



C4Y WATER 2021

CHAMPIONS YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME
An Initiative of Centre for Youth (C4Y)

FINAL REPORT

by
Centre for Youth (C4Y)

Supported by



Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation



Partners



FINAL REPORT BY CENTRE FOR YOUTH (C4Y)

REPORTING PERIOD: FEBRUARY 2021 TO DECEMBER 2021

**PROJECT TITLE: C4Y WATER CHAMPIONS YOUTH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME
2021**

Programme Duration

Overall Duration (months): 11 months

Start Date: February 2021

End Date: December 2021

Report submitted to:

India Water Partnership (IWP)

By:

Centre for Youth (C4Y)

Year:

2021 - 2022

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The report follows a detailed exposition of the successful implementation of Cohort 3.0 of C4Y Water Champions Youth Fellowship Programme in the year 2021. The team of Centre for Youth (C4Y) would like to convey sincere gratitude to all the partners, experts, jury members, mentors and the fellows for their support which resulted in a successful fellowship programme, despite under extraordinary circumstances posed by COVID-19 pandemic.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The experiential learning driven intensive fellowship was initiated by C4Y to foster and empower Sustainable Youth Leadership in the country and to build their capacities on developing sustainable solutions for water security & water resource management. The fellowship programme aims to empower young leaders by providing them with relevant and comprehensive learnings and work experience in the water sector. The vision for this initiative is to contribute in enhancing capacities, knowledge and innovations so that youth can explore disruptive concepts for reducing India's unrelenting water challenges with mentoring from sectoral experts. This Fellowship Programme was conceptualised by Centre for Youth (C4Y) in 2016. The organisation is a self-sustaining and not-for-profit organisation working for the welfare of the rural and urban youth.

Overall 18 young water managers and sustainability professionals from across India graduated as Cohort 3.0. The support was extended by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation for the second consecutive year for strengthening and scaling its reach. Centre for Youth also received overwhelming expertise, collaborations and associations from the prominent organisations in the country including from UNICEF, Tata Trusts, WaterAid, Save the Children, S M Sehgal Foundation, Centre for Science & Environment (CSE), Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), GIZ, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), J S Water Energy Life Co, Arghyam, and The Asia Foundation. The support of India Water Partnership (IWP) for third year in row is highly appreciated.

The C4Y Water Champions Youth Fellowship 2021 programme with focus on youth and water issues is scaled up to PAN India level from 2021. After an overwhelming response to 'the call for applications' early this year, Centre for Youth received 138 applicants, (62% female students and 38% male students) from all over the country.

In the course of six months of the fellowship, each young fellow has also participated in a three-day virtual orientation workshop, five #WaterSmartSolution Boot Camps and five documentation & communication workshops and a peer learning workshop. Overall more than 100 hours of online learning was integrated in the programme this year with 51 water sector experts. The fellows were placed with partner organisations for four months (instead of three months) in hybrid mode where they could experience a holistic 360 degree exposure to water concerns.

The fellows were involved in projects related to the themes of Access to Safe Drinking Water; Water Security and Availability; Groundwater Conservation; Rainwater Harvesting Systems and Water Literacy for Conservation for Integrated Water Resource Management.

The fellowship 2021 comprehensively enhanced knowledge and experience of the next generation leaders towards the goals of sustainability (SDG 6) and self-reliance. The commendable C4Y fellowship journey successfully completed with 18 Water Youth Champions in India as water managers and sustainability professionals.

1.0 PURPOSE

C4Y Water Champions Youth Fellowship programme 2021 with focus on youth and water issues reinforced C4Y's commitment to harness and promote capabilities of youth to develop sustainable water smart solutions to address the water stress issues in India. The key objectives of the fellowship are as follows:

- **To understand India's water concerns:** Raise awareness and social consciousness on India's pressing water concerns.
- **To engage with existing problems and solutions:** See first-hand the problems and strategies to deal with the water exigency in the country.
- **To evolve as aspiring young leaders:** Develop leadership skills among youth towards a sustainable future.
- **To support partner organisations:** Contribute positively in the non-profit partner's working processes.
- **To develop strategies:** Explore disruptive concepts for reducing the India's pressing water concerns.
- **To implement projects:** Research, ideate and execute the innovative water smart solutions.

