

Impact Assessment of BLF, TAC Events as Capacity Building Platforms for Learning and Leadership of Youth

A Comprehensive Mixed-Methods Research Report

PREPARED BY

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Under the Academic Mentorship of Faculty Members, JLU

With an Introductory Letter from Dr. Priyanka Nema, Professor & Head – Research, JLU

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To,
The Esteemed Organizers, Partners, and Stakeholders of the
Bhopal Literature Festival (BLF) and TAC Events

Subject: Introductory Note on the Impact Assessment Report – “Impact Assessment of BLF, TAC events as Capacity Building Platforms for Learning and Leadership of Youth”

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is with great pride and a deep sense of academic responsibility that I present this research report assessing the role of the Bhopal Literature Festival (BLF) and similar TAC events as transformative platforms for youth capacity building, learning, and leadership development.

Conducted by the dedicated student research team of Jagran Lakecity Business School (JLBS), under the mentorship of our faculty, this mixed-methods study captures the intellectual, cultural, and developmental impact of BLF 2026 on young participants and the broader city of Bhopal. The findings reveal how such festivals transcend mere literary celebrations to become vibrant public intellectual spaces that foster critical thinking, widen perspectives, build confidence, nurture cultural pride, and inspire sustained engagement with ideas.

While this detailed report focuses on the comprehensive assessment of BLF, the conceptual framework and insights are equally relevant to other TAC (Talent, Arts & Culture) events that JLU and partner organizations champion to empower youth. These platforms serve as informal yet powerful educational ecosystems, complementing formal academia and countering digital saturation through live, dialogic interactions.

Key highlights from the study include high levels of intellectual stimulation (mean scores above 4.3 on key indicators), strong youth relevance, and recognition of BLF's contribution to Bhopal's emerging identity as a cultural-intellectual hub. Qualitative themes underscore enjoyment as a mediator of deep learning, the value of exposure to diverse viewpoints, and the role in career socialization and identity formation.

We acknowledge areas for enhancement—such as deeper interaction opportunities, broader outreach, and longitudinal tracking—which will inform future editions and similar events. This report stands as a testament to JLU's commitment to experiential learning, community-engaged research, and nurturing the next generation of thinkers and leaders.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the BLF team for their openness and collaboration, the student researchers for their intellectual rigor and dedication, and all participants whose honest voices and reflections enrich these findings. We hope that these insights will guide the continued evolution of BLF, TAC events, and kindred initiatives, strengthening their position as cornerstones of youth development in India's heartland.

With warm regards and best wishes for the success of all such endeavors,

Dr. Priyanka Nema

Professor and Head – Research
Jagran Lakecity University, Bhopal

Executive Summary

This report presents a systematic assessment of the intellectual and knowledge impact of the Bhopal Literature Festival (BLF) 2026, with a specific focus on youth engagement and the festival's contribution to the intellectual and cultural life of the city of Bhopal. Moving beyond anecdotal appreciation, the study adopts an evidence-based approach to understand how BLF functions as a public intellectual space.

The research employed a mixed-methods design, integrating quantitative survey data from **230 participants with qualitative insights drawn from 90 interviews** and focused interactions involving youth attendees, volunteers, authors, academics, and general participants. Data were collected during and immediately after the festival to capture real-time intellectual experiences.

Quantitative findings indicate high levels of intellectual engagement, with participants strongly agreeing that BLF introduced unfamiliar ideas, encouraged reflection, exposed them to diverse viewpoints, and contributed meaningfully to their overall learning. Youth participants reported strong relevance of the festival content to their intellectual interests and expressed motivation for continued engagement beyond the event. At the city level, BLF was perceived as making a significant contribution to Bhopal's intellectual and cultural identity, with some of the highest mean scores recorded in the study.

Qualitative findings reinforce these results, revealing BLF as an enjoyable yet meaningful informal learning space where learning occurs through dialogue, exposure, and lived interaction rather than formal instruction. Participants highlighted the festival's role in widening perspectives, building confidence among youth, shaping aspirations, strengthening cultural identity, and offering a live alternative to digitally mediated engagement. The presence of tribal art, heritage narratives, and interdisciplinary discussions further enhanced participants' sense of cultural rootedness and pride in the city.

At the same time, the study identifies key areas for improvement, including uneven depth of intellectual engagement across sessions, limited audience interaction time, lower immediate impact for first-time attendees, accessibility of content for non-academic audiences, and the absence of long-term impact measurement. Participants also consistently emphasized the need for stronger and earlier outreach and marketing to broaden BLF's reach.

Overall, the findings position BLF as a multidimensional intellectual public space that successfully integrates learning, culture, youth development, and civic engagement. While its intellectual impact is substantial, it is also cumulative rather than instant. Strategic enhancements in accessibility, interaction, first-time engagement, outreach, and longitudinal evaluation can further strengthen BLF's role as an emerging intellectual institution in India's cultural landscape.

Acknowledgement

The research team would like to express its sincere gratitude to the Bhopal Literature Festival (BLF) Team for their cooperation, openness, and support throughout the conduct of this study. The vision, dedication, and meticulous efforts of the BLF organizers in creating a vibrant platform for literature, ideas, culture, and dialogue made this research both possible and meaningful. We particularly acknowledge the festival's commitment to youth engagement, cultural diversity, and intellectual inclusivity.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to all participants, volunteers, speakers, authors, and attendees who generously shared their time, experiences, and reflections. Their honest insights form the foundation of this report.

We express our sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Jagran Lakecity University, for his visionary leadership, encouragement, and continued support in fostering a strong culture of research, academic inquiry, and student-led scholarly engagement at the University.

This report has been prepared by the student research team of Jagran Lakecity Business School (JLBS), Jagran Lakecity University (JLU), under the guidance and academic mentorship of the faculty members of Jagran Lakecity University. The study reflects a collaborative academic effort, integrating student-led inquiry with faculty supervision, and demonstrates JLU's commitment to experiential learning, research-driven education, and community engagement.

We hope that the findings of this report will contribute constructively to the continued growth and strengthening of the Bhopal Literature Festival and serve as a reference for future editions.

Assessing the Intellectual and Knowledge Impact of the Bhopal Literature Festival (BLF) on Youth and the City of Bhopal

1. Introduction

Literature festivals have increasingly emerged as important public spaces for intellectual exchange, cultural dialogue, and informal learning. Unlike formal academic settings, such festivals bring together writers, thinkers, artists, students, and citizens in a shared environment where ideas are discussed openly and often informally. Over time, these spaces can shape how individuals think, read, and engage with social and cultural issues.

The Bhopal Literature Festival (BLF), now in its eighth year, has gradually positioned itself as one such platform in Central India. Beyond celebrating literature, BLF aims to foster critical thinking, promote dialogue across disciplines, and contribute to the intellectual life of the city of Bhopal. As BLF 2026 has concluded, it becomes important to move beyond anecdotal appreciation and systematically examine **how the festival actually impacts its participants intellectually**.

This study was undertaken to assess the intellectual and knowledge impact of BLF 2026, with particular emphasis on youth engagement and the festival's broader contribution to the city's intellectual identity. Importantly, the study does not aim only to highlight successes, but also to identify gaps and areas for improvement that can inform future editions of BLF.

2. Background of the Bhopal Literature & Art Festival (BLF)

The Bhopal Literature & Art Festival (BLF) is an annual intellectual and cultural event held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Conceived as a platform for literature, ideas, arts, and cultural dialogue, the festival seeks to bring together writers, thinkers, artists, scholars, and the general public to engage in meaningful conversations around storytelling, knowledge, and creativity. At its core, BLF views literature not merely as an artistic form, but as a medium for sharing values, imagination, lived experiences, and social understanding across generations.

The festival draws inspiration from the cultural and historical landscape of Central India, including sites such as Sanchi and Bhimbetka, which reflect the region's long-standing tradition of knowledge creation and artistic expression. By situating itself within this cultural context, BLF positions literature as both a contemporary and historically rooted practice.

BLF was conceptualized and launched in 2019 under the theme "Heartland Stories," with the aim of creating an inclusive literary platform outside metropolitan circuits. The founding vision emphasized accessibility, cultural rootedness, and the inclusion of regional and vernacular voices alongside nationally recognized literary figures. From its inaugural edition, BLF established an identity as a people-centric festival that values dialogue, plurality, and community participation.

Over successive editions, the festival expanded steadily in scale, thematic scope, and public engagement. While literature remained central, BLF increasingly incorporated discussions on history, media, cinema, geopolitics, environment, and social change. This evolution transformed

BLF from a conventional book-focused event into a broader knowledge-sharing platform that integrates literature with interdisciplinary perspectives.

BLF also demonstrated institutional adaptability, particularly during the COVID-19 period, by sustaining intellectual engagement through modified formats. Continued emphasis on youth participation through workshops, competitions, and interactive sessions reflects the festival's commitment to nurturing future generations of readers, writers, and thinkers.

By the time of its eighth edition in 2026, BLF had grown into a multi-day, multi-disciplinary cultural event featuring over 60 sessions and more than 100 speakers from diverse fields. The 2026 edition marked a significant moment in BLF's evolution, reflecting its transition from a regional literary initiative to a nationally recognized "Knowledge Kumbh." The thematic breadth of the 2026 edition, along with its integration of art, performance, and literature, positioned BLF as an emerging intellectual institution within India's cultural landscape.

This historical and institutional context provides the foundation for the present study, which seeks to move beyond descriptive accounts of BLF and systematically assess its intellectual and knowledge impact on participants and on the city of Bhopal.

3. Research Objectives

The primary objectives of this study are:

- To assess the perceived intellectual and knowledge impact of BLF 2026 on participants
- To examine whether BLF encourages reflection, learning, and critical thinking
- To understand how youth participants experience BLF intellectually
- To evaluate BLF's perceived contribution to the intellectual life of Bhopal
- To identify limitations and areas for improvement in BLF's design and impact

Research Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted a **mixed-methods research design**, integrating quantitative and qualitative approaches to achieve a comprehensive understanding of BLF's intellectual impact. A convergent parallel design was employed, wherein quantitative and qualitative data were collected during the same phase of the festival, analyzed separately, and integrated at the interpretation stage.

This design was considered appropriate as it allows numerical trends to be contextualized through participant narratives, thereby enhancing the depth and credibility of findings.

Study Setting

The research was conducted during the 8th edition of the Bhopal Literature Festival, held in Bhopal. Data collection took place during and immediately after festival sessions to capture participants' immediate intellectual experiences and reflections.

Population and Sampling

The target population included:

- Youth attendees (students and early-career professionals)
- General attendees
- Volunteers and organisers
- Selected speakers and authors (for qualitative insights)

For the quantitative component, a **convenience purposive sampling technique** was used, surveying participants who had attended at least one festival session.

