

# Future Leaders Fellowship

## Project Proposal

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### Executive Summary

The Future Leaders Fellowship (FLF) is an innovative three-month program to empower 600 students from grades 5 to 7 in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. This fellowship aims to cultivate conscious leaders for the 21st century, focusing on critical issues of Climate Change, Gender Equality, and Mental Health. Through advocacy, education, and collaboration, the program will equip young minds with the skills and knowledge necessary to address these interconnected global challenges at a local level.

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## 1. Project Overview

### 1.1 Mission Statement

FLF empowers Jalgaon's youth to become leaders through advocacy, education, and collaboration, preparing them to tackle the pressing issues of climate change, gender inequality, and mental health in the 21st century.

### 1.2 Program Duration and Scope

- Duration: December 2024 to February 2025 (3 months)
- Target Audience: 600 students from grades 5 to 7
- Location: 10 selected schools in Jalgaon City and its periphery

### 1.3 Key Stakeholders

- Aapan Foundation
  - YOGI (Youth Organization for Green India)
  - Jalgaon District Administration
  - Jalgaon Municipal Corporation
  - Participating schools, teachers, and parents
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## 2. Rationale

The 21st century presents unprecedented challenges that require a new generation of leaders equipped with critical thinking skills, social responsibility, and collaborative abilities. The FLF program addresses this need by focusing on three crucial areas:

### 2.1 Climate Change

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society. By educating young people about climate issues, we can create a generation of environmentally conscious leaders who can drive sustainable practices in their communities.

## **2.2 Gender Equality**

Despite progress, gender inequality persists globally. The World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2023 estimates that it will take 131 years to close the global gender gap at the current rate of progress. By addressing gender issues early, we can foster a more equitable society.

## **2.3 Mental Health**

The WHO reports that 10-20% of children and adolescents worldwide experience mental health conditions. By focusing on mental health awareness and support, we can create resilient leaders who prioritise well-being in their communities.

## **2.4 Local Action, Global Impact**

While these issues are global, their impact is felt locally. By investing in Jalgaon's youth, we can create a ripple effect of positive change that starts at the community level and expands outward.

## **2.5 Alignment with National Education Policy (NEP)**

The FLF program strongly aligns with the NEP's emphasis on holistic development, experiential learning, and 21st-century skills. This alignment ensures that the program complements and enhances the formal education system.

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# **3. Program Structure**

## **3.1 Workshop Schedule**

- Nine offline workshops for selected fellows
- Nine online workshops for selected fellows
- One awareness session for the whole school
- Three sessions with teachers (two offline, one online)
- Three sessions for parents (one offline, two online)
- One intra-school level offline workshop for fellows

## **3.2 Learning Materials**

- Customised booklets for a better understanding
- Support materials for activities

## **3.3 Curriculum**

18 different modules covering climate change, gender equality, and mental health, incorporating experiential learning with a focus on fun and engagement.

### **3.4 Future Leaders Summit**

A culminating event in March 2025 to celebrate learning and share insights with the public through exhibitions and presentations.

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## **4. Program Methodology**

### **4.1 Experiential Learning**

Hands-on workshops, field visits, and simulations will provide students with real-world experiences, aligning with the NEP's emphasis on learning by doing. For example, students might participate in local reforestation efforts or conduct energy audits of their schools to understand climate action practically.

### **4.2 Holistic Development**

The program addresses environmental, social, and emotional dimensions by focusing on climate change, gender equality, and mental health. Activities will be designed to foster empathy, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

### **4.3 Skill Development**

Leadership skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication abilities will be honed through various activities. For instance, students might organise awareness campaigns or participate in debates on gender issues to develop their communication and advocacy skills.

### **4.4 School and Home Integration**

The program creates a comprehensive learning environment that extends beyond the classroom by involving both teachers and parents. This approach ensures continuity of learning and reinforces the importance of these issues in all aspects of the student's lives.

### **4.5 Peer-to-Peer Learning**

The intra-school workshops will encourage knowledge sharing among fellows, fostering a collaborative learning environment and building a network of young leaders.

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## **5. Impact and Evaluation**

### **5.1 Expected Outcomes**

- ➔ Increased awareness and understanding of climate change, gender equality, and mental health issues among participants
- ➔ Improved leadership and critical thinking skills
- ➔ Enhanced community engagement and action on these issues

- Positive behavioural changes in participants' daily lives

## **5.2 Evaluation Methods**

- Pre and post-program surveys to measure knowledge gain and attitude changes
- Tracking of student-led initiatives and projects
- Feedback from teachers and parents on observed behavioural changes
- Long-term follow-up to assess the program's impact on participants' academic and personal development

## **5.3 Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)**

- Number of student-led initiatives on climate, gender, or mental health issues
  - Percentage increase in knowledge scores on critical topics
  - Number of schools adopting sustainable practices post-program
  - Improvement in gender attitudes and behaviours as reported by teachers and parents
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# **6. Sustainability and Scalability**

## **6.1 Pilot Study**

This initial program will be a pilot study, providing valuable insights for future expansion. Data collected will be used to refine the curriculum and methodologies.

## **6.2 Expansion Plan**

Based on the pilot's success, the program aims to expand to more schools across Maharashtra, potentially reaching thousands more students in the coming years.

## **6.3 Resource Development**

Creating comprehensive learning materials and facilitator guides will enable easier replication and scaling of the program.

## **6.4 Partnerships**

Collaborations with local government bodies and educational institutions will be sought to support the program's expansion and ensure its long-term sustainability.

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## 7. Timeline

1	Preparation	(September - November 2024)	Finalise school selections and partnerships
			Develop curriculum and learning materials.
			Recruit and train facilitators and interns
2	Implementation	(December 2024 - February 2025)	Conduct workshops and sessions as per schedule
			Ongoing monitoring and feedback collection
3	Culmination and Evaluation	(March 2025)	Organise Future Leaders Summit
			Conduct post-program surveys and evaluations
4	Reporting and Planning	(April - May 2025)	Analyse program data and prepare the final report
			Develop recommendations for program expansion.

## 8. Budget

	Details	Amount	Remark
Human Resources	Project Coordinator	₹75,000	(₹25,000 x 3 months)
	Project Manager	₹60,000	(₹20,000 x 3 months)
	Facilitators	₹60,000	(₹2,000 per session for 27 sessions + 9 parent/teacher sessions)
	Interns	₹1,20,000	(₹15,000 x 2 interns x 4 months)
	Content Creation Team	₹60,000	
Program Expenses	Travel	₹20,000	
	Stationery and Study Material	₹60,000	(₹100 per student x 600 students)
	Offline Workshops (Teachers and Parents)	₹50,000	
	Booklet Printing	₹1,50,000	
	Future Leaders Summit	₹3,00,000	
Operational Expenses	Emergency Fund	₹1,00,000	
	Outreach, Communication, and Website Management	₹25,000	
Total		₹10,80,000	

## 9. Conclusion

The Future Leaders Fellowship represents a unique opportunity to invest in the youth of Jalgaon, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time. By focusing on climate change, gender equality, and mental health, the program takes a holistic approach to leadership development that aligns with both global needs and national educational priorities.

This pilot program has the potential to create a ripple effect of positive change, starting from Jalgaon and expanding across Maharashtra and beyond. Through experiential learning, community engagement, and a focus on practical skills, FLF will nurture a generation of conscious leaders ready to tackle the complex challenges of the 21st century.

We are confident that with the support of our partners and the enthusiasm of Jalgaon's youth, the Future Leaders Fellowship will be a transformative experience for participants and a catalyst for meaningful change in the community.