

ICCCAD Youth Fellowship Alumni Report 2024

Personal Information

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2. **Fellowship Batch (Year):** 2024
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 - **Current Location (Upazila and district):** Phultala, Khulna
4. **Current Occupation/Role:** Unemployed

Fellowship Experience

1. **Briefly describe the most valuable lessons or skills you learned during the fellowship.**

During my fellowship at ICCCAD, I gained invaluable insights and skills that have significantly shaped my professional and personal growth. The most valuable lesson was understanding the importance of community-centric approaches to climate action. Working closely with marginalized communities, I learned how to amplify their voices through storytelling and artistic expression, ensuring their lived experiences and perspectives are integral to climate justice narratives. Additionally, I honed my project management skills by designing and executing workshops, exhibitions, and capacity-building programs, balancing innovation with practicality. The fellowship also enhanced my ability to collaborate effectively, fostering partnerships among diverse stakeholders, including local communities, policymakers, and development organizations. I developed stronger advocacy and communication skills, enabling me to articulate complex climate challenges and solutions with clarity and empathy. Above all, this experience reinforced my commitment to advancing equitable and inclusive solutions to climate change, grounded in resilience, justice, and sustainability.

2. **Which sessions or activities during the fellowship were most impactful for you? Why?**

The field visit to Kuakata was the most impactful activity during the fellowship. Witnessing firsthand the severe impacts of climate change on vulnerable coastal communities deeply resonated with me. This immersive experience highlighted the challenges posed by rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and salinity intrusion, which directly affect livelihoods, especially those of marginalized groups. Engaging with local residents and hearing their stories underscored the importance of integrating traditional knowledge and community perspectives into climate resilience strategies. The visit also provided a practical understanding of how climate policies translate into action—or gaps—in real-life scenarios. Observing the resilience and resourcefulness of these communities amidst adversity was both inspiring and humbling. This experience reinforced my belief in the power of grassroots action and strengthened my resolve to advocate for climate justice by amplifying the voices of those on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Implementation of Learning

- 1. How have you applied the knowledge or skills gained from the fellowship in your personal or professional life? Examples of specific actions, or initiatives you have led or contributed to advocacy, awareness, event, workshop, project etc.).**

The knowledge and skills gained from the ICCCAD fellowship have profoundly influenced both my personal and professional endeavors. Professionally, I implemented these learnings through my project “Eco Narratives: Amplifying Voices through Artistic Expression for Climate Action and Climate Justice.” I led workshops to educate rural communities on climate change, facilitated storytelling sessions to amplify marginalized voices, and organized public exhibitions to highlight the human dimension of climate impacts. These initiatives not only raised awareness but also empowered participants to engage in climate justice movements.

Personally, I’ve integrated sustainability practices into my daily life, advocating for eco-friendly choices within my community and social networks. I’ve contributed to awareness campaigns through the Project Life Tree initiative, promoting tree guardianship and sustainable living. Additionally, I’ve mentored young changemakers by sharing tools and techniques to craft impactful narratives for climate advocacy.

The fellowship also inspired me to facilitate youth engagement programs, including school campaigns to foster climate literacy among children. These experiences have strengthened my ability to translate complex climate challenges into accessible narratives, inspire collective action, and drive meaningful change. Each step reflects my commitment to building a more sustainable and equitable future.

- 2. Any notable achievements, success stories, or testimonials from the above-mentioned activity-1 you have worked?**

One of the most notable achievements of “Eco Narratives: Amplifying Voices through Artistic Expression for Climate Action and Climate Justice” was the overwhelming participation and engagement of marginalized communities. Through storytelling and artistic workshops, many participants shared their personal experiences of climate challenges, which were later showcased in public exhibitions. A particularly moving success story came from a rural woman who shared how climate change had affected her livelihood. Her story, depicted through art, drew significant attention during the exhibition and was later featured in local media, amplifying her voice beyond her community.

The workshops also inspired youth participants to take action; several formed local climate clubs to continue raising awareness. Testimonials from participants highlighted how the project empowered them to see their struggles as stories of resilience and advocacy. These outcomes demonstrated the transformative power of combining art and community narratives to promote climate justice.

3. What challenges, if any, have you faced while implementing your learning? How did you overcome them?

Implementing my learnings from the fellowship came with several challenges. One significant obstacle was engaging marginalized communities who often lacked prior exposure to climate justice concepts. Language and cultural barriers further complicated effective communication. To overcome this, I adapted workshop content to be more relatable by using storytelling, visual arts, and local dialects, ensuring accessibility and relevance.

Another challenge was resource constraints, such as limited funding for materials and logistics. I addressed this by mobilizing local resources, collaborating with community leaders, and leveraging partnerships to maximize impact with minimal costs. Resistance from some stakeholders, who underestimated the importance of climate action, also posed a hurdle. Through consistent dialogue and showcasing real-life examples of climate impacts, I was able to build trust and foster their engagement.

These experiences reinforced my adaptability and problem-solving skills, helping me translate learning into actionable, community-centered initiatives despite the challenges.

Impact of your work

1. Approximately how many people have directly benefited from your actions inspired by the fellowship during 2024? (e.g., awareness campaigns, capacity building, advocacy, etc.)

Event/Activities	Location (district)	Number of people reached	Means of verification
Community Workshops on Climate Change Action	Khulna		https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565612081808
Public Exhibitions Showcasing Artistic Narratives			
Storytelling and Stage Drama Performances		400	
School Campaigns		130	
Total		530	

Visual Documents

1. Photo-1: Drawing



2. Photo-2: Story telling



3. Photo-3: Drama



4. Photo-4: Art Exhibition