- **Quantitative sample** size: Approximately 230 valid responses
- **Qualitative sample**: 90 participants selected through purposive sampling to represent diverse roles and engagement levels

Data Collection Tools and Procedure

Quantitative Data Collection

Primary quantitative data were collected using a **structured standardized questionnaire**. The tool consisted of:

- Demographic variables
- Likert-scale items measuring intellectual engagement, exposure to ideas, reflection, youth relevance, and city-level impact
- Open-ended questions for brief qualitative input

The questionnaire used a **5-point Likert scale** ranging from Strongly Disagree (1) to Strongly Agree (5). Surveys were administered in both paper-based and online formats during the festival.

Qualitative Data Collection

Qualitative data were collected through:

- Semi-structured interviews
- Informal focused conversations with selected participants

Interview prompts encouraged participants to reflect on their learning experiences, intellectual stimulation, youth relevance of the festival, and perceptions of BLF's role in shaping Bhopal's cultural and intellectual identity.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis

Quantitative data were analyzed using descriptive statistical techniques, including:

- Mean scores
- Standard deviation
- Percentage distribution

Segment-based analysis was conducted to compare perceptions across age groups, first-time versus repeat attendees, and roles at the festival. An exploratory correlation analysis was also undertaken to examine relationships between key experience dimensions such as intellectual engagement, reflection, and motivation for continued engagement.

Qualitative Analysis

Qualitative data were analyzed using **thematic analysis**. The process involved familiarization with transcripts, coding of responses, identification of recurring patterns, and development of overarching themes. This approach allowed for an interpretive understanding of how participants made sense of their BLF experiences.

Ethical Considerations

Participation in the study was voluntary. Respondents were informed about the purpose of the research, and verbal consent was obtained prior to data collection. Anonymity and confidentiality of responses were ensured, and data were used solely for academic and institutional research purposes.

Quantitative Result Analysis

The study adopts a **quantitative research approach**, supported by interpretive analysis. Data was collected through a structured survey administered to participants during and after BLF 2026.

- Total valid responses: **230**
- Measurement scale: **5-point Likert scale**
- Analysis method: descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, percentages)
- Additional interpretation based on segmentation (age, participation type, experience)

The purpose of this analysis is not to present numbers in isolation, but to **explain what these numbers reveal about participant experience** in clear and accessible terms.

Respondent Profile: Understanding the Audience

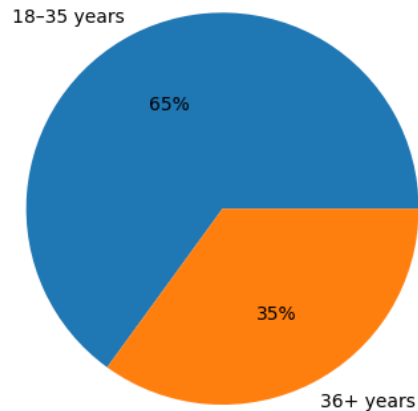
Before interpreting impact, it is essential to understand **who the respondents are**, as intellectual outcomes are shaped by age, background, and level of engagement.

Table 1: Demographic Profile of Respondents

Variable	Category	Percentage (%)
Age Group	18–35 years	~65
	36 years and above	~35
Gender	Male	~52
	Female	~48
Education	Undergraduate	~34
	Postgraduate	~36
	Doctoral / Others	~30
Role at BLF	Attendee	~60
	Volunteer / Organiser	~40

To understand the age composition of the respondents, Figure 1 presents the age-wise distribution of participants who took part in the survey.

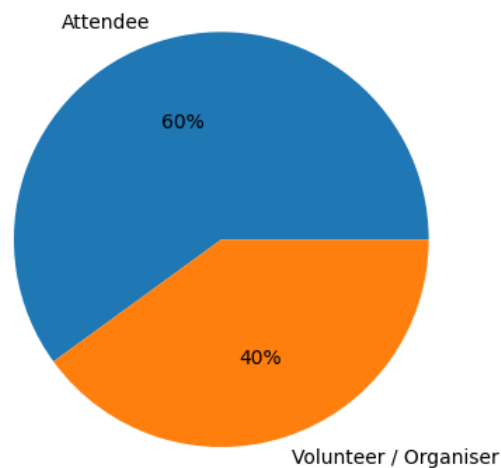
Figure 1: Age-wise Distribution of Respondents



As shown in Figure 1, a clear majority of respondents belong to the 18–35 years age group, indicating strong youth participation in BLF 2026.

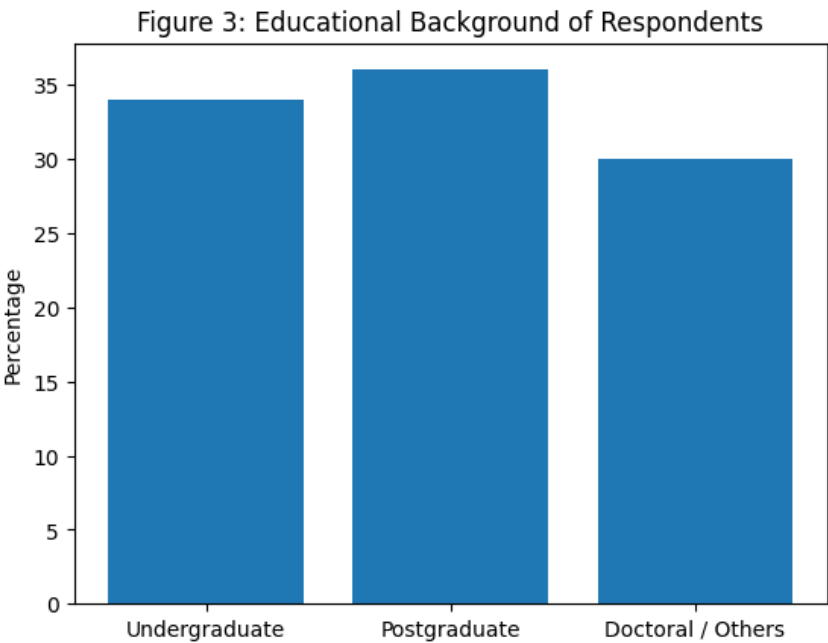
Figure 2 illustrates the role of respondents at the festival, distinguishing between general attendees and volunteers or organisers.

Figure 2: Role of Respondents at BLF 2026



The figure highlights that a substantial proportion of respondents were volunteers or organisers, suggesting that the data includes perspectives from participants with deeper engagement.

To provide context on the educational diversity of participants, Figure 3 presents the educational background of the respondents.



The distribution shows representation across undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels, indicating that BLF attracts audiences with varied academic exposure.

Interpretation

The demographic profile shows that the majority of respondents fall within the **18–35 years age group**, indicating strong youth participation. This is particularly relevant because youth engagement is a stated objective of BLF. Balanced gender representation suggests that perceptions captured in the study are not heavily skewed by one gender group.

The presence of both general attendees and volunteers is significant. Volunteers and organiser’s often experience the festival more intensively, attending multiple sessions and engaging closely with speakers and logistics. Their inclusion adds depth to the data, as it captures both surface-level and deeper engagement experiences.

Educational diversity further indicates that BLF attracts participants across varying levels of academic exposure, suggesting that its appeal is not limited to a narrow intellectual elite.

Interpretive Implications for BLF

The findings reflect the experiences of the audience BLF most seeks to engage: young, educated, and intellectually curious individuals. This makes the data particularly relevant for evaluating BLF’s intellectual goals.

Result Analysis

This section presents the quantitative findings of the study derived from the structured survey administered during BLF 2026. The analysis focuses on participant perceptions of intellectual engagement, youth relevance, city-level impact, and differences across participant segments. In addition, an exploratory correlation analysis is included to examine relationships between key experience dimensions.

Intellectual Engagement: Understanding Cognitive Impact

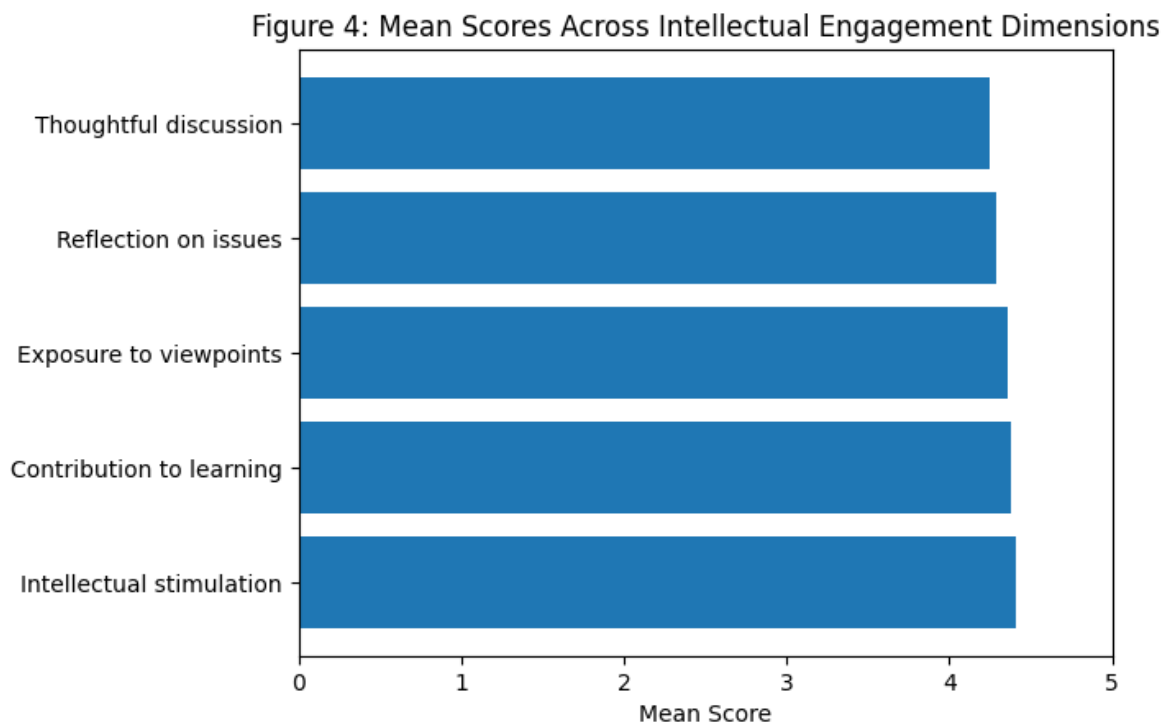
Intellectual engagement refers to the extent to which participants felt mentally stimulated, challenged, and exposed to new ideas during BLF 2026. These indicators go beyond enjoyment and attempt to capture **active cognitive involvement**.

Table 2: Intellectual Engagement Indicators

Indicator	Mean	Std. Deviation
Introduced unfamiliar ideas	4.32	0.71
Thinking beyond usual exposure	4.18	0.76
Intellectual stimulation	4.41	0.65
Exposure to diverse viewpoints	4.36	0.68

Reflection on social/cultural issues	4.29	0.73
Thoughtful discussion and exchange	4.25	0.70
Contribution to overall learning	4.38	0.66

To visually illustrate the levels of intellectual engagement reported by participants, Figure 4 presents the mean scores across different engagement dimensions.



