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YASH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Meet the **Fellows**





About the program

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership (MCGL): India-Yash, led by Jhpiego is engaging with adolescents and youth towards positively shaping decisions about their reproductive health and well-being. Focusing on family planning and reproductive health for young people, the project aims to support the family planning and reproductive health needs of India's vulnerable youth in urban and rural areas of Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.

The Yash Fellowship Program aims to capacitate young individuals between the age group of 20-29 years from across priority states to advance the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender equality agenda at community level. Through the ten-month duration of the fellowship, young people will gain access to information, resources, opportunities, skills and platforms to meaningfully engage towards strengthening youth programming.



Dheeraj K.
23 | Chhattisgarh



Organization - YuMetta Foundation



Education - Graduate

About Me

Passionate about social work, I have been engaged with several grassroots organizations with the objective of advocating for gender and youth rights at community level. I have anchored leadership journeys for young people to trigger meaningful youth engagement and elevate youth voices. I enjoy reading and writing poetry.

Change I want to bring

A feminist at heart, I want to shape a society free from violence and envision a world where everyone is treated equally and equitably. Recognizing the need to look beyond gender binary, I believe that organizations need to support gender diverse individuals more proactively.



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Farida Bano
27 | West Bengal



Organization – Lake Gardens Women and Children Development Centre



Education – Post Graduate

About Me

As a young girl growing up in the slums of Kamarhati, West Bengal, I witnessed the daily struggles of women and children residing in the slums. Determined to safeguard the rights of slum dwellers, I joined a local youth group and soon became a leading voice of the group. Contributing towards setting up a youth convention at state level, made me recognize the importance of implementing youth led and youth relevant strategies at district and state level.

Change I want to bring

I believe that imparting education is the best way forward to promote gender equality. I strive to bring about a change where women are no longer subjected to gender-based discrimination and are instead recognized for their inherent worth and individuality.



Namrata Pandit
25 | Jharkhand



Organization – Yuwa



Education – Post Graduate

About Me

A science educator and artist based out of Jharkhand, I work at the intersection of formal & informal science learning in vulnerable communities. Formally trained as a life scientist and science journalist, I collaborated with UNESCO and Science Gallery to create public engagement on global issues concerning climate change and public health. I believe science is political. I am working towards making scientific information accessible to the masses will always represent it.

Change I want to bring

I want all to have easy access to information concerning reproductive and sexual rights from evidence-based and verified sources. I believe that knowledge of rights is crucial for everyone, regardless of socio-economic background. I aspire to contribute towards formulating rights-based education policies inclusive of comprehensive sex education mental with special focus towards mental health of school going students



Ragini Bordoloi
23 | Assam



Education – Graduate

About Me

Passionately driven by my commitment to dislodging the stigma shrouding sexuality and mainstreaming youth-friendly services within the healthcare system, I started disseminating evidence-based information on SRHR through my digital knowledge platform, "My Vagina, My Rights" at the age of 19. Ever since, I have collaborated with multiple youth collectives & organizations, worked as a consultant on a range of projects on mental health, contraception and safe abortion, and advocated for increased participation of youth in decision-making at different national forums.

Change I want to bring

I want to help young people access high-quality healthcare and exercise their sexual & reproductive rights by democratising knowledge through strategic creative communication, demanding for more youth participation in policy-making and advocating for a rights-based approach to adolescent sexuality.



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Roz Saini
20 | New Delhi



Organization – Restless Development



Education – Pursuing Graduation

About Me

As a Youth Champion from the Delhi Learning Lab, Roz is dedicated to promoting family planning and sexual and reproductive health for young people. Her passion for this cause extends to all members of the community, including those who are part of the LGBTQIA+ community and people with disabilities.

Change I want to bring

I wish to bring about change in the way young people approach and understand family planning and sexual and reproductive health. I want to create a world where young people are well-informed and have access to the resources they need to make informed decisions about their health and well-being.



Samaina Brahma
27 | Assam



Organization – YuMetta Foundation



Education – Graduate, Diploma

About Me

I am social worker who has been working with women with disabilities in Kokrajhar District of Assam since 2019. With a passion for social justice and equality, I am working towards empowering and improving the lives of people around me.

