



SOMAIYA
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



REACH FELLOWSHIP 2026-27

THEMATIC AREA 'LIVING TRADITIONS'

- **Ajarkpur Chapter**
- **Soil Probiotics Chapter**
- **Gond Chapter**
- **Warli Chapter**

REACH-1

Natural Dyeing Systems (Ajrapur Chapter)

Residential Fellowship tethered to **Living & Learning Lab**- Somaiya Kalavidya (SKV), Adipur, Kachchh, Gujarat, Bharat.

Eligibility / Academic Requirement

Applicants must be alumni and should have completed their postgraduation in any of these disciplines: Environmental Science, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Botany, Chemistry.

Applicants **must be proficient in Gujarati or Kachchhi (Read, Write and Speak) language** as the fellowship requires extensive interaction with local communities and documentation of regional knowledge systems.



The REACH Fellowship offers Fellows an opportunity to work closely with natural dyeing communities across Gujarat and document the living traditions associated with indigo and other natural dye-yielding plants. The Fellow will travel to different locations, interact with artisans and local practitioners, observe traditional dye preparation and application methods, and document the plants, practices, and stories associated with natural dyeing systems.

The primary task of the Fellow will be to support the initial groundwork for establishing a Natural Dyeing Research Centre at the SKV campus by developing a structured documentation and reference base on natural dyeing traditions. This includes identifying and cataloguing dye-yielding plants; documenting local knowledge on harvesting and preparation methods; conducting interviews with artisans and communities; and visually recording processes through photographs, sketches, illustrations, and field notes. The Fellow will also review literature and case studies from other regions to compare practices, and connect with existing research centres and laboratories to understand the basic requirements for laboratory design, research facilities, equipment, and tools needed for the proposed centre.

Deliverables

Natural Dyeing Knowledge Repository & Technical Dossier

A structured and curated archive documenting traditional natural dyeing systems, including dye-yielding plants, local uses, harvesting and preparation methods, cultural practices, scientific observations, sustainability perspectives, photographs, sketches, process diagrams, field notes, interviews, and community interaction records. The repository will serve as a consolidated technical and cultural reference base to support future research, documentation, and interventions in natural dyeing traditions.

Groundwork & Laboratory Planning

Support the initial groundwork towards establishing a Natural Dyeing Research Centre at the SKV campus by connecting with existing research centres, and laboratories, dye experts to understand basic requirements for laboratory design, infrastructure, equipment, workflows, and potential research activities related to natural dyeing systems.

Immersion Module Development

Designing workshops, field immersions, storytelling-based experiences, and experiential learning modules that engage students with traditional knowledge systems, sustainability, community narratives, and natural dyeing practices.



This work contributes to the development of an Ecocultural and Narrative Living Lab at Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai that integrates indigenous knowledge systems into education, sustainability, creative practice, and public engagement

Why Join REACH?

The Fellow will gain skills and exposure in:

- System thinking and codesigning approach
- Immersive field learning and community engagement
- Documentation, storytelling, interviewing, and creative research communication
- Knowledge synthesis, baseline data generation, and repository building in natural resources for dyeing
- Collaborative research networking at the intersection of sustainability, biodiversity, culture, and indigenous knowledge systems