As shown in Figure 4, intellectual stimulation and contribution to learning received the highest mean scores, reinforcing the interpretation that BLF actively engages participants at a cognitive level.

Interpretation

All indicators show mean values significantly above the neutral midpoint of 3, suggesting strong agreement that BLF was intellectually engaging. The highest mean score for intellectual stimulation indicates that participants frequently felt mentally challenged rather than passively entertained.

High scores for exposure to diverse viewpoints and unfamiliar ideas suggest that BLF succeeded in introducing participants to perspectives beyond their regular academic or social environments. This is particularly important in a literature festival context, where exposure to difference is a key intellectual outcome.

The slightly lower (but still high) score for “thinking beyond usual exposure” suggests that while many participants encountered new ideas, the depth of challenge may have varied depending on prior intellectual exposure. Participants who already engage deeply with literature may have found certain sessions reinforcing rather than transformative.

Low standard deviation values across indicators indicate consistency in responses, meaning these experiences were shared by a large proportion of participants rather than a small enthusiastic subgroup.

Interpretive Implications for BLF

BLF is clearly succeeding in stimulating thought and learning. However, the data subtly suggests room to challenge highly engaged participants further while maintaining accessibility for others.

Reflection and Critical Thinking

Intellectual impact is not limited to stimulation; it also involves **reflection and critical processing of ideas**. Participants were asked whether BLF encouraged them to reflect on social, cultural, and contemporary issues.

Interpretation

Mean scores above 4.25 indicate that many participants experienced BLF as a reflective space. Rather than offering definitive answers, sessions appear to have prompted questioning, contemplation, and reconsideration of viewpoints.

This kind of engagement suggests that participants were not simply absorbing information, but actively processing and interpreting ideas in relation to their own beliefs and experiences.

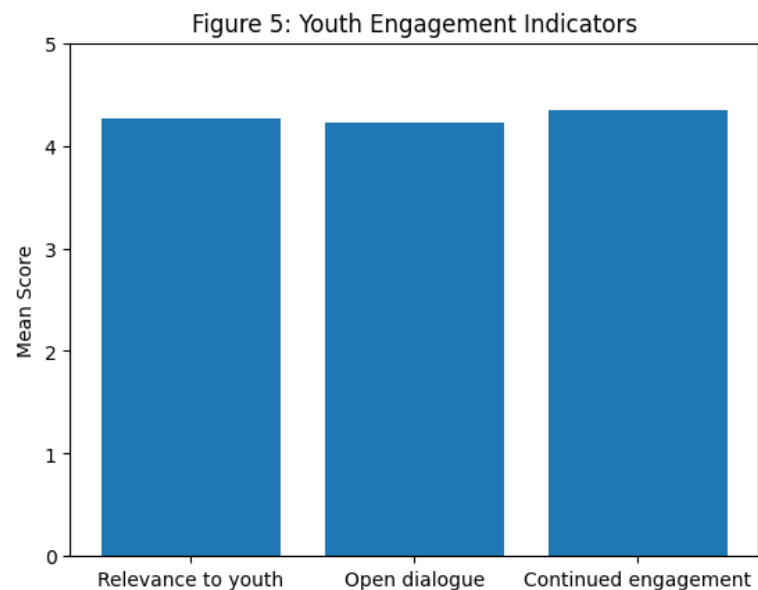
Interpretive Implications for BLF BLF functions as a space for reflective learning. This positions it as an intellectual environment rather than a purely performativity cultural event.

Youth Engagement and Sustained Influence

Table 3: Youth Engagement Indicators

Youth Engagement Indicator	Mean	Std. Deviation
Relevance to youth intellectual interests	4.27	0.72
Facilitation of open dialogue	4.22	0.74
Encouragement for continued engagement	4.35	0.69

Figure 5 presents the mean scores for key indicators related to youth engagement at BLF 2026



The figure indicates consistently high scores across all youth engagement indicators, particularly for continued engagement motivation, suggesting potential long-term influence on young participants.

Interpretation

Youth participants reported strong alignment between BLF content and their intellectual interests. The high score for encouragement for continued engagement is particularly important, as it suggests that BLF’s influence extends beyond the festival itself.

This indicates potential long-term impact, where participants may continue reading, discussing ideas, or attending similar events as a result of their BLF experience.

Interpretive Implications for BLF

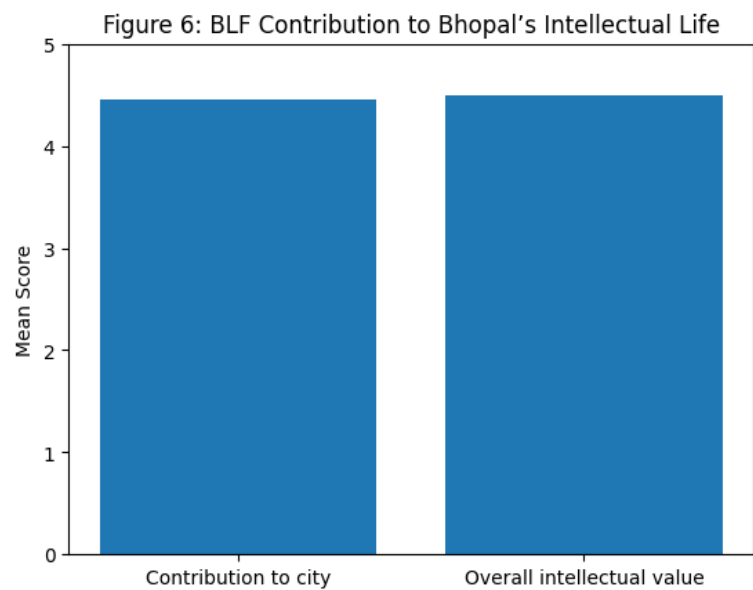
BLF has the capacity to influence intellectual habits among youth, positioning it as a developmental platform rather than a one-time experience.

City-Level Intellectual Impact

Table 4: Contribution to the Intellectual Life of Bhopal

City-Level Indicator	Mean	Std. Deviation
Contribution to Bhopal’s intellectual life	4.46	0.63
Overall intellectual value of BLF	4.49	0.61

To capture participants’ perceptions of BLF’s broader influence, Figure 6 illustrates mean scores related to the festival’s contribution to the intellectual life of Bhopal.



The high mean values shown in the figure suggest strong agreement among participants that BLF adds meaningful intellectual value at the city level.

Interpretation

These are the highest mean scores in the study, indicating strong collective agreement that BLF enhances the intellectual environment of Bhopal. Participants perceive BLF as contributing to civic pride and cultural identity.

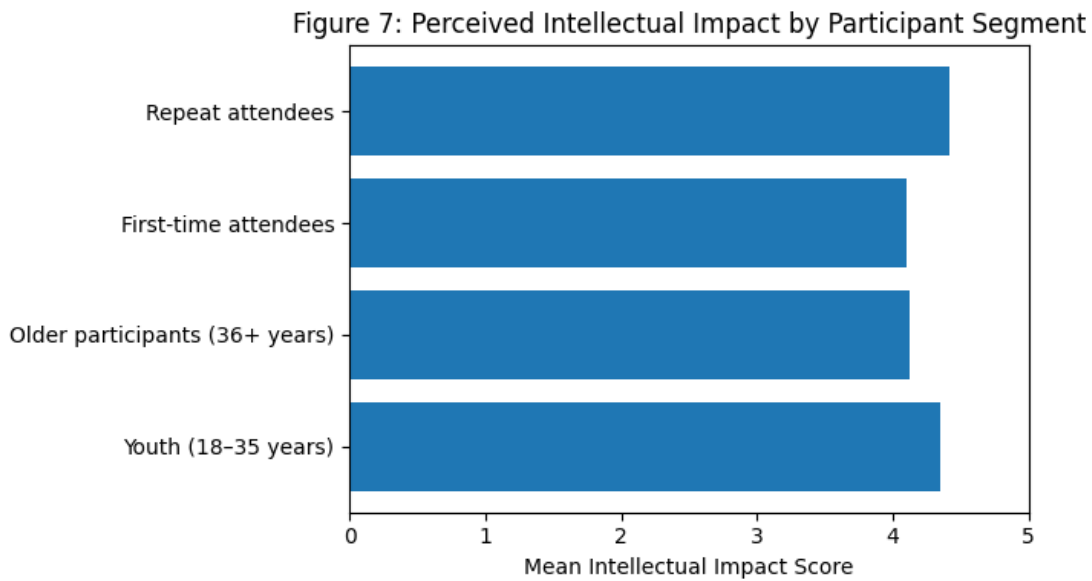
Interpretive Implications for BLF BLF is increasingly seen as a city-level intellectual institution, not merely an annual event.

Segment-Based Analysis

Table 5: Segment Comparison of Perceived Intellectual Impact

Segment	Perceived Impact
Youth (18–35 years)	Higher
Older participants	Slightly lower
First-time attendees	Moderate
Repeat attendees	Higher

To compare perceptions across participant groups, Figure 7 presents the perceived intellectual impact by selected participant segments.



The figure shows higher perceived impact among youth and repeat attendees, visually supporting the segment-based insights and critical discussion that follows.

Interpretation:

Youth and repeat attendees report stronger intellectual benefits, suggesting both age relevance and a cumulative impact of continued participation in BLF.

5.6 Exploratory Relationship Analysis (Correlation)

In addition to descriptive analysis, a limited exploratory correlation analysis was conducted to examine **how different aspects of participant experience at BLF 2026 relate to each other**. The purpose of this analysis is not to establish causality, but to understand whether certain positive experiences tend to occur together.

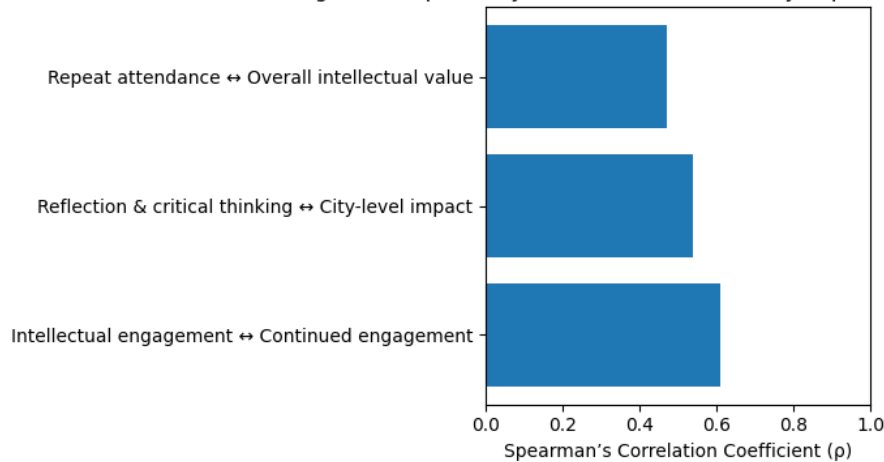
Given the perception-based nature of the data, **Spearman’s rank correlation** was used.

