

“MY LIMITATION IS ONLY YOUR IMAGINATION”



NCPEDP - JAVED ABIDI FELLOWSHIP

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BACKGROUND

He hails from Sohrapur village of Jalaun District in Bundelkhand and grew up in a family of 6 members whose primary source of household income was largely agriculture. He is the first member in the family who is educated and has been supported to complete Masters in Social Work in 2023.

He was simultaneously working as an electrician in automobile companies like Tata to support his education. His only source of livelihood came to an end with the emergence of Covid 19 pandemic forcing him to return home from Jhansi. While he was working in Jhansi he came to meet Mr. Ashish Kumar, his mentor thereof, who used to be a frequent visitor at the workshop. It was a coincidence that he met him one fine day and he said “ where are you these days Javid? Are you on leave?” Javid replied back “No sir! I have lost my job and don't know how to make ends meet now”. Mr. Ashish was well aware of Javid being a graduate in Political Science and he proposed to join his organisation Yuva Shakti Sangathan as block coordinator to mobilise youth towards character building through sports events, art and music events, campaign on duties of youth towards nation building and similar others. It was a change in trajectory of his career as he says “This was the first job where people were having respectful interaction with me. I first felt solace in this space and started to see this as a viable career option”. In one of the events on scholarship he came to meet Ms. Bhanupriya from NCDHR who informed me about NCPEDP and the fellowship. She supported me with required online links and that is how I ended up joining the fellowship. “The first workshop helped me understand for the first time, the different types of disabilities that exist, laws and rights related to persons with disabilities, and disability movement. It gave me a route to a different direction and I was eager to work on it.

"My previous experience with youth had made it clear about the huge difference between their aspirations vs. the available opportunities, which led me to choose the topic of working on the status of inclusion of persons with disabilities in schemes supporting employment. In my personal experience as well . When I met with the accident leading to Muscular Dystrophy, I could not move and was hospitalised in Lucknow Medical College. I returned back home after one month and with the rehabilitation treatment there I could still manage to walk on my crutches. It was a long time away from home as well as education and then I decided to go back for my classes in college. A very close friend crossed my path and his first reaction was you are done for life Javid! Now your life is worthless! What will you do with it? I was so furious that I decided that very day and replied back to him " I don't know what I will do in life, But! Whatever you do I will do more than you and time will decide it". They did not interact for years until he saw the work of Javid getting covered in Media and came back to meet him " Sorry for that day! You have completely forgotten me? I read about your work in the newspaper; I think you will certainly make meaning out of your life"

PROGRESS OVERVIEW

NOVEMBER 2021 TO APRIL 2022

- He had never attended a workshop or knew an ounce of what advocacy is. What is inclusion for disability rights inclusion? Thus, the first workshop helped him understand evidence-based advocacy and the importance of networking, community mobilisation and data collection.
- He met the District Disability welfare officer, [Mr Shiv Singh](#) in January 2022 to inform him about the fellowship to attain a [letter for support](#) and gain data on disability affairs in the region. He apprised that he only has [data on disability pension's beneficiaries](#) which happen to be around 12,111 people in the district.
- The discussion extended into the gap between the [number of beneficiaries with respect to prospective beneficiaries as per Census 2011](#), which happens to be 31,251. So, he highlighted the discrepancy of data and corruption that comes into play.
- He then met the [Block Development Officer](#) to find data on the status of employment of PwDs who denied having any such records and expressed that District welfare officers might only have such data.
- He then reached out to Sharda Foundation, a local NGO working in the region and met [Executive Director Shiddhu Shivhare](#) on 10th February, 2022. Regarding insights on employment who again did not have any such record.
- He kept reaching out to other civil society organisations in the region like, [Yuva Shakti Foundation](#), [Jan Sahas Foundation](#), who work on youth development and migrant labourers respectively. They again did not look into the domain with an intersectional focus on disability and could not facilitate him with data. However, all these local organisations played a key role in understanding major stakeholders, reaching out to them like in identification of Gram Panchayats, namely Mahewa Block and Kadora Block for the intervention and also learning about interacting with the governance structure in such administrative units.

