



# Endowment

---

- USD One Million
- Follow up: SYLFF Plus Programmes: SRA,SLI, Voices
- Source: Nippon Foundation and Tokyo Foundation
- First Indian University
- 44 countries 69 institutions



# Where are we now

---

- Each year 3-5 fellowships
- 38 till date
- Highest valued
- SSC
- Mentors
- office



# Activities

---

- Research
- Exchange visits
- Associations' activities



# Pre-application Orientation Programme, 2016

---

Joyashree Roy  
Project Director  
JU-SYLFF Programme



# Why this pre-application orientation?

---

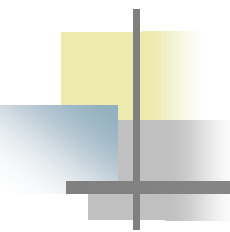
- FAQ + FOC (frequently observed confusion)
- Enthusiasm because of the opportunity
- But lack of orientation/training
- confusion
- Essay? Report? What topic? How to select the topic? ....



# orientation?

---

- PORUA THEKE GABESAK
- Taught mind
- vs.
- Research mind
  
- To ask questions, contradict, new explanation, analysis, view point, direction.....



---

# How to Write a Convincing SYLFF (Research) Proposal



# Need

---

- To address the Mission/Objective of the SYLFF project
- DO YOU KNOW????? **Interactive**
- Research orientation: asking insightful questions





# What do we need

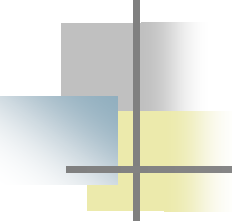
---

- Thinking mind
- Unending questioning.....
- Awareness About our realities...
- Do we accept as they are and live in complacency or start questioning them?

# SYLFF Goals

---

- To encourage independent research minds
- To identify and understand Social problems
- Thinking within and going beyond disciplinary boundaries
- To encourage Leadership quality: vision, innovative thought
- Problem solving attitude
- Good peer reviewed publishable analysis



# Why take up research?

## Globally applicable

---

*The purpose of research is to answer "a" question.*

- "A question" that is interesting
- Not to collect information without a question



# Essential steps in a proposal

---

- 1. identify a problem (e.g.)
- 2. ask a clear question
- 3. limit the scope of the research
- 4. say what is known and not known about the problem
- 5. identify the skills and information needed to answer the question
- 6. select the methods needed to collect & analyse the data/information
- 7. explain the kind of results expected and how they will be presented
- 8. specify the timeline



# Identify a problem

---

- [Interactive]
- [Show multi-disciplinary element]



# Identify a problem

---

e.g .

- Changing society: slow/fast/transformative?
- Aging population
- Fading Cultural Diversity
- Violence against women
- Less than satisfactory Economic system
- Growing conflicts (social, political....)
- Inequality in growing affluence
- Growing environmental problems
- Lack of access to basic services



# Research Question

---

e.g. interaction with JU-SYLFF fellows

- Choose only one question that deserves special attention
- Will be interesting to larger audience
- Will produce results that will be new
- *Is essentially that drives goal, hypothesis to be tested...*



# Scope

---

- Disaster induced migration: India – Bangladesh
- History of literature: 1945-1999
- Women Migrants : India and Netherlands
- Development induced displacement: West Bengal
- Water conflict : Cauvery river dispute





# How to position your study?

## Know what exist

---

- Literature review
- Only relevant ones
  - Relevant literature
  - Show what is said
  - Identify gaps
  - Show your proposed contribution

E.g. interactive sessions

To decide on goal and objective of the study



# Skill and information

---

- Subject skill, method
- Kind of information needed:
  - quantitative, qualitative, ethnographic, archival
- Source of information
  
- New skills needed/training required?



