



## *Media Fellowship*

### **BACKGROUND**

Survivors Against TB (SATB) is a community based movement that is led by a group of TB survivors who are working to strengthen India's fight against TB. These survivors both understand and have lived the experience of surviving TB in its severest forms and understand the social, economic and cultural circumstances in which individuals address TB. Based on these experiences these survivors advocate with key stakeholders on the changes necessary to make TB care more accessible and patient centric in India. SATB believes that if India wishes to address TB comprehensively, it needs to start by listening to survivors and engaging them in policy making that affects them the most.

### **TOPIC:**

#### ***TB Related Stigma: Causes, Solutions and Stories of Survival***

Our experience of working with TB survivors, has shown that there is deep rooted stigma which is associated with TB. While stakeholders in TB demand patient-centred care that puts patients first, often stigma is deterrent for patients to seek care and recover effectively.

Stigma associated with TB is often regarded as a strong barrier to health seeking behavior and is a cause of significant suffering. The fear of losing social status, marital problems and hurtful behaviour by the community are some examples as to why a TB affected person is unable to seek help. Stigma also has an impact on treatment adherence and the behavior of family towards the patient. This in turn influences the mental health and well-being of the patient.

Stigma occurs because of community and institutional ignorance and mistaken norms about undesirable diseases. The most common cause of TB stigma is the perceived risk of transmission. TB is also stigmatized because of its associations with HIV, poverty, social class, or malnutrition. In general, however, TB stigma leads to mental trauma, discrimination, diagnostic delays and treatment non-completion.

### **THE FELLOWSHIP**

Why is it that in India which has the highest burden of TB in the world and where one Indian dies of TB every minute, we discriminate against the TB affected? How is it their fault that they contracted an airborne disease? How can we address stigma to ensure reduced suffering for the TB affected?

The Fellows are expected to explore these issues in India in a broad and critical manner and bring out stories of stigma which have impacted lives of TB affected individuals and families within community and health care settings.

We are looking for comprehensive, well-reported, detailed stories highlighting this topic. We are particularly interested in stories which highlight local issues. We are also interested in those which highlight solutions to the stigma challenge, stories of survival and overcoming this challenge.

The Fellowship is open to three print or online journalists/freelancers/independent columnists from English, Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi media. The Fellows will be expected to produce at least **3 (minimum) to 4 (maximum) articles each.**

## ***DURATION AND FUNDING***

The Fellowship will last for a period of **six weeks** and each selected fellow will receive a funding of **INR 50,000**. This stipend will support research, travel, writing, production and other costs. The Fellowship fund will be disbursed in two instalments. The Fellows are expected to **write and publish three stories each**.

## ***APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS***

To apply for the Fellowship please submit:

- A cover letter, CV (strictly within three A4 pages)
- Two samples of previously published work. If the work is in regional language, please provide English translation.
- A 'letter of support' from their current employer/editor assuring Fellows time/leave for six weeks and agreeing to publish the articles written by the Fellows in their publication. Freelancers must also provide a supporting letter from the editor of a publication agreeing to use the articles.
- Please answer:
  - Why do you want to do the SATB Fellowship and how do you see it benefiting your career path?
  - During your Fellowship period, we would like you to focus on the assigned topic. What would you like to research and investigate and why?
- All applications can be submitted by email to [survivorsagainsttb@gmail.com](mailto:survivorsagainsttb@gmail.com) by **January 20, 2018**. For any questions and clarifications, call **Kritika Kamthan**, Manager Advocacy and Communication, SATB: **+91 8130666037**

## ***NOTE***

- The Fellows may be required to attend an orientation programme in Delhi.
- All copyright will remain with the publications, however SATB reserves the right to share and publish all articles on relevant websites and blogs.
- SATB reserves the right to not award any fellowships if applications do not meet a minimum standard.
- All decisions taken by SATB will be final.
- All applications will be evaluated by SATB as well as an external jury.
- The selected candidates will be announced on **January 27, 2018**. The Fellowship will end on **March 10, 2018**.