network – through an effective curriculum, pedagogy, learning culture and environment, and other services for children's holistic development.



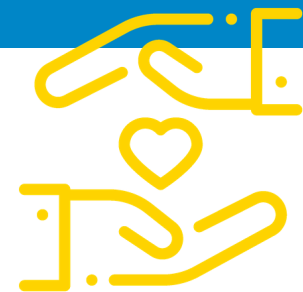


DHRUBA JYOTI DEKA, 27

"When something is important enough, you do it even if the odds are not in your favour."

~Elon Musk

LIVELIHOOD; ARTS & CULTURE Guwahati, Assam



While pursuing my Masters in Pondicherry, I used to participate in organising Northeast festivals, and invite students from other states. They would become awestruck and curious about the region's traditional attire and décor, and ask where they could purchase them. When I looked for such products online, they were either unavailable or exorbitantly priced.

This kickstarted my interest in creating my own venture after returning home. As I was born in the brass and bell metal craft village of Assam, I first began with selling these products, and Brahmaputra Fables was born.

The name refers to the tales from the mighty river of Northeast India, and we, too, want to spread the stories and legends of our region through the crafts and artisans who produce them.

We aim to uplift the livelihood of rural artisans while reviving the endangered crafts and tribal weaves of Northeast India. We provide training for scaling up the production of craft and attire, and connect these artisans and weavers to the end-customers directly, through our digital platforms.



DIVYA
SHAH,
24

"Feed your faith & your doubts
will starve to death."
~ Debbie Macomber

EDUCATION; YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Satara, Maharashtra

I used to read many news articles on rape cases, child labour, and feel helpless at the sight of children begging or selling trinkets for survival. Compelled to do something about it, I quit my job, and co-founded a social venture: ThatMate.

We work towards empowering adolescents to develop healthy attitudes and responsible behavior around emotional and sexual health by creating safe spaces for discussions.

Most schools do not offer any form of Adolescent Education, and parents and teachers tend to avoid these topics as taboo, exposing children to a high degree of vulnerability.

Every second child faces some kind of sexual abuse; out of 2 million HIV-AIDS patients in our country, one-third are youth; 12% of girls aged 15-16 are mothers. These stats clearly signify the need for proper sex education in India.

We partner with schools to conduct engaging workshops with standardised age-specific curricula, using a mixture of interactive sessions, comic books, videos, physical training, and games. The course also includes individual counselling sessions with children who need support for addressing personal challenges. Further support is provided through our online forum and AI-driven chatbot, Bolo.





JOT PRAKASH
KAUR,
32

"Not all who wander
are lost."
~JRR Tolkien

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Delhi, NCR



A personal tragedy made me realise that elders in low-income old age homes are ignored, and that's when I realised my intervention area. Elderly homes are increasing at a fast pace in India and around the world.

But, they are usually charity-run, lack proper facilities, and are not in good condition. And, for the elders housed there to maintain their physical and mental well-being, they require the time and attention of others – which they currently do not receive.

My social enterprise, Baithak, focuses on providing solutions for both these challenges, and aims to work with low-income and middle-income old age homes. Our activities will create a platform for youth to engage with the elders, and provide much-needed care, companionship, and the exchange of life experiences.

In addition, the youth will support the elders in creating handmade items, which can be sold to generate revenue for both the seniors and the homes.



MINAL PAWAR, 40

"When you want something, all
the universe conspires in
helping you to achieve it."
~Paolo Coelho

EDUCATION

Mumbai, Maharashtra

BoostUpKey.com, my social enterprise, provides scholarships for youths through an online educational game that encourages learning in a fun way. The scholarships are partial financial aids to students to pursue their desired course (skill, professional, hobby etc). The basis for award is the consistency of learner in gaining knowledge, irrespective of their academic record, age, caste, creed, or religion. The high cost of courses makes education expensive and beyond the reach of the common man. I have been in the education sector for over a decade, and witnessed how students have to let go of their dreams due to their parents' inability to pay tuition fees.

Through the scholarships that we provide, our aim is to enable students to access educational opportunities, while developing the values of self-esteem and hard work through earning a scholarship.

Currently, the project is running successfully on a small scale in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Thane, and 72 students have been awarded scholarships till date.

