

The Young Professionals Programme

Anirudh Sharma

Anirudh is a post graduate in Forest Management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal.

He was actively involved in carrying out a research study on conservation induced displacement in Madhya Pradesh with ActionAid, Bhopal. Apart from this, he has also volunteered for Yamuna Bachao Andolan & “Bol Ke Lab Aazad Hain Tere”, a national level consultation on declining sex ratio organized by ActionAid, Bhopal.



Based on his strengths, competencies and area of interest, Anirudh has been positioned in the Livelihoods vertical in the State Mission Management Unit. At present, he is working on a pilot project for the development of sustainable goat rearing practices as an alternate livelihood option. In addition to handling the pilot in Yavatmal, he is also overlooking the goatery intervention in the districts of Jalna, Osmanabad, Nandurbar, Solapur and Gadchiroli. Anirudh is also working closely with a dedicated paravet cadre.

At IIFM, Anirudh was the event manager for ‘Enviro-Conclave 2012’, a national level event held to discuss various environment related topics, and lecture series by eminent personalities. Constantly on the lookout for new Information Technology tools, Anirudh’s passion came in handy during Maharashtra Rural Livelihoods Innovation Forum (MRLIF) in January 2014 where he assisted in the development of the initial UMED-MSRLM website.

A travel enthusiast, the opportunity to travel to new places was a major motivating factor for him to join UMED. He enjoys playing badminton and chess and loves to watch Formula One races. Apart from this, Anirudh also likes watching movies and donning the chef’s apron.

Himani Rajput

With a Masters in Social Entrepreneurship from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, Himani is a young social entrepreneur who is passionate about working for the cause of women empowerment

Positioned at the Wardha District Mission Management Unit of Umed, she is currently working with the Wardhini Cell. She is involved in training and capacity building of the Wardhini cadre.

A sportsperson, she has also won several awards for her college.



Md. Vasim N. Shaikh

Hailing from Solapur district of Maharashtra, Md. Vasim N. Shaikh has completed his Post Graduate Diploma in Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (PGD-WASH) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur.

In the course of his fieldwork as a student of the WASH course, Vasim has engaged with the issues of water, sanitation and hygiene and its impact on the living standards of the rural populace. He was also involved in developing Information, Education, Communication (IEC) materials such as slogans and posters.

At Umed, he has been posted as the Young Professional and WASH coordinator for Thane district.

His hobbies include karate and martial arts. Vasim is a blue belt in JKD and Taek-qwan-do. He has also learnt the basics of wu-shu and kick-boxing.



Mrugendra Mahendra Hambire

Hailing from the tiny village of Alewadi in the coastal region of Palghar, Maharashtra, Mrugendra completed Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) Social Work with specialization in Rural Development from School of Rural Development, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur. For his post-graduation, he opted for M.A. (hons.) in Social Work with Dalit and Tribal Studies and Action from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.



Not one to associate himself with any intervention without understanding the problem and the context in which it arises, Mrugendra is working as a Young Professional with the Convergence vertical of Umed. Positioned at the SMMU, he expects to work with the community to evolve context specific, community owned indigenous explanations of the issues/problems faced by the community members.

A strong supporter of the local and global movements that advocate equality, liberty, justice, peace and fraternity, and promote humanity, Mrugendra likes to keep himself updated with the latest developments across the world. He is a sports enthusiast and plays different sports, but football is his clear favourite. For recreation, he listens to folklore, Rap arts and Rock music.

Neha Sen

Neha holds a Masters degree in Women's Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai. Prior to this, she completed her graduation in Journalism (Honours) from Lady Shri Ram College For Women (LSR), University of Delhi.



At TISS, she got an opportunity to intern with Prerana, a civil society organisation working in the red light areas of Mumbai to prevent second generation trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation. During her graduation, Neha interned with The Times of India (TOI) and Doordarshan. Her stories appeared on the TOI website and her book reviews were published in the weekly special edition, TOI Crest. She also wrote for several student blogs and online papers, and was involved in the making of a student documentary film.

