

# Youth Fellowship Program 2018-2019

(PUKAR's Fellowship accredited by Tata Institute of Social Sciences)

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

### General:

**1. What is the PUKAR's Youth Fellowship Course?**

PUKAR's Youth Fellowship is an eleven month long group research fellowship program. It is an opportunity to understand and practice 'participatory research' first hand. PUKAR provides mentoring and all research related support throughout the year. The fellowship is designed for youth who are currently working or studying but are passionate for doing something constructive in their available time. Fellows are required to work in a group and have the freedom to choose their research topic with the consultation of PUKAR facilitators.

**2. What is the purpose of this fellowship?**

We believe that anyone and everyone can do research; in fact, we strongly advocate that it should be the right of every individual. Specifically, we believe that 'participatory research' holds huge potentials to change our society and build a cadre of collaborative leaders. Therefore, the overall aim of this fellowship is to transform individuals and communities into critical thinking beings.

**3. How is this year's fellowship different from PUKAR's previously run Youth Fellowship program?**

The workshops and research process of this year is the same. This year's fellowship is a new avatar of the program. This program is accredited by Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Read on for more details in the program leaflet.

**4. Where this program is located?**

Currently, the fellowship program is located and functioning in Mumbai. We accept applications from groups based in the city only.

**5. What does a TISS accreditation mean?**

TISS accreditation means that the fellowship is recognised and acknowledged by Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. It also means that a successful candidate will receive certificate jointly signed by TISS and PUKAR.

**6. Does this mean that I have to attend classes at TISS?**

No. All the workshops and group meetings will be held in Bandra and Goregaon or any other meeting place as decided in consultation with group members and facilitators.

**7. If the course is accredited by TISS, will TISS professors teach us?**

Each workshop is conducted by different resource persons. For some sessions the resource person are faculty of TISS.

**8. What will be my take away at the end of the process?**

If you have adhered to the attendance and successfully completed the process, you will receive a certificate from PUKAR accredited by TISS. You will have a research project compiled by your group and will be trained in participatory research.

**Learning:**

**1. What skills will I learn in the fellowship program?**

Youth Fellowship is a carefully designed program where each individual will go through an intense process of self-exploration, understanding and practicing ‘participatory research’ and group work. Fellowship process emphasizes on core components of self-development (namely communications, participation, team work, collaborative leadership and critical thinking). Perspective building sessions on important concepts like Caste, Religion, Gender and Governance will also be conducted. Overall, it is an experiential learning process where equal importance is given to learning skills/concepts in the workshop settings and testing/ practicing those in the field. ‘Praxis’ is an integral part of fellowship. At the end, each group will produce original research report which will be showcased at various platforms.

**2. Who will decide our research topic?**

Your group will decide topic with the consultation with PUKAR facilitators. Topic should be linked with your own community or your life experiences. No need to have a prior final topic for selection in the process.

### **3. Will I get certificate at the end of the year?**

Yes. At the end of the year, each fellow will receive an individual certificate for the successfully completion of the research program. However, we have strict rules about fellow's participation and attendance during various activities in the fellowship year. Only those fellows who meet these requirements will receive a certificate. The certificate is accredited by Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

### **4. Where can I know more about this fellowship and PUKAR?**

PUKAR have official website and Facebook page. Also, you can read Stories of our Barefoot Researchers at our blog. All the links are given below. You can also visit PUKAR office, with a prior appointment.

Web: [www.pukar.org.in](http://www.pukar.org.in)

Youtube: [www.youtube.com/PUKARorg](http://www.youtube.com/PUKARorg)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pukarindia](http://www.facebook.com/pukarindia)

Blog: [www.azadkhayaal.wordpress.com](http://www.azadkhayaal.wordpress.com)

## **Eligibility:**

### **1. Who can apply for this program?**

Anyone who is above 18 years and below 35 years of age and has completed class 10<sup>th</sup> is eligible for this fellowship. Having a group of at least 08 to 10 members is a mandatory criterion.

### **2. I do not have group, can I still apply?**

Your application will not be considered if you don't have a group of 08-10 members at the time of application. However, if you have at least 5-6 members and if you are in process of connecting with more members, we *may* consider your application. However, it is mandatory to have whole group at the time of interview process.