Our next step is to scale up the enterprise and create a larger social impact across a higher number of students pursuing their educational goals.





PRANAV AGRAWAL, 23

"Everything we hear is an opinion,
not a fact. Everything we see is a
perspective, not the truth."
~Marcus Aurelius

HEALTHCARE

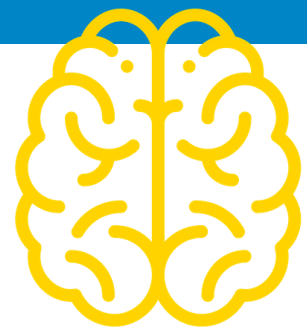
Bangalore, Karnataka

Always having a passion to help others, I became a doctor. But, soon I realised that my impact would always be limited to the confines of my clinic and my 8-hour shift. To make a real, lasting change, I would have to do things differently.

I had always believed that technology has the capability to democratise high-quality healthcare and I have since set myself on a journey to bring it to the people. According to the World Economic Forum, two of the three biggest threats facing mankind are in the field of Malnutrition, and a country like ours is in an especially critical state.

The elimination of micronutrient deficiencies is essential not only to improve health and alleviate massive human suffering, but also crucial to sustain economic growth and national development. Although supplementation is an effective intervention for malnutrition, it fails due to the manner of implementation.

As a solution to the standardized, mass-market supplements available in the market, we aim to leverage Big Data analytics and Artificial Intelligence to develop individualised, high impact supplements designed specifically for the individual, community or high-risk group.





PRINCE KUMAR TIWARI, 26

"Nothing great can be done
without sacrifice."
~Swami Vivekananda

EDUCATION; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mumbai, Maharashtra

I wish to co-create a self-sustainable community space for the marginalised and underprivileged community (those living on the streets, under flyovers, on platforms, slums, and in remote villages) and enable them to have a balanced life.

In 2011, I began teaching street children under a flyover in Mumbai, and realised that education alone would not help these children, unless they were also able to access proper food, parental care, healthcare, and the like. A Chartered Accountant by profession, I left my career in 2014 after being deeply inspired by Swami Vivekananda's ideology.

Then, I founded a social organisation to serve disadvantaged children through education, livelihood, health, nutrition and shelter.

We are in the process of setting up a school to cater to the overall development of these children and provide comprehensive livelihood promotion services to their families, functioning as a self-sustainable community space.

It will also contain an Eco Fab Village Center, which would involve children, youth, and elders in learning new tools, techniques, methods and operations of machinery with a view to creating solutions for many of the challenges they experience.





RUCHI
VARMA,
36

"Where there is a will,
there is a way."
~ Pauline Kael

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; EDUCATION

Delhi, NCR



The world I picture is based on the tenets of equity, mutual respect, and dignity. My vision is to see a safer and equitable world for children where they are addressed as an equal partner in building cities.

Children are experiencing suppression of healthy thoughts and actions in urban 'public' spaces and their voices are constantly diminishing and being ignored.

Resonating with values of equity, respect and dignity, CROSSWALK aims to mainstream the needs of children as equals in building their neighborhood, their city.

The mission is to humanise child-centred urban spaces starting with schools and promote emergence of thought leaders and change agents from their communities.

The city through a child's perspective is very different and the purpose is to cultivate empathetic listening and co-create compassionate spaces with children through active urban design and transformative placemaking thereby creating a safe, sustainable and enjoyable city for ALL.



RAKESH SHARMA, 37

"When in doubt, recall the face of the poorest & weakest man you have seen, and ask yourself if this step you contemplate is going to be any use to him."

~ MK Gandhi

ANIMAL WELFARE; RURAL DEVELOPMENT Bikaner, Rajasthan



My glory doesn't happen in front of a crowd. It doesn't happen on a stadium or on a stage. There are no medals that are handed out. It happens in the darkness of early morning, in solitude, where I try and I try and I try again!

Rising through the corporate ranks to Business Partner in 10 years made me feel that I had conquered the world. My world changed when my Dad was identified with cancer.

I left everything and explored, and in the middle of a desert I found a new purpose - to uplift the entire village - its people, its animals, and its environment.

Our vision is to create the biggest Bull Sanctuary of India and use it as an Animal Assisted Awakening Center to promote rural tourism.

