Bhoomi College

Does our Planet beckon to you to be
- an eco-leader?
- a holistic educator?

Go back to exploring nature and studying it and guarding it for a more beautiful future.

Fellowship starting July 2022... Scholarships Available!
Bhoomi Fellowship

The time for deep systemic and personal transformation has arrived...

The current pandemic has made it clear to all of us that the interconnectedness between human and planetary health is undeniable. The goal for us as humanity now is to respect the systems in nature that make human wellbeing and ecological wellbeing possible. And to do this, as David Orr puts it, the planet needs “not successful people but more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers, and lovers of every kind. It needs people who live well in their places. It needs people of moral courage willing to join the fight to make the world habitable and humane.”

In the midst of every crisis, lies great opportunity. The need of the hour is to not only relook at our larger education and economic systems but also to reimagine learning and living for ourselves. Bhoomi College is a space that offers you the possibility of such a transformational learning journey - one that looks to heal ourselves, our local communities, our planet and our collective future.

The time for deep systemic and personal transformation has arrived.

Are you ready for it?
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Structure of the Programme

Bhoomi Fellowship is a six month programme that includes three months of course work, one and a half months of elective and one and a half month of internship.

There will be no exams! However, documentation, research, consolidation and end of module presentations is held with rigour. For the final presentation, fellows can submit their work as videos / short documentaries, stories, talks or workshops. Throughout the programme, collaborative work and group projects are the focus.

Admissions open for the next batch of fellowship
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How will you learn?

The fellowship programme is conducted in four learning modes:

- **Classroom Sessions**: Held for four months, these include presentations and interactive talks by pioneers and practitioners in education and sustainable living; presentations by students on books, topics, articles and projects of their choice; workshops on holistic thinking; self-exploration; and planning and discussion.

- **Field Trips and Learning Journeys**: Here, the focus is on experiencing and understanding land, soil and growing of food through visits to organic/natural farms, as well as the work of NGOs and other pioneering institutions and communities. Opportunity to learn by experiencing different learning and educational spaces and by interacting with the community. You and your co-travelers will design this part of the journey.

- **Learning Partnerships**: As a fellow in the programme, you will be a co-creator of learning, involved in active participatory processes. You will engage with real-life projects, organising events, collaborative work and hands-on activities, apart from secondary research and study on varied issues related to sustainability and well being.

- **Community Interaction**: The extended community of Bhoomi members includes learning partners, Senior Fellows, facilitators and friends of Bhoomi. This community helps keep alive the vibrancy of Bhoomi events and forms a meaningful context for learning through living.
The Bhoomi Campus is a beautiful space spread over 4 acres. It has been designed as a space for learning through living as a community. Fellows join in the activities in the garden and kitchen at least for an hour every day. 90% of the energy used for lighting, fans etc. is from the Sun. Composting, using organic soaps and cleaning products is a way of life.

Most buildings are built with stabilized mud blocks and tiled roofs or ‘filler’ roofs which use less concrete. Rainwater harvesting and black water recycling help minimize our water footprint.

Some of the interesting spaces on campus include hostel for residential accommodation, the office, the library and the 'Ananda' and 'Paramananda' halls, a 'Learning Kitchen'. 'Vasundhara', the dinning and meeting space is made with mud bags.

The neighbouring campuses of Prakriya Green Wisdom School and the Bhoomi College have more than a 100 species of trees and over 60 species each of birds and butterflies; and not to forget the uncounted number of shrubs, herbs, insects etc. that makes the campus rich in biodiversity.
The curriculum for the foundation module includes:

1. **Connecting with Self, Land and Community**
   This module is designed with the belief that the first lesson of sustainable living is for us to own up a sense of belonging and stewardship to the eco-systems we are a part of. It will include the following:

- **Activities on the Land & Community Living:** Participants will have the opportunity to connect with the land through the Bhoomi garden as they observe, work on and grow food as a community. They also dwell on understanding the significance of commons and community.

- **Holistic Enquiry:** This includes understanding how reductionist science and linear logic impacts our perception. Looking at Gaia Theory, Systems Thinking, Indic roots of sustainable living and Complexity Theory enables participants to engage with the holistic approach.

- **Inner and Outer Ecology:** This is a six day residential programme focussed on self-exploration in a group participatory process. Applying principles of Nature to human relationships and reviewing our patterns of thinking, feeling and behaviour. This helps participants obtain insights and opens up new area of discovery. Uniquely trained facilitators work in small groups of about ten individuals in a semi-structured, deep process of holistic enquiry.
2. **Food and Wellness**
This module focuses on building awareness about conscious eating and health. Connections are drawn between chemical free food and ecological living, also how food affects climate change. Participants will be involved in hands on sessions to learn recipes for healthy and safe food and commit to it as a way of life.

3. **Perspectives on Chemical Free Farming**
This module will focus on understanding and building perspectives on the need for chemical free agriculture and the link between chemical agriculture and climate change. The different approaches to ecological agriculture will be introduced. Through reading, discussions, interactions and hands on work participants will engage with possibilities in the field.

4. **Ecological Living in Urban Area**
This module examines the issues of relentless urbanization and whether the concept of regenerative cities can be made a practical reality; other areas that we will focus on are water and waste management.
5. Holistic Design for Living
This module focuses on looking at design through the lens of ecological sustainability. Participants reflect on the direction they wish to take and design their living accordingly. They work on a project proposal integrating the learnings from this module.

