

Soochna Seva

More than 6 decades after independence, there is always a strange paradox which has persistently existing in India. Each year Indian government spend colossal amount of resources and money for the implementation of the welfare and social support programmes. Despite this effort, there is no proportionate improvement in the condition of the marginalized in India & identified districts under one of DEF's programme Soochna Seva programme i.e. Guna, Barmer, Tehri, Ranchi & West Champaran do not contradict the view.

With over 60% of the population unaware of their government entitlements the primary cause of which is lack of information at the right time. It is indeed a huge challenge on the part of each and every citizen to ensure an information empowered society in coming few years. A 22 years old women, Savitha, lost her life during delivery of her 1st child, because her family felt hospitals were expensive. 9 years old Nirmaya left school because there were no toilets and she was uncomfortable attending specially during her mensuration period. It is not easy to change the mindsets and obtain information as a right, so it takes more efforts to convince Savitha, Nirmaya and many more like them. This is just the snapshot of what it will take to bridge the information gap that delivers on the promise of empowered and balanced society that we seek. Are we ready to kick start this change? Trains & Bus stands, Parks & Schools, PHUs & Anganwadis, Gram panchayats & Municipal systems and so many are yet to build a robust information infrastructure of well maintained & well accessed Information bank. It is easier to choose not to start this change and make information rich society at all. A study under Soochna Seva programme has estimated that there is more than 40% of population who does not possess any Source of information at all and they need to be dependent on the information received from Gram panchayats, who according to a recent study in 5 districts of India only 14% of population claimed it to be accurate.

To overcome such gaps, Soochna Seva is a massive leap towards the realization of this cause & creating 240 foot-soldiers, a change agents within the society to address the cause at large. Let us be the first to admit that it would be a challenging endeavor, but information empowerment is certain. Soochna Seva fellowship programme is a national network of 240 change agents, reaching out to the last mile of the country. They will work immensely giving support to the households through the Information cycle from delivering information, advising on suitable schemes, guiding them through application process and relentlessly following up on the process, ensuring sustainability by inspiring and creating more responsible change agents within the community in order to accelerate the rate of development in the country.

Soochna Seva is looking for passionate young enthusiast to take up this challenge. Let us be realistic though, in order to realize the Financial & social costs of this kind of enterprise, so as not to set us up to fail again. Standing in a century where India is representing at international platform, we cannot afford information reach fiasco this time!

To apply for Soochan Seva fellowship, you can [click here](#).