Table 6: Selected Correlations between Key Experience Variables

Relationship Examined	Spearman’s ρ	Strength of Relationship
Intellectual engagement ↔ Continued engagement motivation	0.61	Moderate to strong positive
Reflection & critical thinking ↔ Perceived city-level impact	0.54	Moderate positive
Repeat attendance ↔ Overall intellectual value	0.47	Moderate positive

To visually compare the strength of relationships between key experience dimensions, Figure 8 presents the Spearman correlation coefficients for selected variables.

Figure 8: Exploratory Correlation Between Key Experience Dimensions



As shown in Figure 8, intellectual engagement shows the strongest association with continued engagement motivation, followed by the relationship between reflection and perceived city-level impact. The comparatively lower correlation for repeat attendance suggests that while familiarity enhances perceived value, intellectual engagement plays a more central role in shaping participant outcomes.

Interpretation

The correlation analysis shows that participants who reported higher intellectual engagement during BLF 2026 also tended to report stronger motivation to remain engaged with ideas, literature, or similar intellectual activities after the festival ($\rho = 0.61$). In simple terms, participants who felt more intellectually stimulated were also more likely to feel inspired to continue engaging beyond the event.

Similarly, a moderate positive relationship was observed between reflection and critical thinking during BLF sessions and participants' perception of BLF's contribution to the intellectual life of Bhopal ($\rho = 0.54$). This suggests that when participants personally experienced deeper reflection, they were more likely to view BLF as meaningful at a city level.

Finally, repeat attendance showed a positive association with overall intellectual value ($\rho = 0.47$), indicating that participants who had attended BLF multiple times tended to value its intellectual contribution more than first-time attendees. This points toward a cumulative effect, where familiarity with the festival enhances intellectual appreciation.

It is important to emphasise that these relationships represent **associations rather than cause-and-effect relationships**. The findings indicate that certain positive experiences tend to occur together, but they do not suggest that one experience directly causes another.

Important Clarification

These relationships indicate **association, not causation**. While the findings suggest that certain experiences move together, they do not imply that one directly causes the other. Rather, they

provide insight into how participants experience BLF as an interconnected intellectual environment.

Qualitative Findings: Thematic Summary

The thematic analysis of interviews conducted at the Bhopal Literature Festival (BLF) generated five interrelated themes. These themes capture how participants understand the role of BLF in learning, youth engagement, cultural identity, and contemporary public life. The discussion below integrates participant accounts with interpretive analysis to explain the significance of each theme.

Theme 1: BLF as an Enjoyable and Meaningful Intellectual Learning Experience

Across interviews, participants consistently described BLF as a **learning space that is both enjoyable and meaningful**. Learning was not articulated in formal academic terms but rather as something that occurred through listening, observing, and interacting.

One youth attendee stated:

YOUTH ATTENDEE:

“I feel you learn something new in every session. Because it is enjoyable, it stays with you.”

Participants frequently linked enjoyment with their ability to internalize ideas, suggesting that learning at BLF is facilitated through engagement rather than instruction.

VOLUNTEER:

“When you enjoy a session, you don’t realize you are learning at that moment. Later, you understand how much you actually took from it.”

This aligns with accounts from older participants, who also emphasized attentiveness and interest as key outcomes of the festival’s format.

Recurrent Words / Phrases (Approximate Count)

Word / Phrase	Frequency
learn / learning	~85-95
knowledge	~70
intellectual / intellectually	~55
exposure	~60
perspectives / viewpoints	~45
thinking / critical thinking	~40

Discussion:

The findings suggest that BLF operates as an **informal learning environment**, where enjoyment acts as a mediator for knowledge acquisition. This challenges traditional notions of learning as effortful or rigid and highlights the value of cultural festivals as supplementary educational spaces.

Theme 2: Widening of Perspective and Exposure to Diverse Ways of Thinking

A prominent theme in participants' narratives was the **broadening of perspectives**. Respondents repeatedly described BLF as exposing them to ideas, viewpoints, and experiences different from their own.

An academic participant reflected:

ACADEMIC:

"These sessions push you to think differently. You are exposed to ideas you may not encounter in your usual environment."

Youth participants echoed this sentiment, particularly emphasizing how listening to speakers from varied backgrounds altered their thinking.

STUDENT ATTENDEE:

"You hear so many different perspectives in one place. It opens your mind."

Participants often framed this widening of perspective as a gradual process rather than a single moment, emerging from repeated exposure across sessions.

Discussion:

This theme indicates that BLF functions as a **space of cognitive and intellectual expansion**, enabling participants to engage with plural ways of thinking. Such exposure is particularly significant in a socio-cultural context where opportunities for dialogue across disciplines and lived experiences may be limited.

Term	Frequency
youth	~140+
career	~60
experience	~110
confidence	~35
networking	~30
aspirations	~25

Theme 3: Youth Engagement, Confidence, and Career Orientation

Youth and volunteer participants frequently discussed BLF in relation to **confidence building, personal growth, and career exploration**. Participation—whether as an attendee or volunteer—was described as empowering and motivating.

One volunteer noted:

VOLUNTEER:

“Interacting with speakers and managing responsibilities gives a lot of confidence.

Several respondents linked the festival to career-related clarity, particularly for those interested in media, literature, journalism, or cultural work.

YOUTH PARTICIPANT:

“It helps you understand whether this is the field you want to pursue. You get real exposure, not just theory.”

Even participants who did not articulate immediate career outcomes described BLF as shaping aspirations and encouraging self-belief.

Discussion:

The findings suggest that BLF acts as an **informal career-socialization space**, especially for youth. Through observation, interaction, and participation, young attendees gain exposure to professional pathways that are often absent from formal curricula.

Term	Frequency
diverse / diversity	~50
mix of people	~40
different age groups	~30
students + professionals	~35

Theme 4: Cultural Roots, Identity, and Pride in the City

Participants repeatedly emphasized BLF’s role in fostering **cultural awareness and connection to roots**, particularly through tribal art, heritage displays, and discussions around literature and history.

A senior participant shared:

SENIOR ATTENDEE:

“It reminds us of our culture and roots, things we don’t usually reflect on.”

Several respondents expressed pride in Bhopal hosting a festival that foregrounds culture and intellectual engagement

LOCAL PARTICIPANT:

“It feels good that something like this is happening in Bhopal. It shows another side of the city.”

Younger participants also acknowledged that BLF introduced them to cultural forms they had limited exposure to previously.

Discussion:

This theme highlights BLF’s role in **reframing urban identity**. The festival not only promotes cultural continuity but also contributes to a sense of collective pride, positioning Bhopal as a space of cultural and intellectual vibrancy.

Term	Frequency
culture / cultural	~95
tribal / tribal art	~65
roots	~40
pride	~45
heritage	~30
city / Bhopal	~150+

Theme 5: Live Interaction as an Alternative to Digital Saturation

Participants across age groups contrasted BLF with digital and social media-based forms of engagement. Many highlighted the importance of **being physically present**, listening attentively, and engaging in real-time interaction.

One youth attendee remarked:

YOUTH ATTENDEE:

“We spend most of our time on phones. Here, you actually listen and connect.”

Authors and senior participants similarly emphasized the difference between online content consumption and live dialogue.

AUTHOR:

“Hearing people speak in person has a different impact compared to reading something online.”

Discussion:

The findings indicate that BLF is perceived as a **counter-space to digital saturation**, offering embodied and dialogic engagement. This reinforces the relevance of physical cultural spaces in an increasingly mediated world.

Theme 6: Limited Awareness and the Need for Stronger Marketing of BLF

Across interviews, participants repeatedly acknowledged the **high quality and value of BLF**, while simultaneously highlighting **limited awareness and insufficient marketing** as a concern. Several attendees, volunteers, and speakers noted that many people learned about the festival through personal networks, such as friends, colleges, or word of mouth, rather than through formal promotional channels.

One attendee remarked:

YOUTH ATTENDEE

“I came to know about BLF through a friend. If he hadn’t told me, I probably wouldn’t have known it was happening.”

This sentiment was echoed by participants who felt that the festival deserved a **wider audience**, given its rich content. A speaker emphasized the importance of early and sustained communication:

AUTHOR:

“It looks very well organized, but not enough people know about it yet. If people are informed earlier, they can actually plan to attend.”

Volunteers and repeat attendees also suggested that stronger visibility—especially on digital platforms—could help BLF reach students beyond those already connected to literary or academic circles. The absence of widespread promotion was often contrasted with the enthusiasm and positive experiences reported by those who did attend.

Term	Frequency
awareness / know about	~40–45
marketing / promotion	~30–35
social media	~25
reach / outreach	~28
people don’t know	~20
communication / information	~22

Overall Discussion

Taken together, the findings suggest that the Bhopal Literature Festival is perceived as a **multidimensional public space** that integrates learning, cultural engagement, youth development, and social interaction. Participants consistently highlight the festival’s ability to make learning enjoyable, broaden perspectives, strengthen cultural identity, and provide meaningful alternatives to digitally mediated experiences. For youth in particular, BLF emerges as a space of confidence-building and aspirational exploration.

7. Critical Insights and Areas for Improvement

While the overall findings of this research indicate that BLF 2026 was intellectually successful, a credible and responsible research study must also examine **where the experience was uneven, limited, or incomplete**. These critical insights are not intended to undermine the value of BLF, but to highlight areas where its intellectual potential can be strengthened.

1. Uneven Depth of Intellectual Engagement across Sessions

Although overall intellectual engagement scores are high, the data reveal variation in how deeply participants engaged across different sessions. This does not imply that any session failed, but rather that **intellectual intensity was not uniform throughout the festival**.

In a festival with multiple formats—panels, lectures, conversations, and readings—it is natural that some sessions provoke deeper reflection than others. Participants with different academic backgrounds, reading habits, and confidence levels may also experience the same session differently. As a result, while some participants described moments of strong intellectual transformation, others experienced engagement that was meaningful but less intense.

This unevenness becomes visible when looking beyond average scores and considering response spread. Even within a generally positive response pattern, variation indicates that not all intellectual opportunities were equally accessible or impactful for all participants.

Interpretive Implications for BLF

BLF's intellectual quality is high, but **consistency can be improved**. Identifying what makes certain sessions more impactful than others can help raise the overall intellectual depth of the festival.

2. Limited Audience Interaction Time

The research suggests that while participants valued the ideas presented, **opportunities for active dialogue were sometimes limited**. Many sessions followed a speaker-centric format, leaving restricted time for audience questions or discussion.

Intellectual engagement deepens significantly when participants can clarify doubts, challenge viewpoints, or connect ideas to personal experiences. When interaction time is constrained, especially in panel-heavy sessions, participants may remain mentally engaged but not fully involved.

This limitation does not reflect poor design but rather the practical constraints of time, scheduling, and speaker availability. However, from an intellectual impact perspective, interaction is not supplementary—it is central.

Interpretive Implications for BLF

BLF is strong in delivering ideas, but **can become even stronger by increasing dialogue**. Small structural changes in session design could significantly enhance intellectual depth.