2.0 CHRONOLOGICAL BRIEF OF THE PROCESS/ WORKSHOPS/ EVENTS

2.1 Call for Applications (February – April 2021)

C4Y Water Champions Youth Fellowship 2021 programme with focus on youth and water issues is scaled up to PAN India level from 2021. After an overwhelming response to 'the call for applications', Centre for Youth received 138 applicants (62 percent female students and 38 percent male students) from all over the country.

2.2 Selection of Fellows (April - May 2021)

The two-tier selection process was followed to shortlist the fellows for Cohort 3.0. The C4Y team followed week long rigorous interview process to shortlist 36 percent of the applicants for the virtual final round. An eminent eleven member's final jury interviewed the candidates online through three sub-groups.

2.3 Orientation Training Workshop (June 2021)

The three days Online Orientation Workshop of the fellowship programme was scheduled from June 23 to 25, 2021 for the fellows of Cohort 3.0. Overall, through 25 hours of virtual workshop focused on the contemporary integrated water resource management issues and the sectoral experts from eminent organisations deliberated with the young fellows. In the first day of the workshop, the Cohort 3.0, oriented the fellows about the fellowship norms. Whereas, the second & third day of the workshop focused on Government Schemes and Missions, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Urban WASH, Water Security and Climate Adaptation in Rural India, Local water champions and Water Wise Solutions.

2.4 Placement of Fellows (July – October 2021)

Following the orientation workshop, the fellows were placed for four months with the partner organisations. The fellows were placed with Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India; Arghyam; Centre for Science and Environment (CSE); India Water Partnership (IWP); GIZ India; J S Water Energy Life Co; S M Seghal Foundation; The Asia Foundation and WaterAid India. The mentors in the organisations provided intensive guidance to the fellows for working on their set of deliverables. C4Y team through telephonic, mails and SMS/ WhatsApp interactions, communicated with the fellows, and the mentors from the partner organisation and educational institutions.

2.5 Communication & Documentation Workshops (July – October 2021)

Following workshops were organised for the fellows:

S No.	Day and Date	Workshop Theme	Summary
1.	Friday, July 09, 2021	Writing Skills	C4Y flagged off the first workshop in the series of communication and documentation workshops in July 2021. The workshop was conducted by Ms Jyotsna Ray, a Senior Development Professional and Trainer was invited. She has more than 30 years of experience in capacity building and trainings. She shared insights on content writing intricacies during the workshop and especially focussed on the writing the 'project outline document'..
2.	Friday, August 13, 2021	Blogs and Case Studies	The second communication and documentation workshop was conducted by C4Y on Friday, August 13, 2021. Ms Kanika Khanna with 20 years of communication experience as a communications specialist, storyteller, strategist, and enthusiast was invited to conduct the workshop. She shared intricacies about effective and impactful writing and especially focussed on how to writing 'Blogs, Vlogs and Case Studies'.
3.	Friday, September 03, 2021	Short Films	To orient the fellows on short filmmaking, the third communication and documentation workshop was conducted by C4Y on Friday, September 03, 2021. Ms Akanksha Sood, an international eminent filmmaker, with a career spanning two decades on producing award winning films, was invited to conduct the workshop. She shared the steps of film making and other important pertinent details for making an impactful short films.
4.	Friday, October 08, 2021	Report Writing	The fourth and final communication and documentation workshop was organised on Friday, October 08, 2021. The session was taken by development expert Ms Meenu Ratnani. She described the key details that need to be kept in mind for writing a report. The report format provided in the deliverable document was discussed in detail in the session.

2.6 Watersmartsolution Boot Camp

In the efforts to create collective learning opportunities for the fellows, C4Y conceptualised #WaterSmartSolutions Boot Camps series for the fellows to develop an understanding of water resource management problems and solutions in the Indian context. The purpose of each two-day long boot camps was to enhance the fellow's learnings on water smart solutions and to engage them on existing problems & solutions. The sessions in the boot camps helped them to see first-hand the problems and strategies to deal with the water exigency in the country. The water sector organisations shared their organisation's initiatives, experiences, innovative water smart solutions and strategies with the fellows. Given below the details:

