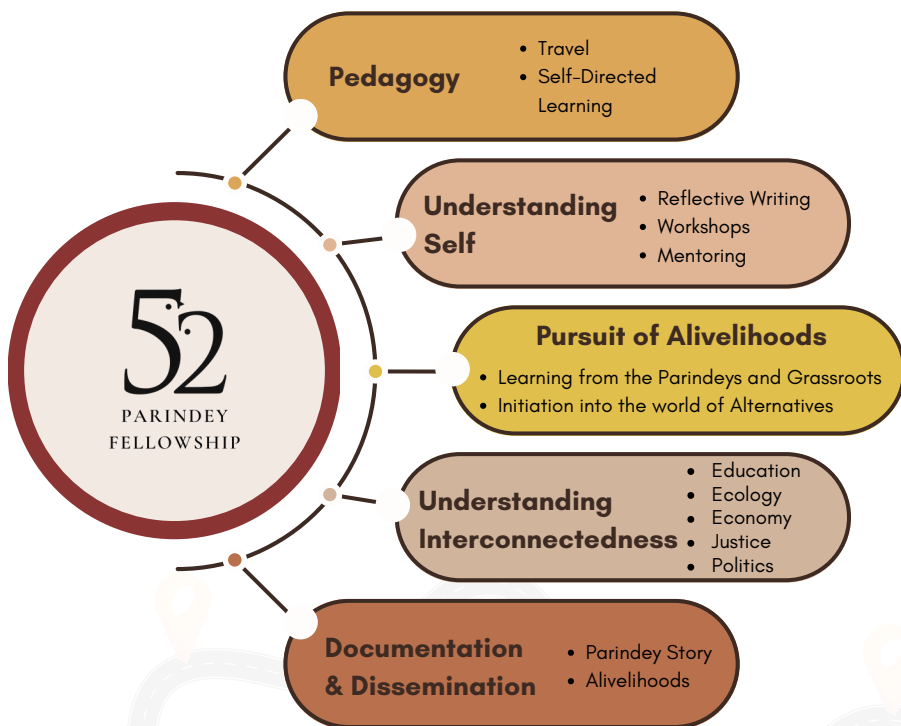


The **52 Parindey Fellowship** is an intense, immersive, learning journey for youth in the pursuit of Alivelihoods, livelihoods oriented towards social, ecological and personal wellbeing. It is a leadership programme co-created by the fellows and Travellers' University where the fellows take responsibility and ownership of their learning and growth.

The fellowship serves as an **on-ground learning experience** for the fellows to **explore Alivelihoods** by travelling, living with and immersing in the life journeys of Alivelihood practitioners (Parindeys) engaged in **socially and ecologically conscious pursuits**. It provides them with a practical understanding of the Alivelihood areas of their interest, creating avenues for their personal growth as the fellows lead a journey of self-exploration, helping them understand ground realities, shaping their worldviews, and paving the way to take affirmative actions.

The fellowship envisions educating youth about the various Alivelihoods by **documenting best practices**, sharing pathways to pursue them, providing access to a network of mentors, and creating a space for dialogue among the masses.