3. Lower Intellectual Impact for First-Time Attendees

Segment-based analysis indicates that first-time attendees reported lower intellectual impact compared to repeat participants. This pattern suggests that **BLF's intellectual richness becomes more accessible over time**, rather than immediately.

First-time participants may require time to understand:

- The nature of discussions
- How to engage confidently
- How sessions are interconnected thematically

Without this familiarity, new attendees may appreciate the festival but not fully access its deeper intellectual layers.

Interpretive Implications for BLF

BLF's intellectual environment is rich but **not instantly transparent**. Supporting first-time participants can help broaden the festival's impact more quickly.

4. Accessibility of Intellectual Content

The respondent profile shows strong participation from educated and culturally engaged audiences. While this reflects BLF's success, it also raises an important question: **How accessible is BLF to participants without prior exposure to literature or academic discussion?**

High intellectual depth is a strength, but without entry points, it can feel intimidating. Accessibility does not mean simplifying ideas; it means creating multiple ways to enter intellectual conversations.

Interpretive Implications for BLF

BLF can expand its intellectual reach by **layering accessibility**, ensuring that depth does not become a barrier.

5. Absence of Long-Term Impact Measurement

This research captures participant perceptions immediately following BLF 2026. While these perceptions are valuable, they do not tell us whether intellectual engagement translates into **long-term behavioural change**, such as sustained reading, continued learning, or civic participation.

As a result, BLF's extended intellectual influence is **suggested but not empirically demonstrated**.

Interpretive Implications for BLF

BLF's long-term impact is likely significant, but **systematic follow-up is needed** to demonstrate it clearly.

Summary of Key Findings: Quantitative and Qualitative Evidence

Overall Intellectual Impact

- Quantitative results indicate high overall intellectual value, with most respondents rating BLF positively on intellectual engagement, exposure to ideas, and reflective learning.
 - Qualitative narratives confirm that BLF is perceived as an informal but meaningful learning space, where learning occurs through enjoyment, listening, and interaction rather than formal instruction.
 - However, variation in scores and narratives suggests that intellectual impact is strong but uneven, differing by session type, participant background, and familiarity with the festival.
-

Learning Experience and Intellectual Engagement

- Survey responses show strong agreement that BLF introduces new ideas, diverse perspectives, and reflective thinking.
 - Interview data reveal that enjoyment functions as a key mediator of learning, enabling participants to absorb and retain ideas more effectively.
 - This challenges traditional assumptions that learning must be effortful, while also raising questions about depth versus accessibility of intellectual engagement.
-

Widening of Perspectives

- Quantitative indicators reflect high perceived exposure to diverse viewpoints and unfamiliar ideas.
 - Qualitative findings reinforce this, with participants describing BLF as a space that “opens the mind” through interdisciplinary and cross-background dialogue.
 - Repeated exposure across sessions, rather than single events, was identified as critical to perspective change.
 - At the same time, this widening effect appears stronger among repeat attendees, suggesting cumulative rather than immediate impact.
-

Youth Engagement, Confidence, and Career Orientation

- Youth respondents rated BLF highly on relevance and engagement, particularly in relation to motivation and confidence.

- **Qualitative evidence highlights BLF as an informal career-socialization space, offering exposure to cultural, literary, and media-related career paths.**
 - **Participation as volunteers was especially linked to confidence building and professional self-belief.**
 - **However, career impact remains exploratory rather than concrete, indicating inspiration rather than direct outcomes.**
-

Cultural Identity and City-Level Impact

- **Quantitative findings suggest strong agreement that BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual and cultural life.**
 - **Interview data show that BLF fosters cultural awareness, connection to roots, and pride in the city, particularly through tribal art, heritage, and historical discussions.**
 - **BLF is perceived as reframing Bhopal's identity—from a primarily administrative city to an emerging cultural-intellectual space.**
 - **This contribution is symbolic and experiential rather than formally institutionalized.**
-

Live Engagement versus Digital Saturation

- **Participants across age groups emphasized the value of physical presence, attentiveness, and real-time dialogue, contrasting BLF with digital and social media environments.**
 - **Qualitative findings position BLF as a counter-space to digital saturation, supporting embodied and dialogic learning.**
 - **This dimension is not captured fully through quantitative scales, indicating the added value of qualitative methods.**
-

Critical Gaps and Limitations

- **Quantitative variation and qualitative accounts reveal uneven depth of intellectual engagement across sessions.**
- **Limited audience interaction time reduces opportunities for deeper dialogue and critical exchange.**
- **First-time attendees report lower intellectual impact, suggesting that BLF's intellectual culture is not immediately accessible.**
- **High intellectual depth may unintentionally exclude participants without prior exposure to literature or academic discourse.**

- **The study captures short-term perceptions only; long-term intellectual or behavioural impact remains unmeasured.**
-

Integrated Interpretation

- **Taken together, the findings indicate that BLF functions as a multidimensional intellectual public space, combining learning, cultural engagement, youth development, and social dialogue.**
- **Its intellectual impact is substantial but not evenly distributed, cumulative rather than instant, and strong in inspiration but weaker in sustained measurement.**
- **Strengthening accessibility, interaction, first-time engagement, and long-term evaluation could significantly enhance BLF's intellectual reach and equity.**

Appendix

1. Survey Questionnaire (Google Form)

Section A: Demographic Information

1. Age: ____ years
2. Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other ☐ Prefer not to say
3. Educational Level: ☐ Undergraduate ☐ Postgraduate ☐ Doctoral ☐ Other
4. Primary Role at BLF: ☐ Attendee ☐ Volunteer ☐ Organizer ☐ Speaker
5. Number of times you have attended BLF: ☐ First time ☐ 2–3 times ☐ 4 times or more
6. Current Location: ☐ Bhopal ☐ Other city in Madhya Pradesh ☐ Other state (please specify): _____

Section B: Intellectual and Knowledge Engagement

(5-point Likert Scale: 1 = Strongly Disagree, 5 = Strongly Agree)

1. The sessions at BLF introduced ideas that were unfamiliar to me.
2. Participation in BLF required me to think beyond my usual academic or professional exposure.
3. The content presented at BLF was intellectually stimulating.
4. BLF provided opportunities to engage with diverse viewpoints.
5. Attending BLF encouraged reflection on social, cultural, or global issues.
6. Interactions during the festival supported thoughtful discussion and exchange of ideas.
7. My participation in BLF contributed to my overall learning experience.

Section C: Youth Engagement and Intellectual Space

8. BLF offers platforms that are relevant to the intellectual interests of young people.
9. The festival facilitates open dialogue across differing opinions and backgrounds.
10. BLF encourages continued participation in intellectual or cultural activities beyond the event.

Section D: Overall Assessment

11. To what extent do you feel BLF contributes to intellectual life in the city of Bhopal?
(1 = Not at all, 5 = To a great extent)
12. Overall, how would you assess the intellectual value of your BLF experience?
(1 = Very Low, 5 = Very High)

Section E: Open-Ended Questions

13. Which aspects of BLF did you find most intellectually engaging, and why?

14. In what ways, if any, has your participation in BLF influenced your thinking, learning, or interests?
15. What changes or additions would you suggest to strengthen the intellectual impact of BLF?

2. Qualitative Research Instruments and Interview Transcripts

1. Dr. Kavita- Author & speaker

... Hello, ma'am, can I please know your name?

I'm Dr. Kavita Bhatnagar. Okay, great session, first of all, I was there. Very inspiring. Um- Thank you.

Uh, I had very general questions about BLF. Uh, you are seeing that the youth is here, mainly the crowd is youth. Do you think events like this, fest like these, inspire the youth- Yes

... uh, and help them shape their thinking and creativity?

Yes, I think it's very important that there are platforms like this available to the youth, and they are able to come and maximize their gain from such platforms, and that is what I see is happening here. Because today is only the first day, it is not even a weekend, still, the whole area is teeming over with college students, and it's good to see them volunteering also.

Right. And I think it's very important that they engage with the authors, they understand their viewpoints, and get some takeaways for their life.

Right. Uh, one more question. not only literature, but here there are things that show how the city's been shaped the way it is. There are tribal art displays- Yes ... uh, stalls and basically about the culture of the city. Do you think such steps help the youth connect better with their city, understand the city better?

Yes, I think there are so many Tier 2 cities now which are having such festivals like Dehradun, Chandigarh, Bhopal, and it helps, you know, to get a pride, wali feeling, ki mere sheher mein- Mm ... aisa kuch ho raha hai jiske liye woh jana jaata hai. Right. So I think it's very, very good and a thing of, uh, pride for all the people. Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much, ma'am.

Thank you, all the best.

1. Aditya- Attendee

...Your name, please?

Hello, my name is Aditya Sagoria.

Hi Aditya, have you attended BLF before?

Yes, I've been attending BLF from past two years.

How has your experience been? Have you found this helpful in your learning?

Yes, my experience is wonderful and, you know here, means previously attending, uh, the sessions, all I've attended. you know, really a new change in every session. You learn something new. You bring new to the table every time you attend a session. So it's a positive impact for me. Uh, and right now, also, the, the session I recently attended, uh, it taught me about, you know, how love can impact, uh, everything. So, yeah, uh, uh, it's a really positive, uh, session. So, yeah, my experience has been great.

Do you think BLF is impactful, especially to the youth of Bhopal?

Uh, yes, uh, BLF is, uh, really impactful, uh, to the youth of Bhopal. As you know, youth, uh, means, uh, nowadays, youth really relies on AI and social media and everything. Uh, so, you know, attending these sessions, uh, youth can, you know, seek information from being live. So, yeah, that's one thing from my side.

okay, one final question. Has BLF changed how you perceive the city? Since there are many cultural and diverse factors, stalls that you see here.

Yeah, every time I attend BLF, it's something new for me. Uh, new things, uh, means I learn new things. I meet new people every time I visit here. And, you know, people also visit me, so yeah, it's good.

Okay. Thank you.

2. Ashnoor-Media volunteer

Hi, Your name, please?

Hi, I'm Ashnur.

Okay, Ashnur, have you attended BLF before?

No, I've not.

Okay. And, you are here for the first time. Do you think it's affecting the whole city or the youth in general?

I think so. Uh, okay, so right now I'm in the media team, and I'll be taking interviews of people- Okay. -in general, how they're liking BLF. Uh, apart from that, my experience has been great because I have met like-minded people, and also, it's good for networking for a person who wants to make it in their career in this field. So yeah, I think that everyone should attend BLF. There's no age limit or age restriction.

All right. has BLF shaped your academic or career aspirations as a whole?

Um, I guess so. It is, uh, providing me with a lot of great experience because, um, because the more you explore, the more you find out about what you want to do ahead.

Okay, and do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture, intellectual culture towards the youth, especially?

Of course, yes, because as a person who's in their young twen- uh, in their early twenties, I feel that there's not much to do in Bhopal, and Bhopal is much more than just Bhopal gas tragedy and Poha and lakes. I think there are a lot of people with great potential, so I think BLF provides them a great platform to, you know, to showcase their skills and their, uh, mindsets. Right.