S No.	Date	Boot Camps	Summary
1.	July 22-23, 2021	#WaterSmartSolution Boot Camp 1.0	Overall, through 17 hours of virtual sessions, the speakers from eminent organisations UNICEF, Tata Trust, Plan India, Centre for Science & Environment, J S Water Energy Life Co and Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) shared their organisation's focuses, approaches, water smart projects, solutions & strategies. With interactive and engaging formats of the sessions, they also highlighted impacts and takeaways for the youth of the country.
2.	August, 23-27, 2021	#WaterSmartSolution Boot Camp 2.0	The fellows of Cohort 3.0 attended the World Water Week organised by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) with the purpose to get holistic understanding and experience on International WaterSmartSolutions and changing integrated water management landscapes in the world. The fellows participated in the sessions on water management, climate crisis, ecosystems, agriculture, finance, water security, policy and governance, human rights, sanitation and other themes. SIWI team oriented the fellows about World Water Week in two hour-long session on Monday, August 16, 2021 and encouraged their active engagement.
3.	September, 22-23, 2021	#WaterSmartSolution Boot Camp 3.0	Experts from Water Aid India, Water for People, Arghyam, S M Sehgal Foundation, WASH Institute and Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) shared their organisation's Water Smart Solutions and Strategies with the fellows.
4.	October, 21-22, 2021	#WaterSmartSolution Boot Camp 4.0	The final Water Smart Bootcamp for 2021 Fellowship was held for two days in the month of October 2021 via MS Teams. Sectoral experts - Mr Avani Mohan Singh, Executive Director, Haritika, Centre for Rural Development; Dr Subhajit Mukherjee, Founder, Mission Green Mumbai; Mr Ramveer Tanwar, Environmentalist, SayEarth; Mr Rakesh Kumar, Assistant Manager – Project (Health & Nutrition), Save the Children; Ms Nandita Baruah, Country Representative India, The Asia Foundation and Mr Krishan Pal Singh, Secretary, Gramin and Paryavaran Vikas Sanstha (GPVS). They shared about various water smart solutions and on-ground action.

2.7 Peer Learning Workshop (November 2021)

The fellows presented their final water smart reports on the following themes as per the pre-defined formats during the final concluding workshop. The themes for 2021 fellowship was (i) Access to Safe Drinking Water; (ii) Water Security and Availability; (iii) Groundwater Conservation; (iv) Rainwater Harvesting Systems and (iv) Water Literacy for Conservation. In the virtual peer learning workshop wherein the fellows presented their work and experiences, were held in two parts due to unavailability of the some of the mentors of the partner organisation. Enriching hard work of the fellows were showcased on November 15, 2021 and November 27, 2021. The mentors of the fellows appreciated the fellows' aspiration for learning and contributing to their organisation projects. The learning journeys of all the eighteen fellows was found to be satisfactory.

2.8 Felicitation Ceremony for C4Y Fellowship 2021

The certificate docket and the T-shirts were distributed after successful completion of the fellowship 2021 to 18 fellows.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Narrative Reporting on Results

3.1.1 Collaborative Programme: Centre for Youth received support consecutively for the second year in row from the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India for strengthening the reach and scale of the fellowship. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), J S Water Energy Life Co, WaterAid India and M Sehgal Foundation have extended whole hearted support for the second year also (2020 & 2021). India Water Partnership extended support for the third year in row. Arghyam, The Asia Foundation and GIZ India collaborated for the first time this year. The fellows gained mentorship for strategising and executing their ideas from partner organisations. Aligning with the prominent sector specialist organisations was critical and impacted the overall success of the fellowship. The immense knowledge and guidance was extended by the jury panel members, water sector experts and the educational institutions.

3.1.2 Virtual format leveraged: The fellowship strategically leveraged digital mode comprehensively. A robust digital call for application and online selection process by eminent jury panel & peer review led to the selection of eighteen admirable candidates of Cohort 3.0 from the premium educational institutions across the country. The series of orientation workshop, knowledge and learning workshops and boot camps were possible due to the online format.

3.1.3 Learnings sessions (orientation, boot camps and peer learning workshop): The fellowship ventured beyond contributing in water smart solution and the partners worked extensively with the fellows on building their capacities. With online learning going beyond boundaries, the knowledge dissemination sessions in the three-days of virtual orientation workshop, water smart solution boot camps and peer learning final concluding workshop, overall culminated in more than 100 hours of online learning and dynamic interactive sessions with 51 sectoral experts from across the country.

3.1.4 Innovative Water Smart Solutions mentored: The fellows were placed through hybrid format for four months (instead of three months) with partner organisations to work under their mentorship and guidance to contribute in development of unique and innovative water smart solutions. The key projects undertaken by the young fellows were - Sustainable urban water management; One state one water; Exploring nexus between groundwater and food security; Rainwater Harvesting System in schools and Anganwadis; Technological advancements for Hindon river in community engagement; Water literacy; Pathway to safe drinking water; Urban water management in Delhi; Water budgeting;

Decentralised sewage treatment systems; Surface water rejuvenation; Addressing water security; Low cost water conservation; Potable water to the marginalised communities; Fragility, complexity and development for integrated water issues; Rain water harvesting; Lake conservation and Shit Flow Diagram.