Her academic interests are in the field of gender and disability and its interactions with culture and media. At TISS, her dissertation was on 'Gendering the Disability Discourse : Exploring Disability Through Cinema'.

At Umed, she hopes to see how the policies and programmes of the government are implemented at the ground level, and understand the journey in formulating these. Attached to the Knowledge Management vertical at the State Mission Management

Unit, Neha is involved in designing, developing and disseminating various knowledge products, reports and documents. She wishes to use her time at Umed to address concerns of gender discrimination and inequality.

A voracious reader, Neha loves to watch movies and catch up with friends and family. She believes that music and dance are great stress-busters, and writes to make sense of the madness around her.

Prashant Satpute

Prashant has completed his Post Graduate Diploma in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) from School of Rural Development, Tata institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur.

He joined Umed with an interest to understand and tackle water, sanitation and hygiene related issues faced by self-help groups and village organizations. Positioned as the Young Professional and WASH coordinator in Solapur district, he has begun working in Mohol block, focusing on WASH Diagnostics among the SHG groups.

Prashant has been active in social service causes since childhood, and was a member of National Service Scheme (NSS).

He is fond of technology and loves exploring the newest developments in the world of technology. He also enjoys watching movies and playing games on his laptop. Prashant is also interested in capturing moments on his camera.



Raj Paul

Raj holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) from Tata Institute of Social Sciences and a Bachelor Degree in Integrated Rural and Tribal Development and Management from Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University.

He was involved in organizing and managing the National Youth Day in Ramakrishna Mission. Raj has also worked on a study report on the “Status of Rural Water Supply in Maharashtra” conducted for the Ministry of Water Supply and Sanitation, Government of India.



Posted as the WASH Coordinator and Young Professional at the Wardha District Mission Management Unit, Raj is working closely with five Village Organisations in the area, in their journey towards adoption of WASH practices.

He looks forward to learning new things and accepting challenges. Raj also likes to ride his bike and play badminton and football. Raj is fond of travelling and clicking photographs.

Rajnish Patel

Rajnish is a post graduate in Forest Management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal.

With a work experience of six years, he joined Umed as a Young Professional in May 2013. He has previously worked with Dell Computers in the Sales and Marketing team for four years, where he advised business clients on their IT hardware requirements, primarily looking at sales and marketing of Dell products to small and medium businesses.



Currently positioned at the State Mission Management Unit, Navi Mumbai, Rajnish is a part of the Non Farm Livelihoods/Marketing team and is working on marketing initiatives for SHG products. Previously, he was anchoring the pilot for People with Disability (PwD) in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra.

Apart from work, Rajnish enjoys skating and playing badminton. He has represented his school at the All India roller hockey championship and won the silver medal. He also enjoys watching movies and sports. Rajnish loves reading books on the economy, and spends his free time analysing and investing in stocks. He has a passion for trading in the derivatives market in stocks and nifty futures and options.

Sampurna Manik Lade

Sampurna completed her Masters in Social Work from College of Social Work, Nirmala Niketan. With a B.Sc. from B.N. Bandodkar College of Science, Thane, she worked as a medical representative in the pharmaceuticals industry for eight years.

Sampurna has also interned with Laya Resource Centre in Andhra Pradesh where she worked on a waste management project and horticulture interventions. At Nirmala Niketan, she was placed under the Aroehan project where she worked extensively with the tribal community at Mokhada. She has also worked as a village social auditor and observed the



implementation of MGNREGA from close quarters. For her Masters degree, she researched on *'The Perception of Farmers in Mokhada Regarding Changes in Significant Aspects of their Life due to Agricultural Interventions of Aroehan'*.

At Umed, Sampurna has been placed at the Nandurbar District Mission Management Unit and is working on the Nutrition pilot there.

Sanjay Kumar

Sanjay is a post graduate in Forest Management from the Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM), Bhopal. Prior to this, he has completed his graduation in Pharmacy from Birla Institute of Technology (BITS), Mesra, Ranchi and worked as a Man Power advisor and Production Officer in Alkem Laboratory Limited, East Sikkim.



He was actively involved in carrying out a research study on the feasibility of application of REDD+ mechanism for augmenting the forest development efforts of Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra Limited, Nagpur.

Sanjay is positioned at the State Mission Management Unit at Navi Mumbai. His main responsibility is to support the livelihood thematic in preparation of MIS and feedback mechanism for selective livelihood work for the districts. Before being repositioned at the SMMU, he worked on the pilot project for System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in Gondia (known for Gond tribes and NWE affected) for two years.

He was a member of the organising team of CSR-Conclave 2012, a national level event conducted every year at IIFM. Sanjay also got the opportunity to organize another national level event called 'PACE' – a pharmaceutical inter college summit at Ranchi during his graduation years.

He is quite fond of exploring new places and understanding human behaviour, which helps him in his work with the community. In his spare time, Sanjay also enjoys watching movies.

Swapnil Dhaykar

A graduate in Banking & Finance from Savitribai Phule Pune University, Swapnil has completed his M.A. in Social work with specialisation in Rural Development from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur.

At TISS, his field work was with the Centre for Rural Studies and Development, Hyderabad and Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration (YASHADA), Pune.

Positioned at the State Mission Management Unit, Swapnil is working as a Young Professional in the Non-Intensive cell, looking at MIS and M&E.

At TISS, he was the Secretary of 'PRAYAS -EK KOSHISH', a student initiative to provide exam related guidance to the children of the support staff. He was also the student co-ordinator for Ambedkar Memorial Lecture 2013-15. He facilitated visually challenged cricket matches in TISS, and is interested in playing badminton, Tabla and reading books.



Swapnil Tare

Swapnil completed his graduation in Hospitality Management from Viva College of Hotel and Tourism Management Studies, Virar. Later, he completed his Masters in Social Work from College of Social work, Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai.

After his graduation, he worked on students' issues through the Vidyarthi Bharti Sanghatna and was drawn towards social work. He has also worked in close tandem with the fisher folk in Saphale, and formed three fish selling womens' SHGs there.

He is currently positioned at the District Mission Management Unit in Thane-Palghar district, and has been placed in the coastal areas of Palghar to work on the Fisheries project there.

At Nirmala Niketan, he was elected the class representative in his first year of MSW, and was an active member of the Special Cell there and organized special lectures. Along with his friends, he also organized the Savitribai Phule photo exhibition there.

He takes a keen interest in understanding human behaviour which helps him in his work with the community. He also enjoys playing cricket and soccer, and watching documentaries.



Yatin Dhaktode

Yatin holds a M.A. in Development Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. A B.A. in History and Political Science, he also holds a LL.B from the University of Mumbai.

He has interned with MMRDA, MoUD, and his experience here has taught him the constant need to research, innovate and monitor at all levels as the same solution does not work for all. This learning inspired him to research on the issue of land acquisition for his dissertation at TISS.

Yatin is positioned in the Monitoring and Evaluation vertical of the State Mission Management Unit, Navi Mumbai. He is looking after the implementation affairs of the E-Book Keeping Pilot in Wardha District, in addition to looking into the online MIS system. .

He is a quintessential cosmopolitan and has an affinity for various arts. He is a student of Hindustani Classical vocal music and has participated in the “Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Natya Sangeet Parishad”. An active member and volunteer of the ‘Ustad Alladiya Khan Sangeet Mahotsav’, he has accompanied various accomplished artists on the Tanpura. He wishes to spread Hindustani Classical music among the masses, especially the youth, and hence collaborates with various cultural events that work for a similar motive. Yatin also enjoys watching documentaries and parallel cinema, go on nature trails, visit historical places and attend various concerts and plays.