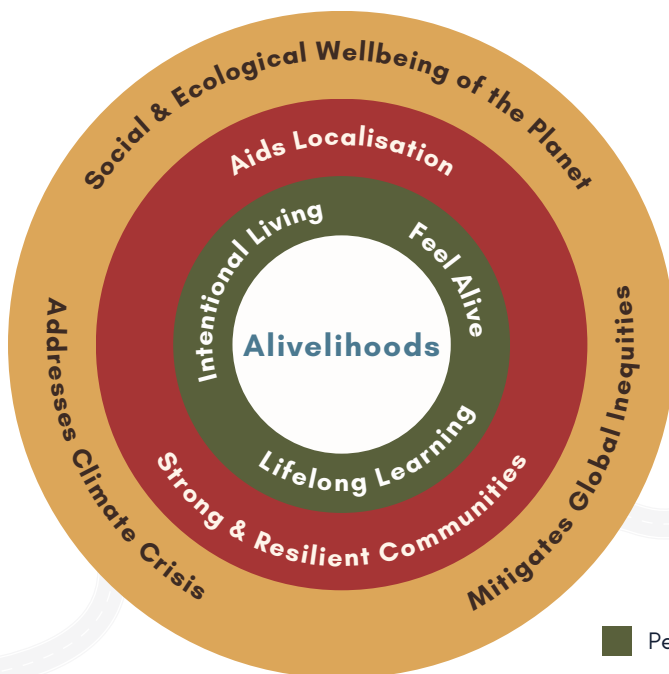
Elements of the Fellowship



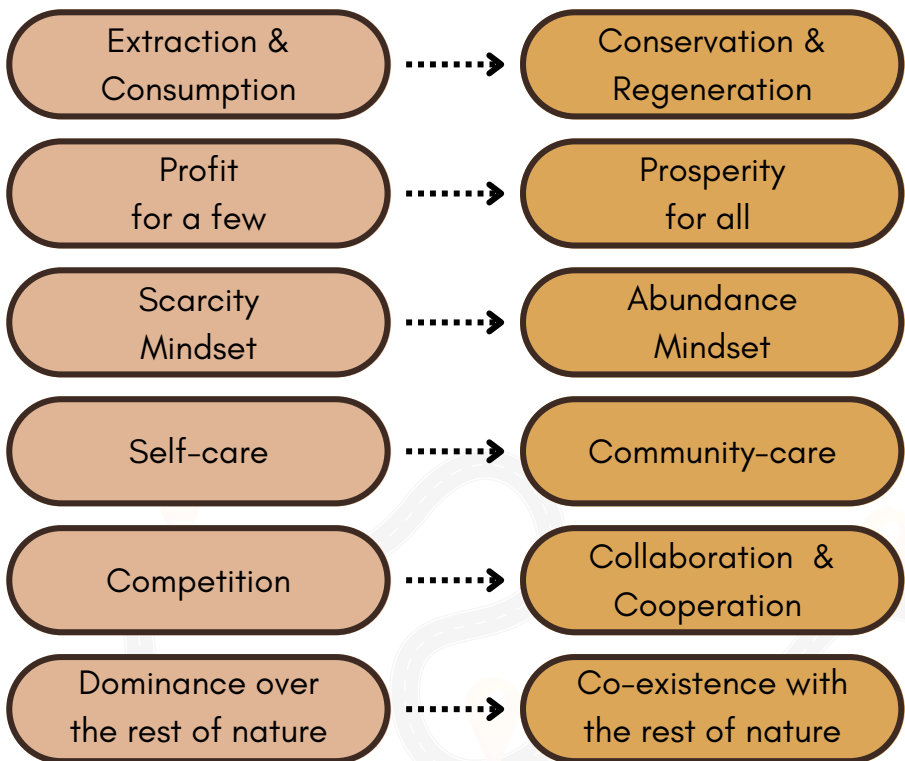
**journey towards livelihoods of
intentional living and lifelong learning
for a sustainable, equitable, and just world**

Alivelihoods are fulfilling and meaningful livelihoods which have the ability to:

- Make the one pursuing it feel alive, joyful, and content (*individual/personal level*)
- Facilitate localisation, build local economy and create resilient economic and social structures (*community level*)
- Regenerate our planet, showcase resilience to climate crisis, and mitigate global inequities (*planet level*)



Alivelhoods shift the pattern from the world as we know it to the world as we want it to be.



Here is a list of Alivelihood areas the fellows may explore during the Fellowship:

- Learning & Education (alternative learning initiatives, farm schools, forest schools, unschooling, place-based education, community libraries, etc.)
- Media (community media, independent media, media for social and ecological justice, etc.)
- Food Systems (natural and organic farming, permaculture, agroecology, agribusiness, farmer producer organisation, etc.)
- Sustainability, Conservation & Regeneration (biodiversity conservation and coexistence, forest making, eco-architecture, etc.)
- Health & Nutrition (medicine-free life, healing, mental and physical wellbeing, etc.)
- Waste Management (solid waste, e-waste and biowaste management, composting, bio enzymes, etc.)
- Traditional crafts & skills (weaving, pottery, natural dying, etc.)
- Pedagogies for Social change (art, theatre, activism, etc.)
- Energy & Technology (prosthetics, renewable energy, makerspace, etc.)
- Rural Development (community work, rural self-reliance, localisation, etc.)
- Law (law for social and ecological justice, environmental litigation, etc.)

