

ICCCAD Youth Fellowship Alumni Report 2024

Personal Information

Name: Arpita Das

Fellowship Batch (Year): 2024

Contact Information

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Current Location (Upazila and district): Savar, Dhaka.

Current Occupation/Role: Student

Fellowship Experience

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

During the ICCCAD fellowship, I developed critical skills in climate change advocacy and project management. I learned how to analyze and influence climate policies, focusing on the intersection of global issues and local realities. A key lesson was the importance of collaboration across sectors to address complex environmental challenges. I also gained confidence in public speaking, enabling me to effectively communicate climate concerns to diverse audiences. Additionally, I improved my problem-solving abilities, particularly in designing and implementing community-based solutions to climate change. The fellowship helped me realize the significant role youth can play in driving climate action.

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

The climate policy and governance workshop was particularly impactful, as it deepened my understanding of how climate policies are formed and implemented. The hands-on exercises helped me develop the skills to draft policy recommendations, giving me a practical perspective on advocacy work. The field visit to a climate-affected community was equally influential, offering me a firsthand look at the struggles people face due to climate change. This visit underscored the importance of localized, community-driven solutions. Both activities were crucial in shaping my approach to climate action and helped me understand the importance of bridging policy with on-the-ground realities.

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.).

Since completing the fellowship, I've applied my skills to several initiatives. I led a climate awareness campaign targeting youth in my community, focusing on the effects of climate change and the importance of sustainable practices. The campaign included workshops, informational sessions. Additionally, I initiated a collaboration with local environmental organizations to promote the hygiene and safety of women and children in coastal areas, helping them access cleaner, more affordable alternatives.

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

One notable success from the climate awareness campaign was the positive feedback I received from participants, particularly from women and teen attendees. Many expressed how the workshop changed their perspectives on climate change and inspired them to take action. Their actions reflect the long-term impact of the campaign and demonstrate the power of grassroots initiatives. The community has become more engaged in addressing climate change, and the positive responses have shown me that even small-scale efforts can lead to significant change.

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

One of the challenges I faced was convincing community members of the urgency of climate action, especially those who were initially skeptical about the severity of climate change. To overcome this, I tailored my approach by using local examples of climate impacts. I also collaborated with local leaders and influencers to build trust and help convey the message. Through this, I was able to create a platform for open discussions and encouraged participants to think about how climate change directly impacts their lives. By relating the issue to their everyday experiences and needs, I was able to increase engagement and motivate action. Persistence, combined with strategic partnerships, proved essential in overcoming initial resistance.

Impact of your work

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/Activit	Locati on	Number of people reached		Tot	Means of verificati on
		Wom	M		

ies	(distri ct)	en	en	al	(Upload Social media link, video link, link of Pictures, publicati on link, FGD notes, attendan ce, any other relevant documen ts etc.)
Awareness Campaign	Feni	09	03	12	

Total - 01					

Visual Documents

Photo Gallery with captions