

ICCCAD Youth Fellowship Alumni Report 2024

Personal Information

1. **Name:** Umme Sadia Katha
2. **Fellowship Batch (Year):** 2024
3. **Contact Information:**
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 - **Current Location (Upazila and district):** Shukrabad, Dhaka
4. **Current Occupation/Role:** Research Assistant at SAIST

Fellowship Experience

1. **Briefly describe the most valuable lessons or skills you learned during the fellowship.**
(Paragraph maximum 150 words)

During the fellowship, I gained profound insights into climate change, particularly the concepts of loss and damage. The Kuakata field trip was one of the most impactful experiences, allowing me to witness firsthand how climate change is devastating coastal communities. Seeing the direct effects like rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, and safe water crisis—deepened my understanding of the crisis beyond theoretical knowledge. This experience reinforced the urgency of climate action and the need for sustainable solutions. I also developed critical thinking and problem-solving skills by engaging in discussions and exploring potential strategies for climate resilience. Additionally, the fellowship honed my ability to communicate complex environmental issues effectively, making me more confident in raising awareness and advocating for climate justice.

2. **Which sessions or activities during the fellowship were most impactful for you? Why?**
(Paragraph maximum 150 Words)

The Kuakata trip was the most impactful part of the fellowship for me. It provided an unfiltered view of how climate change is not just an abstract concept but a harsh reality for coastal communities. I observed how people struggle daily due to rising sea levels, saltwater intrusion, and the destruction of their livelihoods. Many families lack access to clean drinking water, and their agricultural land is deteriorating, leading to severe economic distress. Women, in particular, face additional challenges, including reproductive health issues exacerbated by poor living conditions. Due to financial hardships, many families view their daughters as a burden, affecting their education and future opportunities. Witnessing these struggles firsthand made the crisis feel more real and urgent, reinforcing my commitment to advocating for climate resilience and social justice.

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.).** (Paragraph-Maximum 200 words)

This fellowship was a transformative experience that significantly shaped my academic and career interests. Learning about climate change and its real-world impact helped me develop a stronger passion for environmental advocacy. I have actively shared my insights with friends, juniors, and professors, initiating meaningful discussions on climate action. Although I have not organized any formal events or workshops, I have contributed to raising awareness in my social and academic circles. Whether through informal discussions or sharing relevant articles, I have encouraged others to be more mindful of their environmental impact. This experience has also inspired me to explore research opportunities related to climate change and public health, bridging the gap between environmental sustainability and human well-being.

2. **Any notable achievements, success stories, or testimonials from the above-mentioned activity-1 you have worked?** (Paragraph- Maximum 150 words)

Although I have not led any large-scale initiatives, my friends and I are committed to sustainable practices in our daily lives. We consciously avoid using plastic bags, minimize waste, conserve energy, and promote eco-friendly habits within our communities. By leading by example, we have influenced others to adopt similar practices, creating a ripple effect of environmental awareness. Small actions, such as proper waste disposal and reducing energy consumption, can collectively make a significant impact. I firmly believe that change begins at an individual level, and these everyday choices contribute to a larger movement for sustainability. Seeing more people around me becoming conscious of their environmental footprint is an achievement.

3. **What challenges, if any, have you faced while implementing your learning? How did you overcome them?** (Paragraph- Maximum 150 words)

Fortunately, I did not face significant challenges in implementing my learning. I believe our generation is more aware and proactive about climate change and environmental sustainability. Many young people are actively involved in initiatives to protect the planet, making it easier to engage in meaningful conversations and encourage positive actions. The biggest challenge, however, lies in maintaining long-term commitment and influencing broader systemic change. While individual actions are crucial, larger policy shifts and institutional efforts are necessary for a sustainable future. I remain hopeful and committed to contributing to this movement in any way I can, whether through research, advocacy, or awareness campaigns.

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		Total	Means of verification (Upload Social media link, video link, link of Pictures, publication link, FGD notes, attendance, any other relevant documents etc.)
		Women	Men		
NA					
Total					

Visual Documents

1. **Photo Gallery with captions**

NA