And one last question: Do you think, uh, BLF is contributing to the youth connecting more to their culture, especially in Bhopal, since there's tribal art display and stalls like that? Do you think it's helpful?

Uh, I don't know much about it because it's my first time attending BLF as well, and I'm not attending it as a participant. I, I'm attending it as a media person. So- But it's a new experience for you. It is. It is a new experience for me, so I hope that it is influencing people, and it's connecting people through from, you know, with their roots and culture. But yeah. All right. Thank you. Thank you.

3. Garima-Attendee

...Hi, what's your name?

Garima.

do you mind telling your age? Twenty.

Okay. Uh, have you been to BLF before or any literature festival in general?

This is my third time attending BLF.

Okay, and any other?

No, no, no.

Okay. Uh, how has been your experience so far, especially of BLF?

It has been **good**. I mean, I've been attending it since the last few years, so I have **learned a lot** of things. I've, I've attended a lot of sessions, and I think, uh, it has sort of grown on me.

Okay. BLF has grown on me.

Has it **influenced your thinking or learning in general?**

Yes. I've actually understood a lot of things after coming here.

Okay. And, how have these sessions or interactions that you've had with people here impacted, uh, your life or literature or your learnings in general?

Uh, I'm a journalism student, and I have to learn to interview people, and by coming here, I've, I've **made a lot of connections**, and that has, that has really helped me in sort of my journey. Okay, so it's helped you in your- Yes ... career aspirations?

Yes, yes.

Okay. Do you think BLF, uh, plays a role in helping the youth connect with their roots of the city or culture in general?

I think yes, but if you talk about the **ground reality**, a lot of people still don't know about BLF. Right. So I think that needs to be sort of conquered. Okay. Any suggestions that you- I just gave that. All right. Thank you so much. Yeah. Thank you.

4. Juhi-Attendee

...Hi, what's your name?

I'm Juhi Karadikar.

Okay, and your age, if you don't mind?

Um, twenty. I just turned twenty.

Okay. Uh, to start off, have you attended any literature fest before? Not only Bhopal, but any before.

Um, actually, I've never visited other than BLF. So last year I visited BLF with our HOD.

She was a moderator here, um, interviewing some other authors. So it was the first experience of coming to a, like, cultural event. So it was **great**.

Okay. So can you describe how was it last year, and, uh, since it's the first day, can you compare the two?

Okay, so, well, last year I was in first year, so it was a very **new experience** coming here with new friends and teachers. It was just a **new experience** of being in college, you know, uh, all the things that come with it. And, uh, there were so many art and craft things. There were stalls. Um, we just enjoyed and attended a few sessions, and that was **great**.

Okay, uh, has BLF shaped your aca-academic or career aspirations so far?

So as a literature student, I was actually **very impressed** when I came last year, and today also, like, it's just the same, but, you know, like, we have different feels. It has been one year since I have visited, so yeah, it is **great**.

And has it impacted your learning or thinking in any way?

Yeah, definitely. I mean, coming across so many different writers, authors, and so many people who actually love literature other than you, so it's **great** to, um, you know, like, uh, have a conversation with different kinds of people. Yeah.

Okay, one last question. Uh, has BLF changed how you perceive Bhopal as a city? Yeah, sure. I mean, I've been in Bhopal ever since I was born, so yeah, twenty years in Bhopal, and it actually feels very, um, comforting, yeah, you know, in a way, because Bhopal is like a very quiet, calm city. It just matches the vibe, and, yeah, that's it. has the-- Has BLF brought you closer to Bhopal's roots, do you think so? I guess, yes. Thank you.

5. Aanadita- Author

Hello ma'am. Hi. I am a student of JLU and we are conducting research on how youth are getting impacted by BLF, so do you have a view on that? I think the youth would definitely have a view on that, right? I am really happy to see the number of students here. I think the audience questions were really spectacular. I have been to a lot of festivals, and there were questions from students here as well. I really liked that it is a mix of bureaucrats, students, and people in the workforce. I hope that the youth are getting a chance to meet their icons one-on-one and also getting to discover new writers. Do you think BLF is different from other literary festivals that occur in Bhopal? I definitely see a big variety in the kind of topics that have been covered, and I haven't seen so many stories at a literary fest before, so I think the **mix of the audience is definitely a positive**. One last question: do you think there can be more improvements done to strengthen their mission? I think this festival is at a subscale level and it seems very well organized, but **I don't think a lot of people know about it yet**. Maybe people like you can help spread the word more, and maybe with a longer lead time, because if you start telling people about it just two days in advance, they can't really plan a trip to Bhopal. Overall, **it looks excellent and everything has been really well organized**. **I have met really great people**, and I just want more people to know about it, so maybe more communication early on. Have you visited the stalls here? I am looking forward to doing that now, and I also look forward to visiting the exhibition. We were told in our welcome note that there is a Durga Bai Vyam exhibition and a special focus on tribal art, and since I used to be an art journalist, I am quite interested in that. Do you think activities like these are helping youth connect better to their city and culture, and to how the city has been shaped the way it is? I think more than just connecting to culture, because that can also happen virtually, **this creates a sense of pride**. I think students and youth of Bhopal should be proud that they are hosting a festival at this scale and that so many people from all over have come to their city. I think it can be **quite empowering in that sense**. Thank you so much.

6. Chiranjivi- Attendee

What's your name? My name is Chiranjivi. Okay, have you been to BLF earlier? No, this is my first time coming to BLF. What has your experience been like so far? Till now, it has been very good. The **speakers are very knowledgeable and professional**. The hosts are also good, except for a few, and they are open to questions. However, I feel that some of the answers given lean towards a certain perspective, but overall the discussions are good. Do you think BLF is making any impact on the youth? I think yes. The **youth of Bhopal are learning a lot**, especially when it comes to literature, thinking critically, and developing different

perspectives, and this is something BLF really contributes to. Do you think BLF is adding value to the city of Bhopal? Yes, definitely. BLF is adding a lot in the context of diversity that the youth are exposed to. One last question, do you have any feedback about the event? The event is quite good. The only feedback I would give is that it should be marketed even more so that people from outside the city can also join the event. Thank you so much.

7. Riya- Attendee

Hi, what is your name? Hi, my name is Riya. Have you attended BLF earlier? Yes, in previous years. Okay, what has your experience been like today? What have you observed? I have seen all types of crafts from all over India, and it's really great. The festival is too good. We have learned about these things in college earlier, and now we are able to see them live. Do you think BLF is impacting youth like you? Yes, definitely, because we have almost forgotten about many traditional crafts. As a design student, I think it is really important for us to know about them, see them live, and experience how they are made. Do you think BLF has made an impact on the city of Bhopal? Yes, definitely. I think they have done great work. Do you know of any other literary festivals apart from BLF? No, as of now, I have only attended BLF, so I don't have much idea about others. Do you have any feedback to give? No, everything is great. Everyone should visit. Thank you so much.

8. Aana Jain- Attendee

Hello, what's your name? Myself Aana Jain. Have you attended BLF, earlier also? Yeah, I have attended this last year also with my HOD, Roley Ma'am, and she was a moderator asking, uh, few, uh, taking an interview with an author. She had written a book related to her life. So yeah, I have attended it. And what do you think-- what is different today as compared to the earlier BLF event? Because I attended the day three last year, and it's the four-- day one, so it's very different because right now it's setting up things and everything, and the last year it was like everything was so good and so many art and craft things were going on. I did poetry. I got tattooed and everything. So yeah, it's very different. Do you think BLF, have made an impact on the youth in learning-wise or any other criteria? Yeah, because I am also a youth right now, and, uh, last year I attended it. Uh, so it was like I learned few things. I got few lessons. I got to learn few lessons about life, uh, so yeah, it impacted us. Uh, do you think BLF have impacted, Bhopal as a city? Like, is-- it has changed how you perceive the city today? Maybe, yes. I don't know. okay. Thank you.

9. Megha- Attendee

Are you comfortable taking your interview?

= Yeah, sure.

So what's your name?

= Meghan nathani

Okay Megha, So can you describe to me how BLF has influenced your thinking or learning?

= I have come for the very first time. So I'm not even aware of this whole literature festival.

But I am experienced in the literature field. So I'm very much looking forward to learning more. Especially bookstores are the ones that attract me the most. And I am here only. So I believe something or the other way I will just buy one or two.

Okay. So do you think BLF is relevant for today's youth?

= Yeah, sure. Very, very true. Because literature is something I feel. Book reading is one of the most important things to come when we talk about literature or art or artistry is something

which is very important for today's youth. As I believe ye sab cheez youth ko engagement and entertainment ke taraf le jaati h.

Okay. So do you think that BLF is distinct from other cultural events and festivals?

= Of course. Because maine kabhi ye nahi dekha h ki literature ko target karke koi event kiao h as per as I know dance, drama, cultural. But when we come to literature there is nothing like that. I believe it's unique.

So till now have you ever. Have you attended any sessions?

= No, not yet. I will just.

Okay. So any improvement you would like to just tell? Yeah.

= It can be more of an engagement type event. Because I feel universities ke student apas mai milte h toh aachi engaement hoti h. It's more. You know, unique and it's more collaborative. You will get a chance. You will get exposure to other universities too.

Thank you

13. Yasashvi - volunteer

... Hi, don't mind, I'm asking you some questions about BLF,

= Yeah. Yeah.

So by the way, your name?

= Yasashvi Adhya.

Have you ever before attended BLF ?

= Yeah.

Okay, so how do you just compare this time BLF and previous BLF?

Previously, we weren't a part of the event. We just attended it as students. This time we are volunteering for the event, so it's different. We are in the managing team for the event.

So do you feel the content the BLF is providing for the youth is good for the youth or not?

= Yes, it is good for us to know about our roots, about our culture, so it's important.

So attending BLF encourages you, like reflecting your social or cultural activities?

= Yeah, I have gained confidence after attending this event, so. Matlab, after volunteering for the event.

Okay, thank you.

14. D.R. Mandal - exhibitor

आपका नाम?

= मेरा नाम डी.आर. मंडल, रटायड असिस्टेंट पोस्टमास्टर जनरल हूं।

ओके। तो आपने पहले भी बीएलएफ में रहे हो आप?

= नहीं, बीएलएफ में मैं नहीं रहा

हूं। ये फस्ट टाइम है आपका।

= ये फस्ट टाइम ही मेरा, मैंने परसों न्यूजपेपर में पढ़ा था। तो उस बहाने फर मेरी भट्टाचाय जी से बात हो गई। तो इसके जो देखरेख कर रहे हैं तो उनके सपोट में फर मैं यहां आया हूं।

ठीक है, तो जब आपकी उनसे बात हुई और अभी जब आए तो आपको कोई दिक्कत तो नहीं थी?

