

# ICCCAD Youth Fellowship Alumni Report 2024

## Personal Information

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2. **Fellowship Batch (Year):** 2024
3. **Contact Information:**
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  - **Current Location (Upazila and district):** Chittagong
4. **Current Occupation/Role:** Student

## Fellowship Experience

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

My fellowship was an invaluable, real-world learning experience, specifically because that was my first time taking part in Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). This was an unforgettable experience. The most important thing I learned was how crucial it is to establish and maintain solid bonds with people from different backgrounds. Maintaining all kinds of communication perspectives and personalities sharpened my abilities to promote inclusive teamwork. The FGD itself was an interpersonal dynamics master class. I developed my ability to actively listen, which involves hearing and comprehending other people's viewpoints. This highly enhanced my interpersonal skills, particularly when it came to express my own opinions in a polite and straightforward manner. It taught me how to connect with diverse points of view, even when they diverged from mine. Also, because we faced unforeseen obstacles and had to collaborate to come up with innovative solutions, the fellowship highlighted the value of flexibility and problem-solving skills. I now feel more confident in my capacity to work well with others, persuade others, and make a significant contribution to a team as a result of this experience.

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

Throughout my volunteer work, I participated in many field visits, but this one sticks out as having had a special impact. It created a special interaction between learning in classes and real-life usage, which I had never before fully experienced. I learned insights from spending time in the city and its surroundings that went beyond what I could have learned from a textbook or lecture. Speaking with community members directly, learning about their viewpoints, and listening about their everyday life gave me a wealth of information that struck a deep chord. This was more than merely observing; it was actively participating in the community's realities, which promoted empathy and a greater comprehension of the difficulties they experience. It was both humbling

and encouraging to see how resilient and resourceful they were in the face of these difficulties. This field trip strengthened my resolve to help create a more just and sustainable future by giving me a concrete link between my academic endeavors and the practical difference I want to make. It turned intangible ideas into tangible realities, which made the fellowship experience priceless.

## 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)

I'm currently working to put the information and abilities I obtained throughout my fellowship into our initiatives Dream Shelter Foundation (DSF), with an eye on our key SDGs: peaceful, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), quality education and climate change. However I have not yet started any significant activities, I am trying to implement the learnings and understanding I acquired during the fellowship, I'm trying to create a more inclusive and cooperative work atmosphere at DSF where everyone's opinions are respected and heard. Moreover, I'm learning about how climate change affects access to high-quality education and how both are related to SDG 16. I now approach community development with a more strategic mindset and a revitalized sense of purpose.

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

However, I do not have any notable activities of my own yet; the abilities and understanding I gained volunteering with the Green Edit team during the fellowship have been invaluable. Their study, which examined the effects of teak monoculture in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, included my contribution. This event provided a concrete link between the environmental issues I was learning about during my fellowship and actual environmental issues. I obtained hands-on experience in sustainable land use studies, data collection, and community participation while collaborating with the Green Edit team. Specifically in the setting of monoculture production, I saw personally the difficulties in striking a balance between environmental protection and economic development. One of the most important lessons I learned from my fellowship was the value of interacting with local communities and taking into account a variety of viewpoints while tackling environmental concerns. Even though I wasn't yet fully incorporating what I had learned from my fellowship into DSF, my involvement with Green Edit was a great first step that gave me real-world perspective and strengthened my resolve to work toward sustainable solutions. It also illustrated the effectiveness of teamwork in tackling difficult environmental issues.

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

For me, the most difficult things I found during my fellowship was my background in Human Resource Management (HRM) with the environment-related focus of many of the projects. As a non-major in environmental science or related subjects, I initially found it challenging to the technical facets of some of the conversations and activities were originally difficult for me to understand. To overcome this, I read extensively on relevant topics, and engaged in conversations with experts in the field. I also leveraged the diverse expertise within the fellowship cohort, asking

questions and learning from those with different backgrounds. This proactive approach to self-education allowed me to gradually build my understanding of the environmental context and apply my HRM skills more effectively. I learned to focus on the human element within environmental projects, using my expertise in communication, collaboration, and organizational development to facilitate effective teamwork and community engagement, even when the specific environmental science was new to me. Asking inquiries and picking up knowledge from people with different experiences allowed me to take use of the fellowship cohort's diversified expertise.

### 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		
<b>Total</b>					

### Visual Documents

1. **Photo Gallery with captions**