Timeline

Documentation Completion:

January 20 - February 20



Reflection:

January 5-19

Travel-Learning & Documentation:

September 5 - January 2

Pre-Orientation (Online):

July 14 - August 16

Orientation:

August 21 - September 4

Selection Process: May 15 - July 7

Application: April 1 - May 14

Pre-Orientation *(Jul 14 - Aug 16)*

The pre-orientation phase of the fellowship includes online sessions with the TU team and different thought leaders for perspective building. There are sessions in the themes of Alivelihoods, Travel, Understanding Interconnectedness, etc. and interaction with fellows of previous cohorts. The fellows finalise the Alivelihood areas they will be exploring during the course of the fellowship and start their research on the potential Parindeys.

Orientation *(Aug 21 - Sept 4)*

The orientation workshop focuses on understanding the self and the system. Interacting with potential Parindeys, finalising the engagement two-three of them, and sessions on documentation, photography, fellowship processes and structure are discussed in detail during this physical gathering.

Travel-Learning & Documentation *(Sept 5 - Jan 2)*

- Each fellow visits 7-8 Parindeys to learn from them and document their story and the Alivelihood practices.
- Fellows immerse themselves at each location for 12-14 days. After understanding the local ecosystem, the parindey story will be captured in 2 mediums: text and photographs. Each story will be documented before travelling to the next location.

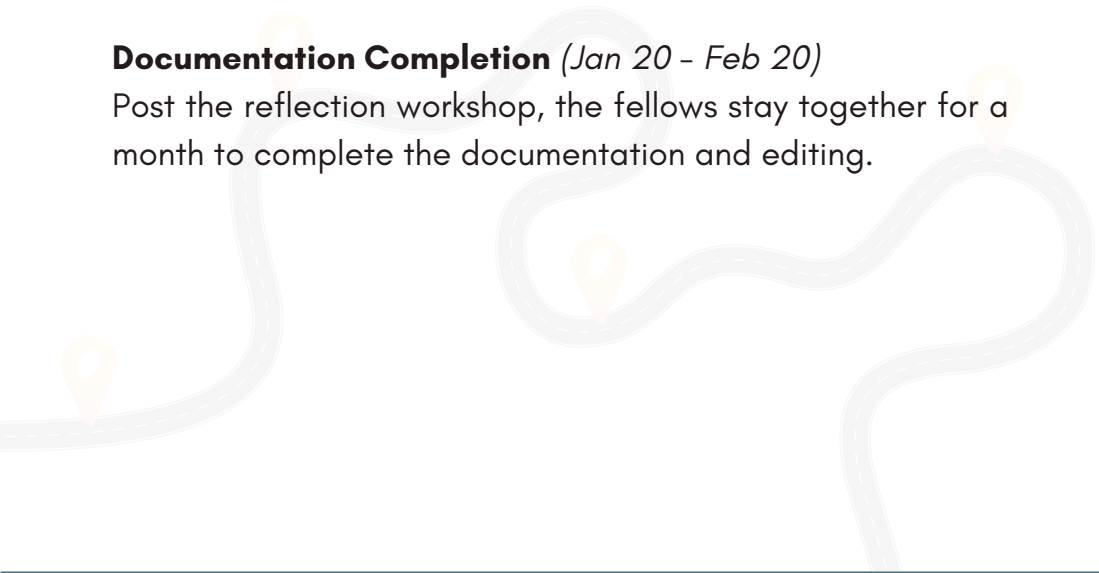
- The fellow is invited to express/capture their journey in other mediums as well (cartooning, animation, illustration, video making, etc.)
- Online sessions will be held every 10 days to provide a sharing and listening space to the fellows for their experiences in the field. It provides an avenue for the fellows to learn from each other's sharing and being part of their journeys.

Reflection (*Jan 5 - 19*)

The reflection workshop focuses on fellows reflecting on and expressing the inner and outward learning journeys they underwent through the course of the fellowship. Additionally, space is created for the fellows to articulate their vision and plans ahead.

Documentation Completion (*Jan 20 - Feb 20*)

Post the reflection workshop, the fellows stay together for a month to complete the documentation and editing.

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page features a light gray, wavy line that meanders across the width of the page. Along this line, there are three stylized location pins: one on the left, one in the center, and one on the right. The pins are light orange with a white circular center. The background of the bottom section is a solid dark blue.

Writing and Documentation as key processes

The documentation process in the fellowship is designed to facilitate the fellow to reflect on themselves, their journey and their learnings. Writing as a process activates one's relationship with oneself and calibrates and strengthens one's learnings. While the Fellowship programme directly supports the fellows in their journey towards Alivelihoods, the documentation of the Parindey stories and the information on different Alivelihoods helps more young people with references to relatable role models and pathways for them.