3.1.5 Developing young water champions and next generation leaders: The cohort 3.0 with 18 fellows aimed at empowering young leaders by providing them with relevant and comprehensive work experience in the water sector. The young Fellows have gone through an experiential learning curve in terms of knowledge and experience on water issues & concerns and evolved into confident future leaders who shall work towards nation building and sustainable future of India. The fellows also explored their strengths and leadership potential over the course of the programme through series of assignments.

3.2 Outcomes

The main beneficiaries of the programme were youth as aspiring leaders to be water managers and sustainability professionals. The fellows got exposure to water concerns and solutions for integrated water resource management as they learnt and implemented new skills & understanding. The other key stakeholders of the programmes were the partner organisations with whom the fellows were placed during the fellowship. The long-term impact of the fellowship programme would be on the non-government organisations, sector specialists, government organisations, academia and research institutions who will benefit with empowered youth, innovative water smart solutions and communication collaterals on the fellowship. The demonstrated outcome for 2021 fellowship included:

- Youth for creating a sustainable future nurtured
- Sustainable youth leadership developed
- Holistic 360 degree exposure to water concerns & solutions
- Innovative water smart solutions generated
- Youth in water sector empowered
- Confident aspiring leaders for nation building evolved
- Communication and documentation skills enhanced

3.3 Outputs

The fellowship in 2021 has achieved beyond the committed outputs because of the enduring support of all the partners.

Expanding Reach	Enhanced Knowledge and Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 + Students Reached • 50 + Educational Institutions Engaged • 138 Applicants • 18 Fellows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100+ Hours of Online Learning • 51 Prominent Experts & Jury • 36 Knowledge Sessions & Workshop • 10 Partner Organisations • 6 months of Fellowship • 4 months of Placement • 3 Days Online Orientation Workshop • 1 Final Concluding Workshops

4.0 DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION, CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED & BEST PRACTICES

The C4Y fellowship 2021 decided to follow hybrid approach. The workshops and the boot camps were organised virtually and the placement with the partners was in hybrid mode. The online mode brought together 51 prominent water sector experts from across the country who enthusiastically contributed towards capacity building of the fellows which could be only possible through virtually and the project implementation in hybrid mode provide on-ground experience to the fellows. The empanelled fellows by virtue of their enthusiasm, readiness to learn and determinate to face challenges, overcame the hurdles by digital mode. While some of the fellows could carry ground research pertaining to their projects while adhering to the safety norms and some could not due to travel and COVID - 19 constraints. The fellows worked regularly under the guidance of their mentors from partner organisations who also ensured that the lockdown or pandemic did not disrupt the learning and experience process of the fellows. All the intended outputs and milestones included the committed outputs were over-achieved and also well within stipulated timelines.

5.0 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

C4Y team developed a detailed monitoring system to oversee the implementation of fellowship programme as stated below:

- **Regular interactions with the partners and fellows:** Progress mapping with fellows, non-profit partners and educational institutions was done through telephonic calls, emails and virtual meetings.
- **Assessments of the fellows on pre-defined criteria:** List of deliverables with set timelines were assigned to the fellows. The fellow's performance was reviewed by all the partners and C4Y team through a pre-defined assessment criteria.
- **Online assessments:** Digital mechanism were develop to receive the feedback on all the online workshops and the boot camps from the fellows.
- **Regular guidance:** The fellows were constantly engaged to facilitate their learning process.
- **Monthly Reports:** Towards the financial contribution of the IWP, monthly reports and a final report were submitted documenting the month-wise progress.