# Output

---

- Publication, Thesis
- Policy implication
- Prescriptive vs implicative
- Expected result
- Possible user
- Contribution in the literature

Deliverable: Journal/ Paper



# Time line

---

- chart
- To follow work discipline
- To show value addition at each step
- To focus on the scope of the research
- Monthly/quarterly/biannual/annual
- To guarantee completion of work



# Timeline

---

year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Literature survey

Objective firming up

Analytical Framework

Information collection

Analysis

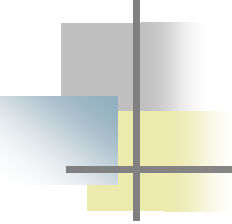




---

# General Writing Tips

Writing to Inform -- Writing to  
Persuade



# The Most Important Thing About Writing to Persuade

---

- Appeal to the Goal of your readers!
- This means you have to know about **SYLFF (website/ fellows/  
programme assistant)** as much you can.
- [www.jusylffprogram.org.in](http://www.jusylffprogram.org.in)



# The Single Most Important Thing About Writing

---

- Think about your readers before and while you are writing



# SYLFF Experts are the readers of your proposals...

---

You need to identify their interest by:

- finding out the **SYLFF Focus**
- finding out **SYLFF Priorities**

You can find this information by visiting **JU-SYLFF websites, other SYLFF websites, TKFD website**, talking to Project Director, SYLFF Fellows

# The Second Most Important Thing About Writing



- Make your writing as easy to read as you can:
  - use simple words
  - use short, direct sentences
  - use short paragraphs
  - use sub-heads
  - use bullets



# Other Useful Tips

---

- Put points positively -- avoid negatives
- Write as briefly as you can
- Re-read and edit your work



# Which will experts choose?

---

- Projects can be **theoretical** or **applied**



## Similarly...

---

- Projects can be **Desk Studies** (e.g. modelling work, case studies), or **On-Site Activities**.



# Examples

---

- [Past fellows] **Interactive**



# Show Impact in Terms of SYLFF Goals

---

- Social Change?
- Contemporary or allied to contemporary issues?
- Tradition ?
- Sustainability of developmental (economic, political, social, cultural....) process in general?
- Multidisciplinary approach? E.g. fellows' work



# Selecting a Catchy Title

---





# Tips

---

- Try the colon trick:
- A colon makes a title short, snappy, easy to say

Some examples are:

- Impact of Coastal Inundation: Case of Sagar Island
- Small and Medium Enterprises in India: An Analysis of Funding Risks, Risk Mitigants and Sustainable Development



# Tips

---

- Inter-state River Water Disputes in India: Institutions and Mechanisms
- Performing the Political: Left Culture in West Bengal
- Negotiating Informality: Changing Face of the Footpaths in Kolkata, 1975 – 2005
- Coffee House to Barista: A Study of Cultural Change
- Un-gendering Sports: Towards a Revaluation of the Female Athletes in India



## Golden Rule:

---

Offer a moderate, realistic timeline within which you can deliver the promised outputs and thereby contribute to the existing literature.



# Final Steps

---

- Use each day from today to write the proposal
- Sleep on draft, then reread, edit.
- Think, think and think...
- Write, read, rewrite, reread...
- Make final revisions
- Get approvals from peers
- Fill up form with much care and submit



# Useful sites besides JU-SYLFF

---

- <http://www.sandeeonline.org>
- [eepsea.org](http://eepsea.org)
- [columbia.edu/cu/cup](http://columbia.edu/cu/cup)
- [worldbank.org/rad](http://worldbank.org/rad)
- [nber.org](http://nber.org)
- [wider.unu.edu](http://wider.unu.edu)
- [ssrn.com](http://ssrn.com)
- [ideas.repec.org](http://ideas.repec.org)



# Useful sites

---

- [iber.berkeley.edu](http://iber.berkeley.edu)
- [ipcc.ch](http://ipcc.ch)
- [unfccc.it](http://unfccc.it)
- [worldbank.org](http://worldbank.org)
- [developmentgoals.org](http://developmentgoals.org)



# Achievements of JU-SYLFF fellows so far

---

- Publication in International and National Journals.
- Seminar papers
- Erasmus Mundus, Fulbright, Donella Meadows, Rhodes, Felix
- Mexico, Canada, Australia, Japan, US, Egypt, Netherlands, UK, Estonia,
- In Global SYLFF Council



# Thanks

---

- Any questions?
- A Researcher/Potential Researcher should have infinitely long list of questions