### **3. Is there any age limit?**

Yes. You and your group members must be in the age of 18 to 35 years.

### **4. What is the duration of the fellowship program?**

Fellowship cycle will run from June 2018 to May 2019

**5. Do potential fellows need to be fluent in English?**

No, English is not at all necessary. All the trainings and co-ordination will be conducted in Hindi. We always encourage fellows to express in their own comfortable language.

**6. What educational background/experience do I need to be a PUKAR fellow?**

Each member of the group should have completed class 10<sup>th</sup> to be able to apply for this program. Enthusiasm, curiosity and time commitment is expected from each applicant.

**7. What are the admission fees?**

There is no admission or other fees involved in the program. If your group is selected, all the costs will be covered in program. In addition to the basic training cost, PUKAR also provides a limited Research Fund to each group.

**8. Is it fulltime fellowship/course? Can I study/work along with this fellowship/course?**

No, it is not fulltime. Groups are expected to attend 4 residential workshops and few one day workshops in selected months. All the trainings will happen only on Sunday's either in Bandra or Goregaon. Groups are expected to meet twice a month for their own regular updates and planning. A facilitator, assigned to each group, will meet with each group twice a month.

**9. Will I get stipend/allowances from this fellowship?**

No. PUKAR does not provide any individual remuneration, stipend or allowances to any fellow. However, PUKAR understands that conducting a research is an expensive process. Therefore, we have arranged small research fund for each group.

**10. What is research fund and how much?**

Research fund is a limited amount given by PUKAR to each research group. This amount is mandated to use for research purpose only. All the basic expenses need to be covered from this amount. PUKAR will give this amount in equal instalments, thrice a year, upon the successful completion of each phase. This year's research fund is 33,000 rupees only.

**Application and selection:**

**1. How do I apply for this program?**

You can apply in two ways.

First Online- Download application forms from PUKAR's website ([www.pukar.org.in](http://www.pukar.org.in)) and fill Part 1 of the form as a group and Part 2 for the form individually. Submit all applications

together or as an attachment to the email written to the Youth fellowship team. Keep subject line as Youth Application to PUKAR Fellowship 2018-2019. Contact email id is [pukar@pukar.org.in](mailto:pukar@pukar.org.in) only.

Second - Collect application forms from PUKAR office and fill them as a group and individually and submit back to Youth Fellowship team. All the applications needs to be put in one big envelope, subject should be 'Application to PUKAR Fellowship 2018-2019' written clearly on front side.

**2. When does application process start?**

The application deadline is 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. Interviews will begin soon after submission of the application.

**3. What are the steps of the selection process?**

There are two steps involved in selection process. First Step- Submission of your group's application forms on time and then appearing for personal interviews at allocated time in March, 2018.

**4. What information is required as a part of the application?**

Application form is simple and short (at least that's what we think ☺). It is in Hindi, but you are encouraged to fill it in your comfortable language. Our team is comfortable in Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi and English. You are required to write in detail, incomplete applications will not be considered.

**5. Where will get application form?**

Either from PUKAR website ([www.pukar.org.in](http://www.pukar.org.in)) or from PUKAR office, PUKAR (Partners for Urban Knowledge Action and Research) 272, Municipal Tenements, BMC Colony, Shivaji Nagar, Kher Wadi Road, Bandra – East, Mumbai – 400 051 (Closest land Mark: Shivaji Nagar Police Chowki) Office Telephone Numbers: +91 22 2647 4870, 6574 8152

**6. Can I fill my form in Hindi or Marathi?**

Yes, absolutely.

**7. Do I need to attach other documents with application form?**

No.

**8. Can I send my application by post or in person?**

Both are fine. Keep deadline (March 15, 2018) in mind.

**9. When will I hear about my selection?**

Final results of the selection will be announced on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. Actual fellowship cycle will start from June, 2018.

**10. Who do I contact if I have any trouble with the application process?**

Write to us at [pukar@pukar.org.in](mailto:pukar@pukar.org.in) or call PUKAR office (+9122 26474870, +9122 65748152) and talk to Youth Fellowship Team for any support.