= नहीं, नहीं, नहीं, कोई दिक्कत नहीं बिल्क बहुत अच्छा कोऑपरेशन उनका मुझे मिला।

और अभी तक, खैर, अभी तो सुबह का ही समय है। आप िजतनी भी दे रहे हैं तो आपको कोई ऐसा तो नहीं, कोई दिक्कत आ रही है।

= नहीं, नहीं, नहीं, कोई दिक्कत नहीं। सब बहुत अच्छा लग रहा है।

और आपको लगता है कि बीएलएफ की वजह से जो आज का यूथ है, यानी कि हम जैसे बच्चे तो हमें इंपैक्ट पड़ेगा, उसका असर आएगा हमें?

=क्यों नहीं आएगा! देखिए, इस बीएलएफ में आप हर स्टाल पर देखेंगे तो जो आप बुक्स में पढ़ रहे हैं, वो यहां आपको साक्षात् देखेंगे। यहां देखिए आप, ये भारत सरकार ने जो डाक टिकट बनाए हुए हैं, ये ट्राइबल आर्ट के ऊपर बहुत सारे डाक टिकट हमने यहां रखे हुए हैं और उसी का ये बुक हमारे भट्टाचाय साहब के सहयोग से ये बुक भी कल फंक्शनस्टर साहब ने इसको रलीज किया होगा। ये ट्राइबल आर्ट का एक बहुत बड़ा ऐतिहासिक डॉक्यूमेंट हो सकता है, सर।

और आगे भी जैसे बीएलएफ चलता जा रहा है कि पिछले सात आठ साल से बीएलएफ है और शायद ये नाइंथ एडिशन है, तो आपको लगता है कि आगे भी जैसे बढ़ता जाएगा तो और भी लोगों को बहुत...

=हां, हां, चलना ही चाहिए, चलना ही चाहिए और इसमें बहुत दुलभ चीजें हैं, जो हमारी ऐतिहासिक धरोहर हैं,

जिसको हमारी जानकारी में ना होने की वजह से हम नहीं जान पाते हैं, वो यहां आकर के हम जान पाते हैं।

तो आपने कभी ऐसा जैसे ये फ्लॉरेचर फेस्टिवल है, ठीक है। हां। तो और भी आपने कहीं कभी किया है, अटेंड या ये पहली बार ही आपका ऐसा इवेंट है?

= नहीं, नहीं, नहीं, ये मैं स्कूलों में और कॉलेज में पूरे भारत में सौ एग्जिबिशन इस टाइप का मैं लगा चुका हूं। चाहे वो दिल्ली हो, चाहे बॉम्बे हो, चाहे कहीं भी हो और स्कूल कॉलेज में जाकर के हर एक विषय के ऊपर हमारे पास डाक टिकट हैं। चाहे एनवायरनमेंट हो, चाहे एग्रीकल्चर हो, चाहे साइंस, टेक्नोलॉजी हो, इन सारे के ऊपर, ये केवल ट्राइब के ऊपर है।

थैंक यू।

= ठीक है, ठीक है।

15. NAYANTRI- Volunteer

Hi, my name is Nayantri, . I believe BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture in many meaningful ways. It is extremely helpful for everyone, as it **brings together diverse ideas and creative expressions**. The exhibitions taking place include participants from different states, and there are various forms of art and innovation showcased, including NFTs. The theatre exhibitions and performances like *Antarang* also play an important role in encouraging cultural and intellectual engagement. Overall, **BLF creates a space for learning, creativity, and exchange of ideas**, which is very valuable for the city. Thank you."

16. PALAK-STALL NIFT

Hi, my name is Palak Singh B, and I'm a student at the National Institute of Fashion Technology. I'm currently in my second year (Semester 4). I'm here for the exhibition display, and I'm also volunteering for my exhibition.

I'm from Jagran York City University, and I'm here to conduct a survey. I'd like to ask you what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events you have attended.

Personally, the first time I **visited BLF, the level of enthusiasm, unity, and collaborative workspace I experienced was incredible**. The cultural environment was truly unique it was honestly amazing, and I really enjoyed it.

This is my second time attending BLF. My first experience was completely new to me because I had never seen anything like this before. There was so much diversity each stall

was different and offered something unique. The seminars were also very well attended and engaging.

17. AUTHOR- Salvatore Babonus

Interviewer: Can I get your name?

Speaker: My name is Salvator Bonus.

Interviewer: What are you here for?

Speaker: I'm here as a speaker to launch the Indian edition of my book, *Democracy with Dharma*, published by VA Publishing.

Interviewer: That's amazing. Is this your first time visiting this event?

Speaker: Yes, it's my first time attending the event and also my first time in Bhopal.

Interviewer: How do you like Bhopal so far?

Speaker: I only arrived yesterday, so I haven't seen much yet. One challenge with events like this is that you rarely get to experience the larger city. I'm very keen to visit the Tribal Museum and, of course, the Upper Lake, but I'm not sure if I'll have the time.

Interviewer: You really should visit them. So, what do you think makes this event different from usual cultural events?

Speaker: The tribal element of the event is particularly attractive to me. I actually looked at the paintings even before the event officially started, and I'm hoping to buy at least one to take home. The combination of art and literature at the same event is, in my opinion, a fantastic decision.

Interviewer: How do you think events like this contribute to Bhopal's intellectual culture?

Speaker: Events like this are extremely important for cultural development. However, I would recommend that they be more fully integrated with the city. For example, while the main event could be held here at Bharat Bhavan, there could also be events at the Tribal Museum, the Museum of Man, and even at local temples or gurdwaras. This would encourage people to explore the city as part of the festival, rather than staying in just one place.

Interviewer: Would you be interested in attending events across multiple locations?

Speaker: Absolutely. A city-wide festival rather than a single-venue festival would be wonderful. This is often done in Western cities. In Sydney, where I'm from, major cultural events usually take place across four or five locations around the city, not just one venue.

Interviewer: We have a smaller park area here.

Speaker: That's fine Bhopal certainly has enough cultural richness and attractions to support multiple venues. Everything doesn't have to be a panel discussion; even visits to museums, temples, or cultural sites can be meaningful parts of a cultural festival.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Speaker: Thank you. I hope you enjoy the event.

18. NYSHA- dps volunteer

Interviewer: What's your name?

Student: Hi, I'm Nysha from DPS

Bhopal.

Interviewer: Which class are you in? **Student:**

I'm in Class 11.

Interviewer: Is this your first time at BLF?

Student: Yes, this is my first time attending BLF.

Interviewer: How are you enjoying it so far?

Student: I'm really enjoying it because it's a great experience. This event is a collaboration with NIFT, and I'm getting to meet new people, explore new ideas, and learn new things. This is my first time volunteering, and it's an honour for me to serve people and host them as a volunteer at an event like BLF.

Interviewer: How do you think BLF can help you academically and in your future life?

Student: As I mentioned, we gain a lot of experience here. Academically, we learn many things through the sessions. I'm volunteering in the *Antarang* section, which hosts many important sessions that teach us about life, India, and different perspectives. For example, the first session was on *Viksit Bharat*, where we learned about current changes and various viewpoints. **Interacting with speakers and attendees has helped me learn many new things.**

Additionally, working here will provide me with a certificate, which I can use for my university applications in the future. So overall, BLF is helping me both academically and personally.

Interviewer: Thank you so much. **Student:**

Thank you.

19. POORNIMA- Visitor

Interviewer: Is this your first time at BLF?

Participant: No, this is not my first time. I've attended before, and I absolutely love it. I usually attend as part of the audience.

Interviewer: How is this event different from other cultural events that happen in Bhopal or elsewhere?

Participant: The concept itself is quite new. Earlier, such festivals used to happen mostly in bigger cities, and we were waiting for something like this to happen in Bhopal as well. Now we can proudly say that Bhopal also hosts a literature festival. That makes us feel really proud, and we truly enjoy it.

Interviewer: How do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture?

Participant: You get to meet and listen to so many people, including well-known speakers who come from outside the city. Many of us may not be able to travel to bigger cities to attend such events, so this gives us a great opportunity to hear them in person and interact with them. It's a big learning experience for us.

Interviewer: Do you have any feedback about the session we just attended?

Participant: Yes, it was a very good session. I'm personally interested in wildlife, so learning about cheetahs and related topics was really informative and enjoyable.

20. Karnika- VISITOR

Interviewer: May I know your

name? **Participant:** My name is

Karnika

Interviewer: Is this your first time at BLF? **Participant:**

No, I attend BLF every year.

Interviewer: What is your purpose for being here?

Participant: I'm here as a visitor. I come every year because I love reading books. I also run a book club in the city, so attending BLF allows me to listen to authors and experience fresh perspectives, which keeps me engaged and inspired.

Interviewer: Are you from Bhopal?

Participant: Yes, I'm from Bhopal.

Interviewer: How do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture every year?

Participant: BLF has given Bhopal a common platform where people can gather and experience the richness of art, culture, and literature. Bhopal has always been culturally rich, but BLF is something we genuinely look forward to each year. It brings together people with similar interests in art and literature and serves as a huge learning platform for everyone. That's why we attend every year.

Interviewer: Do you write as well?

Participant: No, I'm a counseling psychologist. I work closely with books, people, and different perspectives, so this festival is very helpful for my work.

Interviewer: How do you think the festival is relevant for today's youth?

Participant: I think it's highly relevant for young people. The topics, books, and authors featured here are very relatable. Youth get exposure to diverse ideas and subjects all in one place. In today's social media-driven world, algorithms often show us only what we already like, but here at BLF, we are exposed to a wide range of perspectives, which is extremely important.

21. POONAM-calligraphy stall

Interviewer: Can you tell me why you're here today?

Participant: I'm here to help people explore calligraphy and learn more about this art form.

Interviewer: Is this your first time at BLF?

Participant: Yes, this is my first time here.

Interviewer: How has your experience been so far? **Participant:**

It's been very nice and enjoyable.

Interviewer: How would you say BLF is different from other cultural events you've attended?

Participant: There is a lot of creativity here and a wide mix of people—tribal artists, authors, and artists like myself. This combination of different backgrounds makes BLF very unique.

Interviewer: Are there any sessions you're looking forward to attending?

Participant: Yes, I'm really looking forward to Piyush Mishra's session in the evening. I've been waiting for it since morning.

Interviewer: Thank you.

Participant: Thank you so much. Bye.

22. Abhinesh Kumar Shukla (Visitor)

Sir, your name? A.K. Shukla, Abhinesh Kumar Shukla. How relevant is BLF for today's youth? Very much, very much. Because today's youth have been cut off.

Those who are social, they are only on the network. So, to see it in actual and in such remote areas, to go and see it is very expensive. So, to get this type of meeting in one place, it is very, very good for youth.

Sir, what do you think about BLF? BLF, see, connecting youth, not just youth, people of any generation, to make them face their culture, their art, it is a very important task. So, I think it is a very, very good move, either from the government or whoever has done it. It is very good.

Sir, is this your first time? Yeah, it is my first time here. But I have attended other literary fests, at other Chandigarh, etc. Thank you so much, sir.