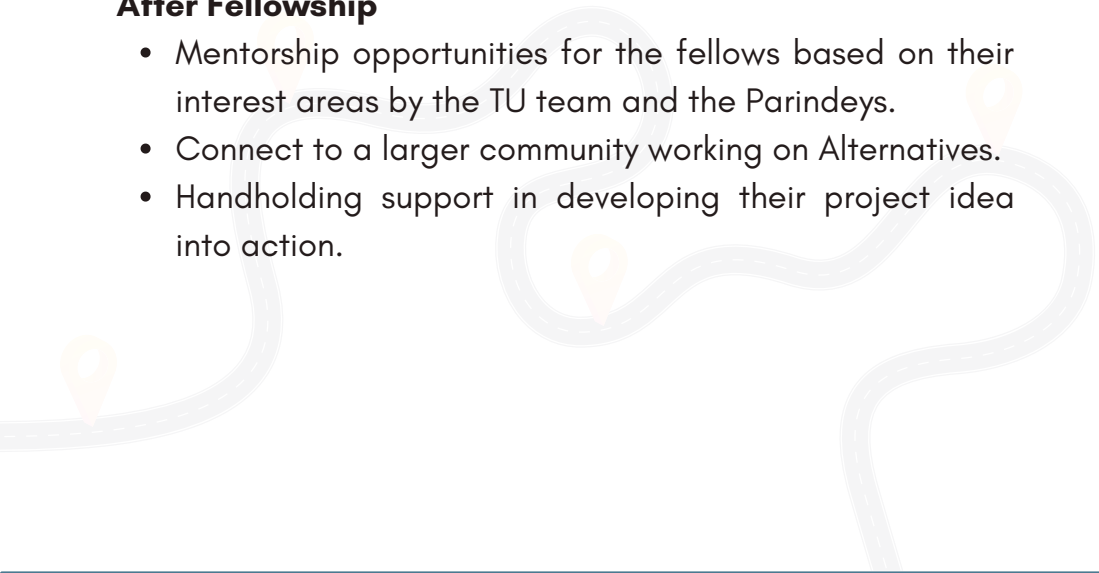
How learning happens during the Fellowship

- Directly from the Parindeys by observing, immersing and engaging in their lives and work
- From the co-fellows through the sharing of each other's journeys and explorations
- From travel and field experiences
- Through writing

Areas of Personal Growth

- Self-awareness
- Understanding Interconnectedness
- Collaboration, Cooperation & Co-creation
- Risk-taking Ability
- Self + Collective Leadership

After Fellowship

- Mentorship opportunities for the fellows based on their interest areas by the TU team and the Parindeys.
 - Connect to a larger community working on Alternatives.
 - Handholding support in developing their project idea into action.
- 
- A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page features a light gray, winding road that curves across the lower half of the page. Along the road, there are several yellow location pins. The background is a solid light gray, and the entire page is framed by a dark blue header and footer.

Why is the fellowship called 52 Parindey?

The 52 Parindey Fellowship is based on a gap-year project undertaken in 2015-16, '52 Parindey', where our co-creator documented 52 stories in a year. 52 represents the number of weeks in a year and Parindey translates to birds in English, which loosely captures the essence of innovators we intend to learn from.

If I do not speak or write in English, can I still apply?

Yes. We have the ability to accommodate English, Hindi and Malayalam at this point. This ability is merely a reflection of the linguistic capacity of the TU team, and not an indicator of prominence of any particular language. You may reach out to us to discuss the feasibility of the same.

Do the fellows travel together or individually?

Each fellow travels individually and creates their own travel-learning plan with the support of the TU team.

Who will identify the Parindeys?

The research for the Parindeys is done by the fellow. The TU team plays a guiding role in this process and the Parindeys are mutually decided by the fellow and the team.

What support will I get from the team while on the field?

We anticipate you would need support in planning, designing and meaning-making. There will be a mentor attached to each fellow who provides guidance during the fellow's journey, check on logistics and help solve any problem that arises. Group check-in meetings will be hosted every 10 days, a community-sharing space for fellows to share reflections, challenges and creative solutions. These online sessions provide an avenue for the fellows to learn from each other's sharing and being part of their journeys. Additionally, you will have resources shared by us that will guide you in daily reflection and meaning making.

Do I get financial assistance during the course of the fellowship?