6.0 RESOURCES

Centre for Youth contributed substantially in terms of its human and administrative resources for successfully strategising and implementing its home grown C4Y Water Champions Youth Fellowship programme 2021. The partner organisations have also enormously contributed their human resources as expert mentors to guide the fellows throughout their placements. C4Y received direct and in-direct (*in kind*) funding support from different partners as indicated in the table below:

Financial Resources Mobilised by C4Y	% of Contribution
IWP (Net amount received by C4Y)	8.0
Partner Organisations	37.8
C4Y	54.2
Total	100

ANNEXURE I: COHORT 3.0



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COHORT 3.0 OF 2021 FELLOWS

 <p>Aleena Thomas MSc Environmental Studies Department of Environmental Studies University of Delhi Placed with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)</p>	 <p>Ankit Kumar Verma MSc Environmental Science Division of Environment Science Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Placed with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)</p>	 <p>Aparna Siddharth Zode M.Tech Environmental Engineering Vivekananda National Institute of Technology (VNIT) Placed with S M Sehgal Foundation</p>
 <p>Ayush Tyagi MSc Water Science and Governance Department of Regional Water Studies TERI School of Advanced Studies Placed with India Water Partnership (IWP)</p>	 <p>Badal Chaudhary MSc Environment Management University School of Environment Management Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) Placed with Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India</p>	 <p>Chaitanya Raj MSc Environmental Studies Department of Environmental Studies University of Delhi Placed with WaterAid India</p>
 <p>Deepesh Deshbhratar MSc Water Policy and Governance School of Habitat Studies Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Placed with Arghyam</p>	 <p>Jitender Singh MSc Environmental Science Central University of Rajasthan Placed with GZ India</p>	 <p>Kritika Bahuguna MSc Environment Management University School of Environment Management Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) Placed with JS Water Energy Life Co</p>
 <p>Parul Ashodiya MSc Environment Management University School of Environment Management Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) Placed with WaterAid India</p>	 <p>Patel Kripalkumar Sureshchandra M.Tech Environmental Engineering Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNT) Placed with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)</p>	 <p>S Nivea MA Public Policy St Xavier's College, Bombay Placed with Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India</p>
 <p>Sandeep Kumar Singh MSc Water Policy and Governance School of Habitat Studies Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) Placed with WaterAid India</p>	 <p>Ujjwal Kandpal MSc Environment Management University School of Environment Management Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) Placed with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)</p>	 <p>Urja Vashishth MSc Environmental Studies Department of Environmental Studies University of Delhi Placed with Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)</p>
		 <p>Harshita Modi M.Tech Environmental Engineering Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNT) Placed with The Asia Foundation</p>
		 <p>Manika Saxena MSc Water Science and Governance Department of Regional Water Studies TERI School of Advanced Studies Placed with GZ India</p>
		 <p>Saadon Hussain MSc Environment Management University School of Environment Management Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIU) Placed with The Asia Foundation</p>



ANNEXURE II: WATER SMART SOLUTIONS BY AYUSH TYAGI PLACED WITH IWP



Technological advancements of Hindon river in community engagement





Issue-
Heavy pollution by anthropogenic activities

Reasons-Agriculture, industrialization, unplanned urbanization around the river banks

Catchment area-7083km²
Flowing cities-Meerut, Gazhiabad, Baghpat, Gautam budha nagar, Saharanpur, Muzzafarnagar

Innovative solutions /Scalablity



Independet Dashboards development



Organizing capacity building workshops



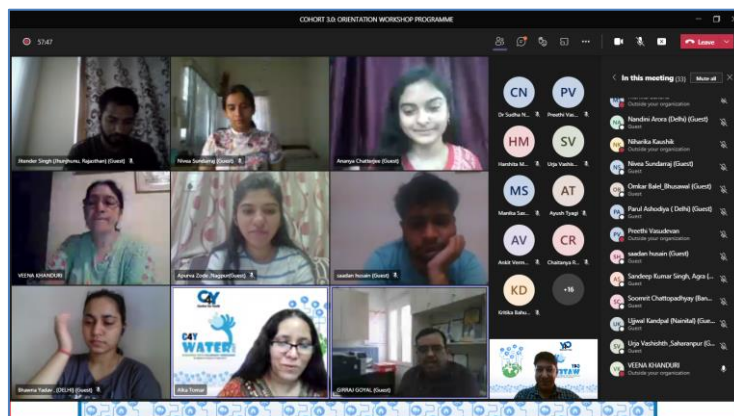
Regularly monitoring air and water quality

SAVE HINDON

Theme- water literacy for Conservation
Name of the designated fellow-Ayush Tyagi
Organization fellow placed-India Water Partnership
Mentor-Dr.veena Khanduri ,Ms.Pallavi Singhvi

