

‘SBI Youth for India – Alumni Meet’

After four successful batches and providing 184 young and dynamic minds a platform to work at the grassroots, SBI Youth for India organized its first Alumni Meet on 17-03-2018. The event was conducted at State Bank Learning Centre, Jakkur.

The session started with Dr. Kalpana Gopalan, IAS, Chief Additional Secretary, and Government of Karnataka sharing about her experiences as an IAS Officer. In presence of Mr Farooque Shahab, Chief General Manager, SBI and Mahendra Kumar Rekhi, MD, SBI Foundation; the event focused on generating discussions between eminent guests and our alumni on the role of youth in developing India.

During the event, Mr Farooque Shahab, Chief General Manager addressed the other guests and SBI Youth for India alumni. In his inaugural speech, he spoke about his college days when he wanted to work for the farmer societies but due to family and society expectations he had to join the bank. Now-a-days, youngsters are getting platforms like ‘SBI Youth for India’ where they can work to uplift the communities and improve their living conditions.

Highlights of the event:

- A panel discussion on ‘Empowered Youth to Empowered Nation: Bridging gaps’ was held with panelists including Mr. Sudheesh Venkatesh, Chief People Officer, Azim Premji Foundation; Mr Porag Shome, Faculty, School of Development, Azim Premji University; Mr Basava Raju, Executive Director, Grassroots research and advocacy movement (GRAAM); Mr Venkat Sriraman, Co-founder and Executive Director, eVidyaloka; Mr Vikram Bhat, Director, Research and Advocacy, Dream a Dream and Ms Jayani Benn Heim, Executive Director, Lovedale Foundation.
- ‘Why youth involvement is important?’, ‘Do we have provisions to enable youth to work in the development sector?’, ‘Are we equipped to bring the empowered youth to work towards empowering our nation?’ – A few questions discussed during the meet. The conversations between the panelists and audience led to several ways to bring more youth power to work towards the growth of our country.
- As a tradition, SBI Youth for India releases a Coffee Table book which consists of stories from the fellows who successfully completed their fellowship year. For the batch of 2016-17, the CTB was launched today at the hands of Dr. Kalpana Gopalan, IAS, Chief Additional Secretary, Government of Karnataka; Mr Farooque Shahab, Chief General Manager, SBI and Mahendra Kumar Rekhi, MD, SBI Foundation.

About SBI Youth for India Programme

SBI Youth for India, the flagship programme of SBI Foundation, is a 13 month long fellowship programme that enables India’s brightest young minds to work on rural development projects with experienced NGOs.

The fellowship offers the best platform in the country to find solutions for rural India's most pressing challenges.

The fellowship was launched in 2011, in partnership with three reputed NGOs and 27 fellows of the pilot batch completed it successfully. After a review of its impact, the fellowship was scaled up and in September 2014, the second batch started. Presently, the fifth batch of 74 fellows have started their fellowship journey at 35 rural locations across 12 states of India in partnership with 6 NGOs namely BAIF development research foundation, Dhan foundation, Gram Vikas, Seva Mandir, AKRSP-I and Barefoot College. We have a strong network of more than 180 alumni, approximately 60 per cent continue to be actively involved in the development sector.