- He then reached out to Surendra Gulati Gram Pradhan Musmariya, and the ward members Rajesh, Atul, etc in February 2022 to apprise them on the activities intended during the fellowship who appreciated the work but on demanding for data of persons with disabilities he reacted “We dont require such data, so why should we keep it”. They also refused to give the percentage of persons with disabilities as per voter ID records.
- He then utilised a well established network of ASHA workers and Anganwadi centres who proved crucial given their door to door relationship with every family in the region. This worked to extend the outreach to families with persons with disabilities.
- At the beginning they were also sceptical of sharing such information so he reached out to a co-fellow, Mahavir and his mentor, Arun Kumar Singh whose experience helped him in establishing relationships with the concerned stakeholders. He started to have regular [community meetings and sensitization training](#), which he ensured to get covered in the media to establish his credibility.

MAY 2022 TO OCTOBER 2022

- He was simultaneously creating his study design which was refined with the help of NCPEDP and his mentor Mr. Ashish Kumar. Using methodology to understand the scenario of skill development and employment schemes in the region.
- He kept having community to help people understand the schemes and also collect information in the region.
- During the project he started to also keep himself updated on the Livelihood schemes and the initiatives being taken. He came to know about a PRERNA shop inaugurated by the Minister of Parliament Mr. Bhanu Pratap Verma, where he made the visit to understand market linkage of the livelihood model. It helped him also collect content which he started to use in community meetings to help the self help groups of women understand nuances of product development, price management and its promotion.

- He conducted further sensitization sessions specifically on RPwD act and its provisions to keep the community aware of the law and its basics.
- He wrote a letter to [NRLM Orai Jalaun](#) requesting permission to interact with the stakeholders in the Gram Pradhan.
- He also met [District Officer, UPSRLM](#) on 27 October, 2022 regarding data on target towards including PwDs in the skill development initiatives and how many PwDs have been trained in the previous financial year. He apprised him that 5049 was the target to train and 2408 were trained, but in the same we do not have disaggregated data.
- He followed up by [filing RTI](#) for, the above information was only shared orally. The response asked him to file RTI at all the district level.
- He then had meetings with [Jan Sahas](#), [Yuva Shakti](#), and [Akhil Bhartiya Viklang Parishad](#) in August and November 2022. to establish his relationship to use the collaboration for better outreach given their established network with government executives and the community influencers. It was important for, like the community they also came with bias about him and his credibility. Regular interaction over time helped him attain a collaborative relationship which led to events in the future in partnership manner.

NOVEMBER 2022 TO APRIL 2023

- The time was used to [document baseline reports](#) after analysing the data collected previously.
- He aligned his focus to ensure inclusion of PwDs in the livelihood scheme. From the study, the results were obtained that 15% of the PwDs were self-employed 43.57% were seasonally employed, 41.25% were unemployed.
- The following were the [findings of the baseline report](#):
 - 1.10% were part of different livelihood schemes
 - 2.2.5% took training under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and RSETI.
 - 3.5% were under National Rural Livelihood Mission
 - 4.10% took loans from the government Banks
 - 5.15% were employed under MGNREGA

- So, he reached out to RSETI's director to learn about the training and proposed with him to conduct training with PwDs. He welcomed the idea and assured that if the community is mobilised then they will ensure to conduct such training.
- He also accepted the proposal and so that both sides understood each other he started to work closely with them to participate in their awareness sessions, sensitization workshops and training to have clarity on the model.
- He also did an online event on occasion of International Day of persons with disabilities to exchange ideas on region specific challenges and coping mechanisms used by other fellows situated in other parts of the country.
- The findings from baseline were shared with the District Disability Welfare Officer Mr. Praveen Kumar and Block Development Officer Mr. Sandeep Mishra. Their opinion was that they cannot act on the same unless it is shared with legislators or NGOs working on it. He argued that they can push the implementation of employment to which they suggested to reach the District Employment Officer.
- He met the District Employment Officer who was only interested in enlisting those companies in SeWayojan Portal, who are equal opportunities providers. None in the bureaucracy structure was looking at self employment and livelihood initiatives.
- In absence of bureaucracy using the findings to improve the governance and outreach of employment initiatives to PwDs, he started sharing the findings on social media ([facebook](#) , [twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)) and through local press. This helped in furthering the credibility of his work and led him to gain collaborations with civil society organisations in the region who earlier were not responding to him. They started to reach out to them on sharing the findings or even develop a project around it however due to lack of their credibility he did not pursue any project with them.