6. Equity and Economics
This module brings to focus the connection between the current economic model, environmental degradation and marked social inequalities. Experience of legal issues for environmentalism, human justice and equity as well as political process and governance, are shared by activists and experts. The social entrepreneurship module looks at making connections between individuals' intent, strengths and possibilities for meaningful social action.
7. **Life Space Design**
In this module we will explore the transition from Bhoomi back to real-world where you may want to start your own enterprise or sustain as an individual freelancer. We will explore how to design your life in a way that you are able to find your ikigai, how to design your offering / business and how to bring it into the world.

8. **Communication and Expression**
The fellows will learn from experts and practitioners the significance of various means of expression and communication. The module will give hands on experience of film making and writing as means of communicating stories in depth.
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Electives:

1. Holistic Education

- Do you think Education needs to be transformed to make it holistic, joyful and include hands-on learning that fosters sustainable living?

- Are you searching for meaningful ways to inspire children and adults to live wisely on planet Earth?

During the elective you will encounter possibilities to explore and learn about these and more:

- What is Education for? Questioning Macaulian Education
- Theories and Philosophies on Education by Indian Thinkers
- Holistic Learning – Nature’s Principles
- Sustainable Processes & Practices in a Learning Space
- Education for Well being
- Place Based Education
- How Craft supports sustainable living – working with hands
- Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Learning to be an effective facilitator
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Electives:

2. Livelihoods for a Sustainable World

- Are you searching for a meaningful career path that is good for you and good for the planet?
- Given the ecological disasters we face, are you looking for ways to be part of the solution and work with a sense of purpose?

You will have opportunities to delve deeper into these themes for transformative learning during the elective:

- Building on your strengths and discovering your vision for yourself.
- Social Entrepreneurship and careers that nurture wisdom.
- Scanning possibilities to contribute to sustainability.
- The importance of Localisation to deal with the Global Economic System.
- Connecting with Communities - and how ‘Giving’ fosters your wellbeing.
- Field Trips for Experiential Learning
- Learning to align your strengths with career path to contribute to a sustainable world
- Projects & Proposal writing for fundraising.
Participants need to take up an internship in areas that they wish to explore, with alternative schools, educational initiatives, NGOs, organisations, farmers or others engaged in meaningful activities working towards ecological living and holistic education.

**Assessment and Feedback**

- The soul of assessment we believe, ought to be the wish for the other to learn and grow. Participants are invited to make presentations, documentaries or reports for certain modules, on topics of their choice. The rest of the group including the facilitators may offer feedback and suggestions.
- Sincere effort, maintaining structure and boundaries, keeping the deadlines and regularity is expected and appreciated.
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Guest Faculty Members

Indira Vijaysimha  Dr. Erach Barucha  Kavitha Kuruganthi

Aseem Shrivastava  Bhargavi Rao  G Gautama

Ashish Kothari  Devinder Sharma  Kumar Anna

Bhoomi is grateful to all the guest faculty members who offer their time and wisdom; some of them are represented here.
I joined Bhoomi with an intention to unravel the trendy word Sustainability. Little did I know that I will be unravelling myself.

At Bhoomi I learnt and lived by the concepts of emergence, complexity and holistic thinking, inside a community which tries to bring out the best in you. This experience not only made me more aware, but also enabled me with tools, practices and ideas to be able to live in harmony with nature even in urban landscapes.

Bhoomi fellowship has been an experience that made me see things more holistically and gave me a wholesome understanding of myself and others. The fellowship widened and deepened my understanding of education. Meeting different educators and changemakers was inspirational. Learning as and from a community helped me look at things from different perspectives. Bhoomi is a non-judgmental space where authenticity and diversity are celebrated, where processes and rigor are more important than the end results place and where one can connect deeply with nature.

Being a product of the mainstream education system, and having spent 17 years in the corporate world, this was as much an unlearning process for me, as it was a learning experience. What started out as a quest for knowledge and expert guidance to shift into a “green” career, soon turned out to be a fascinating inner journey of understanding my own self, facing my fears and decolonising my own mind.

I came here in a hurry to figure out "what next". Bhoomi slowed me down, and I got much more in bargain. This is the space where I finally found my tribe. My wife and daughter have now become part of the Bhoomi family. The fellowship got over long back, but I never really checked out..
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Programme Fees:

INR 85,000 + INR 15,000
(course fee + refundable deposit)

The Fellowship Programme has been subsidised by KNA Foundation for Education.

We encourage people who are interested in being part of the fellowship but feel they do not have the resources, to apply and reach out to us. Bhoomi offers work study facility and partial scholarships to deserving students. Write to us if you would like to avail of these offerings.

We also encourage people to give more than the fellowship fee, if they are in such a position. Research shows that spending money on others makes you happier than spending money on yourself, even if the other person is a complete stranger. This is an opportunity for people to 'pay it forward' and be an active contributor to the continuation of the fellowship.

Scholarships Available!
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**Hostel Fees:**

Hostel facilities on campus are available on a twin sharing basis. Hostel facilities will be provided at the discretion of the Bhoomi College and as per its rules.

**INR 15,000 per month**
(accomodation: twin sharing + food)

*Please contact Bhoomi Faculty on bhoomicollege@gmail.com for further queries or visit [www.bhoomicollege.org](http://www.bhoomicollege.org).*