There are 450 stray bulls starving to death in the desert village. We aim to build a Fodder Warehouse model which will cater to all stray cattle, feeding them daily, while increasing employment and livelihood opportunities for villagers and farmers.

I am The BullMan of India. I am trying to build the Biggest Bull Sanctuary of India.



RUTVICK PEDAMKAR, 27

"The journey of a thousand miles
begins with one step."
~Lao Tzu

ENVIRONMENT; WASTE MANAGEMENT Badlapur, Maharashtra



After doing my engineering I started preparing for the civil services with the sole aim to do a job that could have an impact on people's lives, for the better. However, I could not find success in my endeavours, and decided to start my own social business with the same zeal of making an impact.

Waste is generated 24/7, 365 days a year. 50% of the waste generated is wet waste which, when mixed with dry waste such as plastics and cardboard, becomes diminished in scrap value. This waste is instead sent to landfills, creating sanitation problems and increasing the carbon footprint.

Since we have already created mountains of waste at landfills, something has to be done with waste in order to increase the recycling efficiency of the industry.

We manufacture solar-powered machines that convert waste to compost. The compost is then used for gardening purposes to grow more plants.

By recycling waste and converting into compost we are solving the problem of wet waste, which constitutes 50% of the total waste generated in the world.



SHAIK KHAJA MOHIDDIN, 22

"If you don't build your dream,
someone else will hire you to
help them build theirs."
~Tony Gaskins

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Guntur, Andhra Pradesh

After completing my college education, I was placed in a company to work as an office boy. My talents and skill sets were severely under-utilised, leaving me frustrated and demotivated. I actively sought for an opportunity to use my full potential.

I used to interact with many friends and youth, both within and outside of my community, and observed that even though there was a high number of qualified graduates, they were unemployed, and finding crooked ways to earn money. Even with certificates, they could not get jobs due to lack of exposure and skills.

Others, like me, had skills, but could not get job placements to match their skills and knowledge.

My social enterprise is currently helping fresh graduates and unemployed youth to identify their skills and get them placed in the right platforms according to their skills. We create the connecting link between youth and companies/employers, to get the right people and right jobs.

We aim to mitigate unemployment, which will also have an impact on related issues such as illiteracy and poverty in the community.

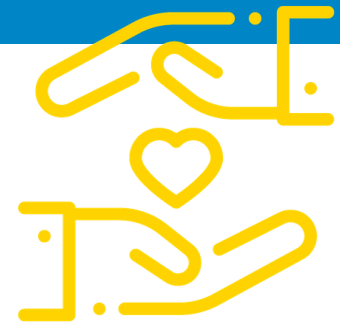




SHRAVYA INDUKURI, 28

"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world. The unreasonable man adapts the world to himself. All progress depends upon the unreasonable man."

~ George Bernard Shaw



LIVELIHOOD; ENVIRONMENT Chennai, Tamil Nadu

I landed a well-paying job at an MNC and my software engineering career was about to start off 'great' when I hit the brakes. I felt something was amiss. I looked around and saw communities being left behind in the name of progress and consumerism eating up our planet in the guise of development.

Highly skilled craftsmen and artisans who can create magic out of eco-friendly materials are fading into oblivion on one side while highly unnatural plastics are omnipresent.

I intend to create a social enterprise that will put the much-deserved spotlight on traditional crafts of our country, particularly in Tamil Nadu, and how these crafts are priceless assets to today's society that is grappling with the invasion of plastics into all areas of life.

My social enterprise will directly use the skills of craftsmen to create products that will replace plastic products and thus lead to better lives and a healthier, more beautiful planet.



**SHWETA
HOSAMANI,
33**

"The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see."
~ Alexandra Trenfor

EDUCATION

Ilkal, Karnataka

After completing my engineering, I was happy with my new-found independence to pursue my career. I have a physical disability due to polio since childhood, but then, a car accident right after my graduation rendered my right leg nonfunctional. To keep myself occupied and regain my sense of self-confidence, I began working at educational institute.

I discovered my love for the profession, and my potential to nurture children. I also realised that students greatly lacked necessary skills and confidence, and started Careerhint Foundation, recognising that these students would not receive the required support either at home or school.