MAY 2023 TO OCTOBER 2023

- He continued regular sensitization with the community on laws and schemes related to persons with disabilities. He has conducted awareness sessions for the same.
- He extended his relationship with NABARD to understand further their intervention on livelihood and started to engage with SHGs under them to understand how many SHGs there are for PwDs. He found that they have only formed 5 SHGs for PwDs.
- He met 2 out of these 5 SHGs in Maheba and Magaraul, and found that they were not functioning as laid in the norms like irregular meetings, ill kept records and misutilisation of funds after they received revolving funds of INR 1,10,000.
- He inquired further with Viklang Sakhi, a member of an SHG who highlighted the same that sorry state for it was established to adhere to norms but they were not hand held on book -keeping, utilisation of funds or even having access to right formats of the records like rough sheet of cash flow.
- He raised the concerns with the members as well that such a usage of the group may also lead to closure of the initiative itself with the group.
- He also reached to RSETI to conduct their proper training but it has not worked out for RSETI conducts it in a centre reaching out to multiple groups at once while these groups want group wise training in the village itself which will escalate cost for RSETI.
- He is also formalising further groups; he has formalised one group who is in the process of receiving revolving funds
- He shared the ground realities, alongwith his findings and suggestions to MLA Gauri Shankar Verma on 1st November 2023 to push inclusion of persons with disabilities. He promised to reach out to the executives as well to further the implementation. He ensured to reach out to him continuously to finally have this meaningful discussion.

NOVEMBER 2023 TO APRIL 2024

- He arranged online training on employment for the disable person the with help of NCPEDP.
- He shared the ground realities, alongwith his findings and suggestions to MLA Vinod Chatuvedi on 23rd November 2023 to push inclusion of persons with disabilities. He promised to reach out to the executives as well to further the implementation. He ensured to reach out to him continuously to finally have this meaningful discussion.
- He give the memorandum to the City Magistrate on demand of Disable person.
- Shared the baseline report & findings and with the district magistrate MR. Rajesh Kumar Pandey.
- Shared the baseline report & findings and with the NRLM Block Level office.
- He shared the ground realities, alongwith his findings and suggestions to Central Minister Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma on 28th feburary 2024 to push inclusion of persons with disabilities. He promised to reach out to the executives as well to further the implementation. He ensured to reach out to him continuously to finally have this meaningful discussion.

MAY 2024 TO OCTOBER 2024

- He conduct the voter awareness camp and rally with the disable person on their rights.
- He create the Self Help Group for the disable person to increase their livelihood.
- Shared the baseline report & findings with the NRLM district head Dharmendra Jain. And ask for the SHG and Fund distribution.
- He shared the ground realities, alongwith his findings and suggestions to MP Mr. Narayan Das Ahirvar on 14th August 2024 to push inclusion of persons with disabilities. He promised to reach out to the executives as well to further the implementation. He ensured to reach out to him continuously to finally have this meaningful discussion.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- The formation of his own Self Help Group in 2023.
- M.L.A. (Kalpi) also committed to the Baseline report. I will put up this matter in the UP assembly during the session .
- He is actively working with A.B.V.P. (Akhil Bhartiya viklang prashakt) and Yuva Shakti Sangathan (Jalaun U.P.) which is working on disabled and youth rights .
- Trained the two people under the RSETI (Rural Self Employment Training Institutes) now they are self employed .

Please click on [Impact and Policy Change](#) for details



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EXPERIENCE IN THE FELLOWSHIP

- The fellowship gives him the opportunity to learn more about the disabled person and their problems, How they are suffering and facing ground issues.
- How can make the program and implementation on the ground
- He has learned how to conduct the baseline and surveys in the rural areas and also compiled the report and analysed the Data .
- The fellowship gave him the opportunity to properly prepare the presentation .
- The fellowship gives him the many manch and forums to present yourself and Put your voice and issues.

RESOURCES

Follow Javid's work on their social media