Change I want to bring

I am working towards creating a society that is inclusive and free from discrimination and inequalities based on gender and disabilities. My goal is to promote equal rights & opportunities for all individuals, regardless of their gender or disabilities, and to break down the barriers that prevent marginalized groups from accessing essential resources and services.



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Sanchita Das
26 | Jharkhand



Organization – ICRW International Center
for Research on Women (ICRW)



Education – Post Graduate

About Me

I am a social worker with 3+ years of experience working closely with adolescent girls in rural areas of various districts of Jharkhand. I work for girls empowerment, sexual and reproductive health rights and gender discrimination. Apart from this I am an artist and have a keen interest in involving adolescents in various cultural activities.

Change I want to bring

I want to create a world where girls can freely express themselves and live fulfilling lives, free from the constraints of gender bias and discrimination.



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Shreya
27 | Madhya Pradesh



Organization – Transform Rural India Foundation



Education – Post Graduate

About Me

An enthusiast of the belief that knowledge is power I am committed to advocating for right-based models within government mechanisms and promoting equality and justice for all. I believe in the transformative power of knowledge and strive to educate and empower women to assert their rights and live fulfilling lives.

Change I want to bring

My mission is to address the issue of information poverty among women and girls by promoting education and access to information. I am driven by the belief that education and knowledge are powerful tools for empowering women and promoting gender equality.



Shambhavi Sharma
24 | Madhya Pradesh



Organization – Deepak Foundation



Education – Post Graduate

About Me

As a postgraduate in public health with expertise in geriatric care, the intersection of HIV and gender, and tuberculosis, drives me. I am passionate about sexual and reproductive health for all.

Change I want to bring

I believe that unlearning is essential for creating lasting change, particularly when it comes to misconceptions around sexual and reproductive health. I aim to inspire and facilitate gender transformative change at the grassroots level.



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Smrutimayee Sarangi
24 | Odisha



Organization - WASSAN



Education - Post Graduate

About Me

As a Research Associate, my passion lies in asking and answering questions about "what, when, and how". With experience working with and researching the tribal population of Odisha, particularly tribal women of reproductive age, I am well-versed with the unique challenges and opportunities facing this community.

Change I want to bring

I believe in the principle of "to know is to grow". By raising awareness at the individual level, I aim to empower people to assert their rights and seek help if they feel these rights are being violated.



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Soumi Chakraborty
29 | Jharkhand



Organization – Child In Need Institute



Education – Post Graduate

About Me

As a social worker with a focus on gender rights and feminism, I have been active in the development sector since 2016. With a passion for advocacy and a commitment to creating more equitable societies, I am dedicated to using my voice and my actions to promote equality and empowerment for all.

Change I want to bring

I want to shift the discourse surrounding sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) by taking an intersectional approach that considers gender, rights, and health. I aim to break down the taboo surrounding SRHR and increase awareness and understanding of the subject. I believe that we can work towards creating a world where all individuals have access to comprehensive SRHR information and services, free from stigma and discrimination.



the_conflict_sou_ (Soumi Chakraborty)



Soumi Chakraborty (She/Her)



Subhabrata Basu
26 | Jharkhand



Organization – Child In Need Institute



Education – Post Graduate

About Me

I have five years of experience of working at the grassroots level to address the needs of communities. I am committed to listening and understanding the needs of the people I serve to bring about a positive change to communities and contribute meaningful development outcomes

Change I want to bring

My goal is to introduce sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) activities in Adolescents Health and Wellness Day programs. I am working towards increasing knowledge and awareness about SRHR among adolescents, promote healthy practices, and create a more inclusive and equitable society for young people.



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Vinod Kumar Lahari
26 | Chhattisgarh



Organization - Chhattisgarh network of people living with HIV/AIDS (CGNP+)



Education - Graduate

About Me

I am working towards creating a supportive community for people living with HIV and to reduce the stigma surrounding the disease through education and awareness programs. I aim to ensure that everyone has access to proper treatment and care and that their rights are protected.

Change I want to bring

I want to empower people living with HIV to reduce the spread of the virus and combat stigma and discrimination through increased awareness and access to treatment and support services.