Each fellow will receive an overall stipend of Rs. 50,000 to take care of their travel, food and accommodation. We encourage our fellows to experiment with their relationship with money in the course of identifying their needs and managing them in a minimalist way.

Who is going to arrange food and stay?

Food and stay will be arranged by fellow. We encourage you to explore life beyond the transactional economy and develop relationship with local people (Parindeys and community members) in the course of managing your food and accommodation.

How do you address safety while on travel and on the field?

Safety is a topmost priority for us and we should not engage in anything that is unsafe for the fellow, both physical and psychological. We would rely on the community vetting process and the individual's instincts to determine whether the place is safe or not. Please be aware that the fellowship does require you to travel to remote places, and as a general rule, we limit our local travel till sunset. However, an individual's sense of safety varies depending on gender identity, prior travel experiences, etc. We are committed to working with the fellow in understanding their thresholds and co-creating conditions to ensure safety. The TU team is always accessible to the fellows on call and additionally, the fellows will be provided with a list of spaces across the country where they can go to and stay in cases of any emergency.

Can I have any other working/studying engagement during the fellowship?

No. This is a full-time fellowship with no scope for any other work/study engagement during the course of the programme.

Travellers' University offers travel-based experiential learning programmes. Our commitment at Travellers' University is to promote lifelong learning by using travel as a pedagogical tool. Learners are encouraged to investigate the relationships that exist between themselves, the systems they are connected to and part of, and the rest of nature. We extend the views of our learners and assist them in gaining a greater awareness of the world that surrounds them. This is facilitated by means of immersion in slow travel, exposure to grassroots realities, and exploration of critical perspectives on challenges and alternative approaches to addressing the interconnectedness between social, ecological, and economical issues of our time. We nudge our learners to reflect on the connections between these issues and their own lives by looking at the various systems that dominate the society we are part of.

Through our programmes, we aim to equip learners with the perspectives and tools they need to make conscious and critical decisions to journey towards a more sustainable, equitable, and just world. We believe that this can only be accomplished by instilling a sense of understanding, responsibility and empathy in people.

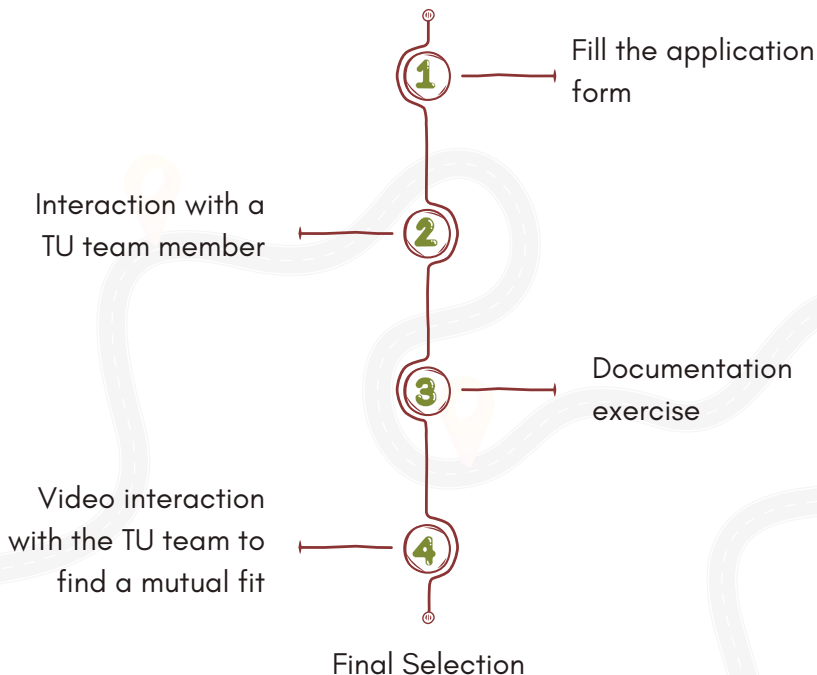
Join us on this adventure of self-discovery and exploration of new horizons as we learn about our place in the world and about ourselves.

Criteria to apply

- Age 18–30
- In the pursuit of their Livelihood
- Interested in experiencing Travel as a pedagogy for learning
- Looking for a joyful, challenging, and immersive learning experience
- Action-oriented with a willingness to apply their writing skills

Process

Read the brochure fully



Terms & Terminologies

Alternatives: Alternatives are those practical activities, policies, processes, technologies, tools and frameworks that counter the dominant social/ economic/ political/ developmental models that exploit and extract.