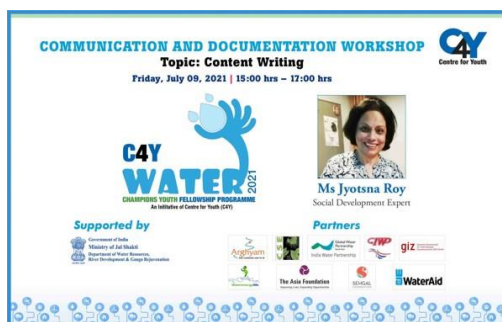
ANNEXURE III: SNAPSHOTS OF THE FELLOWSHIP 2021 JOURNEY

1. Online Orientation Workshop

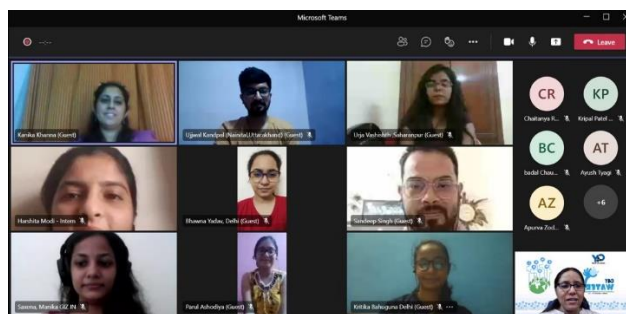


2. Communication and Documentation Workshops

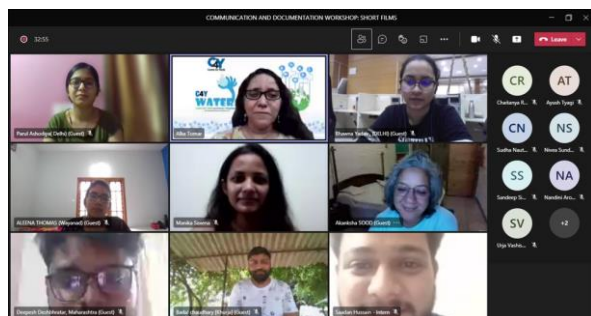
Content Writing



Blogs and Case Studies



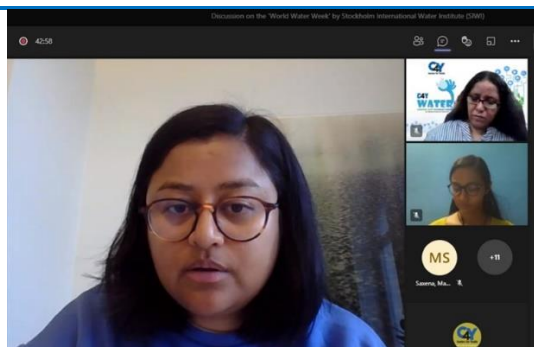
Short Films



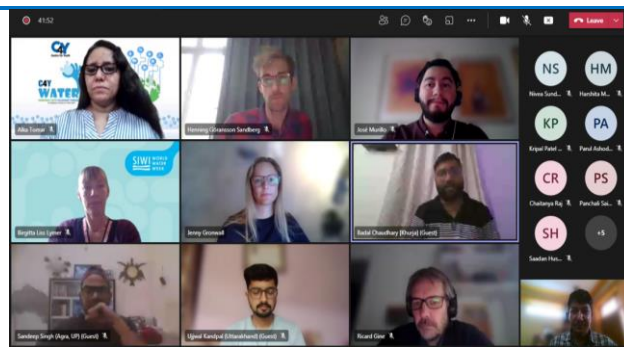
Report Writing



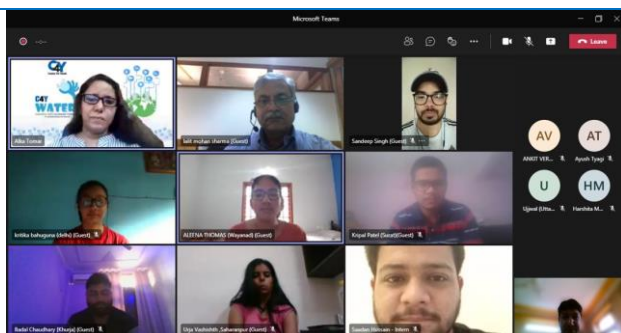
3. #WaterSmartSolution Boot Camps



Session about World Water Week, SIWI, August, 23-27, 2021



Session with SIWI, September, 22-23, 2021



Session with SIWI, September, 22-23, 2021



Session with Ms Nandita from The Asia Foundation, October, 21-22, 2021

4. Peer Learning Workshop



Workshop, November 20, 2020



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Fellowship Partners

Supported by



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River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation



Partners



New Delhi, India



/C4YIndia



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