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Twinkle Gupta
25 | Assam



Organization – Women Helpline



Education – Post Graduate

About Me

As a social worker, I am committed to empowering individuals and communities to create positive and lasting change in their lives.

Through my work, I strive to promote social justice, equality, and human rights for all, and to help individuals overcome barriers and challenges in their lives.

Change I want to bring

I wish for a society that values equality and respect for all individuals, regardless of their background, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, or beliefs. An environment where everyone has equal access to opportunities and resources, and where discrimination and prejudice are not tolerated.



Rohit Yadav
21 | Madhya Pradesh



Organization – Manjari Foundation



Education – Graduate

About Me

As a self-starter, I am passionate about empowering women in my community through the formation of self-help groups. I aim to provide financial independence and boost the confidence of women to take charge of their households. My goal is to create a society where women are given equal opportunities and are recognized for their capabilities.

Change I want to bring

By empowering women and making them financially independent, I aim to promote gender equality to ensure that women do not have to make compromises and can lead fulfilling lives.



Madhurjya Gogoi
22 | Assam



Organization – Pathikrit



Education – Graduate

About Me

I believe in providing equal opportunities to everyone and giving voice to the marginalized communities. I aim to create an inclusive society where every child is empowered to reach their full potential and live a dignified life. Through my work, I want to make a positive impact on the lives of children and contribute to the betterment of the society.

Change I want to bring

I am working towards bridging the gap between the have and have-nots and ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities to achieve their full potential.



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Swatirekha Das
24 | Odisha



Organization - Centre For Catalyzing Change (C3)



Education - Post Graduate

About Me

With my background and experience, I aim to work towards empowering adolescent girls and creating a society where they can live with dignity and respect. Through my work i hope to bring a positive change in the tribal areas and help prevent child marriages.

Change I want to bring

I aim to promote gender equality and help girls break the cycle of poverty through education and empowerment. Through my work, I hope to bring positive change and create a better future for girls in India.



Naveen Kumar
24 | Jharkhand



Organization – People For Change



Education – Graduate

About Me

I am committed to serving marginalized communities, who often lack access to crucial information regarding Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Gender, Climate Change, Male Engagement in SRH, and Pre-natal Sex Selection – issues that significantly impact them.

Change I want to bring

I wish to effectively support and empower communities.



Indraneel Kalita
29 | Assam



Organization - Xobdo - Dialogue, Dignity, Movement Foundation



Education - Post Graduate

About Me

As a queer feminist social worker, I am passionate about advocating for LGBTQIA+ rights and promoting gender equality. Through my work, I aim to create a safe and inclusive environment for the queer community and empower women to fight against discrimination and inequality.

Change I want to bring

I aim to bring about change by working through an intersectional lens to achieve better sexual and reproductive health services and research outcomes for the queer community.



<https://www.instagram.com/indraneelkalita/>



Suhani
22 | Chhattisgarh



Education – Graduate

About Me

I have been working with rural communities, particularly women and children, to address issues related to health, education, and socio-economic development. I have a passion for empowering underprivileged communities and believe in the power of community-based solutions to bring about lasting change.

Change I want to bring

I aim to bring about positive social change and empowerment for marginalized communities, especially for women and children. I believe in equal opportunities and access to education and healthcare for all.



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Narendra Kumar Yadav
24 | Chhattisgarh



Organization - We The People Foundation



Education - Graduate

About Me

As a nature conservationist, my goal is to empower women and children with knowledge about health and nutrition and to promote sustainable living through nature conservation. I believe that a healthy environment and community are essential for overall well-being.

Change I want to bring

I wish to promote healthy and sustainable living through education and empowering the community, particularly women and children, to take charge of their health and environment.



@Narendra_DMC



Laxmi Kujur
22 | Jharkhand



Organization - Pratigya



Education - Graduate

About Me

Growing up, I witnessed blatant gender discrimination in my family and society. My work as a volunteer made me realize how deep-seated patriarchy is in society. I am working towards becoming a more informed advocate for gender equality and to learn effective strategies to fight patriarchy.

Change I want to bring

I want to eradicate gender discrimination from all aspects of society. I believe that everyone should be treated equally, regardless of their gender, and have access to the same opportunities and resources.

CONTACT US

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for queries on the

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