I wish to tackle the problems of rural school children and teachers, addressing areas such as school learning environment, student-teacher relationships, and teaching styles.

Careerhint Foundation focuses on building a solid foundation for rural children through after-school programmes, providing academic support and other personal development opportunities, including social, leadership, and communication skills and critical thinking. We also wish to empower rural teachers and school leaders to build a strong relationship with parents, teachers, and students as a community.





SHWETA
VERMA,
39

"I can do my bit, one small thing
at a time, one person at a time,
and one story at a time."
~ Anonymous

INCLUSION; EDUCATION

Delhi, NCR



Working with people with mental illness, an assignment in a cyclone-affected region of Myanmar, doctoral research with women widowed due to conflict in Kashmir, and a multitude of other experiences, since 2002, have brought me to where I am: committed to the issues of disability rights and mental health.

Everyone: including children with disabilities and complex health conditions, and their families, should have the tools and opportunities to flourish. But, at present, such aspects of human diversity are not fully accepted, and rights and opportunities are often not accessible to those who are different from the majority.

My social enterprise, Ginny's Planet, is rooted in my vision for a world which rightfully belongs to everyone; the place where human diversity is acknowledged and respected. We will design and run diversity-training with and for children for a future environment that values rights and empathy.

Alongside this, we aim to showcase human diversity through stories, storybooks, dolls, action figures, and other engaging media for children. These will showcase characters from real-life stories of persons with disabilities and other aspects of human diversity.



USHA KAUL
SARAF,
56

"One moment can change a day,
one day can change a life &
one life can change the world."
~ Buddha

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Pune, Maharashtra

I am a senior professional in the field of continuing education and have led projects for over 30 years in the UAE.

Over the last decade I had been engaged in delivering entrepreneurship training programs for women living in opportunity-deprived areas, and witnessed the strong social and economic impact that the women-led enterprises had on the community.

I recently returned to India with a mission to enable change and transform lives of women and youth in my own country.

The unemployment rate among the youth in India has reached unprecedented levels. My project aims to provide work opportunities to unemployed/underprivileged youth so that they can uplift their families from financial despair by providing them access to relevant vocational and soft skills training.

The key approach will be to create a network of employer partners, and provide technical and soft skills training and once the jobs are secured. This would support them in becoming job ready and being able to sustain employment, enabling them to grow economically, personally, and professionally.





VIDYA
NAIR,
46

"Life is a great adventure
or nothing at all."
~ Helen Keller

SANITATION; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mumbai, Maharashtra



I am a proud Indian who has grown up all over the country as my father was in the Indian Army. Having travelled across the country, I believe India has a lot to offer to the world in terms of natural beauty and cultural heritage but we fall short due to cleanliness and sanitation facilities at our tourist spots. My venture is thus an effort to impact this space.

Public sanitation standards need to keep up with the rising aspirations of the people of India. Sanitation facilities are also a key indicator of the country's progress.

These experiences leave a lasting impression on foreign visitors and Indian tourists alike and need to be world class at public places.

We aim to change the experience at tourist spots by providing a one-stop solution for visitors, with world class toilets, and travel essentials and souvenirs.

Each solution is managed and run locally in an ecologically sensitive and socially responsible manner. It is structured to be enabler to women's empowerment and the surrounding community.

In unity lies strength. That's why we are committed to supporting the growth of the social entrepreneurship ecosystem through meaningful collaborations with other change-makers.

The **School for Social Entrepreneurs India** is a registered Section 8 not-for-profit company.

We work in partnership with the government, corporates, institutions, trusts, and foundations. Our partnerships help us to reach people with practical ideas for change, leverage a range of skills and experiences to benefit our students, and provide vital funding to ensure that people from all backgrounds are able to access our programmes and support.

When we work with partners, we invite them to:

- Support a fellowship participant
- Support an innovation
- Get involved with the programme

We work collaboratively to create social change and welcome opportunities to work with additional partners to support our inspiring and growing community. We highly value the commitment of time and resources from people who offer pro bono services to us, and welcome offers of support.

We customise our programmes for organisations, and customise our offerings to suit the needs of people at different stages of their social enterprise.

Join us and help create an impact by supporting social entrepreneurs.



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