Read in detail:

<https://vikalpsangam.org/wp-content/uploads/migrate/Resources/alternativesframeworkbookletrevisedfinal1512.pdf>

Equitable: A situation where everyone gets the support and resources they need by means of affirmative actions.

Just: A situation where the causes of inequity are addressed.

Mentoring:

- To support the fellow, reflect on their learning experiences and identify opportunities for growth and development.
- To provide support in accountability and motivation to stay on track with the fellow's learning plan and overcome obstacles that may arise.

Self-Directed Learning: A process of learning that encourages learners to design and pursue their own unique learning paths.

Sustainable: A situation where all life forms on earth flourish and sustain and material resources are not depleted.

Understanding Interconnectedness: Understanding how different systems are directly connected with each other and influence each other.



The 52 Parindey Fellowship has been an extremely rewarding and unforgettable experience. I have explored natural ways of growing food. It was extremely humbling to live and work on the farm. For the first time ever, I got involved with growing and cooking the food that I was eating. My brief stay on the farms and in various communities offered me the opportunity to witness firsthand how learning simply emerges and life thrives when we are tuned in to what is most meaningful and authentic to us. Throughout the fellowship, a 'learning exchange' was taking place as the boundaries of age, culture, and socio-economic background simply vanished in the process of our mutual friendship. The Fellowship also provided a candid view of Alivelhoods. When both profession and conscious living merge together, it creates a beautiful synergy. This is what Alivelhood is.

- Anil, Cohort 1

A man I once met in my journey of life told me, "When you choose to fight, you choose a life of struggle. And this life is hard, but it is also meaningful." Over the past few months of exploring the coexistence of humankind with the rest of nature, and conservation, this thought became profound learning, taking form in different people and journeys, but with one little addition; that struggle isn't just a struggle anymore when you accept it. Alivelhood, after all, is something that makes you come alive, and feeling alive is feeling beautiful, whatever be the force that is firing your spirit.

- Srilaxmi, Cohort 1

The 52 Parindey Fellowship journey was an expedition to my inner self. It helped me to get a deeper connection with myself and it shattered many of the misconceptions that had been within me. I strongly believe that I learned and unlearned more things during this fellowship journey than in my 25 years of life. Exploring the Alivelhood paths of my Parindeys makes me feel alive all the time and inspires me to choose the same path.

- Amal, Cohort 1



This journey helped me uncover my interests and motivations which led me to then take massive steps towards a cause that had always been close to my heart: women's empowerment. I got a deeper understanding of the matter and how I could and would want to contribute to it. All my learnings helped me to identify how efforts towards the enablement of women needed to be combined with work towards mindset shift in individuals in order to truly empower women and cultivate feminist values in society. Getting to know the Parindeys immensely helped me in looking at possibilities of a livelihood for myself which would bring a sense of purpose in my life; something which was lacking earlier.

- Smriti, Cohort 2

I wanted to reflect on my experience and also build a deeper understanding of the subject- Alternative learning systems for children and I could not think of a better way to study the subject than through living realities around me. The 52 Parindey Fellowship journey was an intense immersion into learning through different geographical and cultural systems and contexts that allowed me to venture into different meanings, possibilities, methodologies and outcomes around education and learning. It aided me to unlearn some commonly held notions to build a multi-faceted approach to learning systems.

- Zehra, Cohort 2

The 52 Parindey Fellowship helped me to widen my understanding of environmental issues, including climate change in India. While taking action on environmental issues, I started integrating their socio-political, economic, and gender aspects too. These learnings strengthened my idea of Alivelihood, which includes solidarity with collective climate action in climate-vulnerable communities in India. The entire experiential learning journey with Traveller's University helped me to reflect inclusiveness in my actions.

- Agnus, Cohort 2



We'll meet new people, hear their stories,
And learn from them in the lap of nature.
We'll learn from history, we'll learn from art,
And learn from the food we eat.
We'll learn from the struggles and the triumphs,
And the people we chance to meet.
We'll learn from the land, and the sea,
From the sky above and the earth below.
We'll learn from the beauty and the pain,
And let our souls continue to grow.
With every step we take and every breath we make,
We'll learn and grow in ways we never thought.
Travel-based learning will be our guide,
As we set out to explore and be taught.

52 PARINDEY FELLOWSHIP

In collaboration with:

