



# BAITHAK

## Baithak Fellowship Program

Aristotle once said, 'Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all'. This age old philosophical thought is critically important even in today's modern times. It need not be mentioned how philosophers, educators and artists for long have encouraged the pursuit of arts. Creativity and innovation are the magic words of the 21st century. Yet art education is always a luxury and thus an option available only to the few. Overwhelming focus on academic excellence is not only curbing creativity but is also creating a generation of highly insensitive and self-centred individuals. If creativity is the power to connect the seemingly unconnected, then art helps one see these connections. Art education has the potential to transform lives. Though art by itself may not change the world but it may change human beings who might change the world.

Baithak's residential fellowship program aims to provide art education to children from underserved communities who otherwise are devoid of the opportunity. Through the fellowship program, Baithak will appoint a fellow for a period of 1 month at a remote, residential school/educational institute in India to teach Indian Classical Music. Baithak will ensure that minimum 3 fellows are appointed at each partner school/educational institute every academic year.

**A. Beneficiaries of the Fellowship Program -** The design of the fellowship program ensures substantial benefits to all the stakeholders involved. The key stakeholders being:

### **Students:**

The program will provide year long musical environment to the students to learn, explore, and experience new concepts. They will learn the basics of music, its importance in our lives, the positive impact of music on one's attitude, mental condition, as well as intellectual capabilities. Apart from actual music, this month long engagement with the students will also aim to build sensitivity, discipline and grit through music.

### **Baithak Fellow:**

The program aims at providing a nurturing atmosphere to the fellow, to gain experience in teaching, experiment with different teaching techniques and musical content and analyse its outcome, as well as use that time to reflect upon his / her music, ideas and understanding. The fellow will have the opportunity to share their love for music and build interest in younger generation.

### **School / Educational Institute:**

The fellow's presence in the school may open up new dimensions in the education of students. The exposure provided to teachers, parents and other staff members may potentially change the way they interact with children and with each other. This will also affect the overall environment in the school.

### **B. Fellowship Program Structure**

The duration of the fellowship will be one year. Minimum 1 fellow will be appointed at a school/institute in a given academic year. The fellow will be available at the school/institute once every week for 45 such weeks.

**Program Goals** – At the end of the program students will be able to (depending upon the art form taught)

1. Maintain posture and practise multiple breathing exercises
2. Identify and sing sa by listening to the tanpura
3. Sing basic aalankars in swar
4. Identify different musical instruments and musicians
5. Recite compositions taught to them in proper swar and taal.
6. Play basic tunes or rhythmic patterns on an instrument that has been taught by the fellow
7. Know and perform certain mudras, postures or do specific types of footwork
8. Perform a chosen song/bandish/tala etc.
9. Speak on topics like 'my favourite artist' / 'my favourite instrument' / 'what music means to me', for at least three minutes.

Through the fellowship Baithak hopes to provide children an opportunity to experience the joy of learning an art form.

**Assessment and Certification** – As the syllabus progresses, the pointers given above will be used to evaluate the students' understanding, accuracy, responsiveness and performance. Assessment will be continuous, preferably weekly. Assessments may include worksheets, assignments as homework, classroom activities and recitals / performance. Upon successful completion of the program, Baithak Foundation will issue a Fellowship Certificate to each fellow.

### **Program Delivery–**

1. Direct Teaching Sessions – Minimum 1 hour teaching once every week. Minimum 45 such sessions.
2. Listening Sessions – 45 minutes to 1 hour sessions once a week to be recommended by the fellow. This will be like a listening homework.
3. Performance sessions – Time spent may depend on the requirement but minimum once every quarter students will perform small pieces of things taught, solo as well as in groups. Parents are encouraged to come for the performances and interact with the fellow.

4. Evaluation sessions – Sessions not more than 1 hour, as and when required. Fellow directly and indirectly evaluates the students based on the pointers mentioned in the ‘program goals’ section. Fellow can seek help from teachers while evaluating.

### **C. Details about Partner Organisation / School / Institute:**

The schools willing to host the fellowship program will be selected on basis of their willingness and the flexibility in their academic calendar. Unconventional schools, Municipal schools or Construction Site Centres will be our host schools. Schools may have resource limitations.

**D. Fellow Selection Process and Training:** Musicians recommended by gurus, or identified by Baithak team will be selected as Fellows based on the following criteria.

1. Talented young musicians between 25 to 35 years of age will be preferred.
2. A minimum taaleem (formal training) of 5-7 years in vocal/instrumental/dance Indian Classical will be a mandatory criterion.
3. Qualities like willingness to travel, teach untiringly, connect with the students, and decent conversational skills will be important.
4. A demo session and personal interview

A detailed curriculum that will be executed during the fellowship, will be elaborately discussed with the would-be Fellow, and be customised as per the strengths of the fellow. The fellow will undergo training and will be supported so as to enable him/her to deliver his/her best during the fellowship. This training will include demo lessons and volunteering with Baithak personnel for concerts and lec-dems at various schools. The Fellow’s performance during the fellowship will be observed by Baithak and the partner school staff through. Videos of performances by the students, as well as direct feedback from the school staff and students in between and at the end of the program will also be referred for evaluation

### **E. Fellowship Award:**

The fellowship program will be supported by Baithak Foundation as well as the partner school/institute. The fellowship award will be INR 35,000 for the academic year 2019-20 which will be presented to the fellow after successful completion of the fellowship.

### **Get in touch:**

Send your applications to Dakshayani: [baithakcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:baithakcommunity@gmail.com)