23. Atulya shukla (Visitor)

So, what's your good name?

I am Atulya Shukla So, are you attending first time BLF? No, this is my third time Ok, so how are you feeling today? Great, it was a very nice experience and a wild experience for me again What do you think about BLF and the committee organizing it? The committee is extremely kind and caring about it and it is a vibrant colour, full of knowledge and everything is just great Have you attended any sessions? I just attended it right now How was it? It was great, getting knowledge and having some more things which I did not know before Ok, great How relevant do you find BLF for today's youth? I think BLF is extremely relevant right now because all of us are not going for being normal things We love to be a poet or a writer and aspiring to be India's future poets and writers Great, thank you so much

24. Dr.Neel kamal Kapoor Ma'am Author

What is your good name ma'am? Doctor Neel Kamal Kapoor. So, ma'am, what do you think about BLF? I think it's a wonderful exposition of literature and art, especially for people of Bhopal, uh, where they can really the whole day for almost three days, uh, take a dip in this mahakumbh. So, ma'am, what do you think about the impact on today's youth by BLF?

I think it is very important for today's youth to attend festivals of this kind. And because, uh, when you read or maybe write or maybe meet the people who write, uh, the youngsters really get, uh, their neurons excited. I could, I can say being a doctor. And you may not be a writer yourself.

You may not be a thinker yourself. But in day to day life, the nuggets which these discussions give you to tackle the issues of day to day life, they are most beneficial to the youth of today. Okay, ma'am, what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events? BLF is very much into art and literature, whereas other events are generally usually a little unfocused.

And secondly, it is based on the discussion format. So it's it's a dialogue wherein, uh, you know, new things emerge. If I say, as an author, if I come in here or anywhere for a lecture, maybe to a school or college, it's a monologue. Mostly.

If it's a one hour lecture, forty five, fifty minutes, I will speak, I will take few questions and that's it. Here, two erudite people of the same philosophy are discussing among themselves. So whether the audience asks a question or not, new ideas emerge. So this is a very good format to listen to.

So how many, uh, from how many times are you attending right from the beginning? Right from the beginning. From the first festival itself. And I'm always a discussant or my book is being discussed.

Have you attended any session or or such? Uh, no. No, because this morning is the working time. I've just come.

And now I was going to attend one session. Thank you so much, ma'am.

25. Ajay kumar Raina.(veteran)

Good afternoon, sir. Your good name. My name is Ajay kumar Raina. I'm a veteran. Okay, so how relevant is BLF for today's youth? See today's youth. If you ask your grandfather, not your own grandfather, his friends, he'll tell you. I don't belong to this category of thinking. My thinking is that with every generation, getting born is a rule of nature. To have a better product, that's called evolution. You evolve for betterment. This is so. You guys are much better than what we were. Only thing is, we didn't do certain things in our lives because our parents were the people who came out of the slavery. They were the people who saw British rule and then they when India became independent. So they were busy earning their bread and, you know, settling things, everything because India had to restart. We belong to a generation thereafter where we were told Doctor Bono, engineer Bono. Today, India of two thousand and five is not India of nineteen fifty, nineteen fifty, sixty seventy was India of shortages. You guys are now blessed. But I have seen that time I am seeing today. We are prosperous country prosperous. The next generation has to get into intellectual side. Leave out everything. This is where this litfest matter. They expose you to good books, good authors, good concepts that build up. That's why it's a foundational work. That's why this is very important. Okay. What makes BLF distinct from other cultural events? See, I attend about ten or twelve Litfest every year. All of them are good. There is no doubt BLF are size wise. You see the paraphernalia you have litfest in one auditorium, maybe one auditorium in one stage. here you have three main stages. Then you have interaction which is happening where we're staying. The canvas is big. There are a couple of more platforms which are possibly bigger than this. But my point way of looking at things is that size does not matter. The quality and value. You look at the list of people who are speaking here. Yes, you will be confused because. The quality of content is very good, very good and where BLF is doing very well and I am sure it will improve by day. Okay, so sir, what improvement should BLF due to strengthen its intellectual mission? No, I think they are doing fantastic. They should continue this and get more and more youngsters like you into are not only into listening audience part. I see a lot of youngsters who are volunteers here. So this is this is how you evolve society and my way of I give you example of I do not know whether you attended that online or not. There's a school called Williams Boys in Dehradun. They have they used to have military history seminar And that used to be broadcast live to one sixty odd schools, all

Ivy League schools of India. I'm sure even your school must have been online. So kids watch and ten kids from that school actually come on as delegates to that event. So whatever is being discussed, those books are actually sent to schools first kids a month before the event, they read those books. And when they come for the session, whether online or in physical form, they know the session. Nobody's discussing what's written in the book. Then you start discussing what is beyond the book. So this is one model, which I would recommend that before you get students here, you, the schools or the the student, that body should be given these books. They should be requested or motivated to read those books, discuss those books. And when they come here and the speaker is sitting on stage, then the question should be of a different level. I hope you understand what I'm trying to say. This is how you this is how you involve people, and then they become stakeholders. Yeah. Okay, sir. Thank you so much. Thank you.

26. Dushyant (visitor)

Your good name Sir , dushyant Okay, sir. How relevant do you find yourself for today's youth? I think it's very relevant. There's a lot of, like, art here and a lot of literature here that I think the your generation would find, like, very relatable and very interesting. And as I've attended, like yesterday and today, and I've seen a lot of people from your age group from like colleges here. So how were the sessions? Uh, well, I've attended a couple of sessions and they've been like really good. I attended the Piyush Mishra talk yesterday. That was really nice. I was in this session. I had to just get out of the call. And so that was really good. It's very informative and it's also really interesting to get to, uh, hear the authors talk about their work. And just like life in general and their process of work and as like an aspiring author, it's like really it's like it's really informative, really useful. So, yeah. So is it your first time attending? Yes, it is my first time. Yeah. So what improvements would you suggest to be left to strengthen its mission? I think more social, like marketing for like a lack of a better term. Yeah, because if not for like a friend, I would have not heard about the festival. Although like, I'm always like active online, like on Instagram or on Reddit, but I personally did not see anything about the festival happening. I did hear it from like a friend and that's why I attended. So I think that's something like that's really important in this day and age, obviously. So has it changed your perception about the city Bhopal a little bit? Yeah, I would say it's really nice to see people who like young people interested in art and literature and so many young people just like attending the festival here in Bhopal, because sometimes it just kind of feels like that nothing is happening in Bhopal when. But yeah, it's good to know that people are coming out and people are interested. So yeah. Thank you so much for your time. Thank you.

27. PK Biswas (EX - VC JLU)

Sir. Your good name please. I am Professor Biswas. Okay, sir. Sir. How relevant do you find BLF for today's youth? It's very important because what is happening that current generations. They have lost the torch of reading books. So this is a platform where different kind of books are discussed. Novels of intellectuals of lot of issues are being covered. So

this is a kind of exposure to them to understand what is happening in the country and what are the kind of issues on which writers are writing. So it is, in a sense, trying to inculcate a habit of writing and reading and purchasing books. Because these students don't read many books, they are glued to their mobile and stomach. Book, but hardly find any time to read. That's why it is important that it is a good platform for youngsters if they come and listen. In what ways do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture? Yeah, definitely. Bhopal people get an exposure because people from all over the country come here and discuss some important themes. So Bhopal people come to know, In any case, Bhopal is culturally very alive city. It's a very interesting city. A lot of things happen here. A lot of festivals, a lot of theatre festivals, a lot of film festivals, a lot of book festivals. So this is a good exposure for Bhopal people and contributes to enrich because, you know, knowledge is as much as you want to learn, there is no end to it. So do you think events like this should be conducted more and more frequently? Yes, yes. Why not? It should be conducted more frequently. Every year. It will lose its charm. Like such. Like, you know, you have Delhi Literature festival. You have literature festival, literature festival, Chennai literature festival. The festival is being held every year. City. Major city. So Bhopal is one of the cities which is having this kind of thing. So what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events? Like you said recently, you have attended many. This is essentially for creating. And what is the different from this BLF? It is like that. Say for example, Chennai Festival that is hosted by Hindu. It's like almost same. It is similar. But you know regional perspectives are there. Okay. Okay, sir. Thank you so much.

28. Zahra Razavi (Senior Author)

Very good evening ma'am. Good evening ma'am. My name is Zahra Razavi, ma'am. How relevant do you find yourself for today's youth? I think today's youth needs BLF, because too many people think that having a phone or access to other devices is enough for information. But the fact of life is that if that were true, so many books wouldn't be published. And India, at the moment itself is going through a boom in publishing. I don't believe all the other statistics that are said about Indian economy, but because I'm in publishing as a professional, a publishing professional, I know that publishing is a boom. How could it be a boom if reading wasn't important? True. Without market, there's no sales. There is no sales. Very true. Yes. Without marketing, you can't sell. So if there's no product, there's no market. Sorry. It's okay. Um, so I enjoyed the fact that there are so many books happening. I love to see the people who are doing the interviews and the, uh, the introductions. I'm very proud of the fact that there are so many fluent, uh, people speaking both Hindi and English as well as they do. Of course, these are our best schools and our best students from our best universities. I look forward to a time when BLF will take people from the less best schools and the less best universities, and give them a chance. Give them a chance. I believe that it's important. BLF changed the perception about the city of Bhopal. Definitely, definitely. We didn't have a BLF till twenty nineteen and every year we wait for BLF. It's a very big event for us and it's always the second Saturday of January. Once or twice we've had to delay it. I'm saying we because I believe it's part of me. And, uh, we've had to delay to March because of something or the other, or we've had to have it online or a hybrid condition because of Covid. So I think it's a very exciting time that Bhopal is now on the literature map. Literature festivals that are all over India and Bhopal is an important one. You've seen the kind of turnout we

have. You've seen the kind of authors we get. We see the kind of people that, uh, are coming to the programs, whether they are young or they're old or they're from the Army. Or, of course, we have huge bunch of people from the Army and a huge bunch of people who are ex bureaucrats. But that doesn't mean that this is not a good program. It just means that we have that kind of people in Bhopal. Yes, ma'am. What makes PLF distinct from other cultural events? Uh, see, BLF is more expansive. We do not claim to be only about literature or only about books. When we talk about literature, again, because I'm a publishing professional, I say we talk about content. So there will be some art, there will be some yoga. There will be something about economics. There will be something about Health. There will be something about makeup. The kind of variety we have of topics we have are very important, and that we get people from all over the world as well as all over India is another important feature of our BLF. Which session or interaction impacted you the most and why? Um, I had studied in Delhi. So many people from Delhi are going to be part of this function and they would not know me because I've been in Bhopal for forty years, but I feel connected and making, uh, being able to see people again after so many years of being in college or being working in Delhi or whatever, is a wonderful feeling, and that attracts me. And I actually am attracted by the kinds of activities that happen here. Everything interests me. That's what makes me happy about it. So thank you so much, ma'am.

29. Ayush Sahu (Influencer)

Sir, according to you, how beneficial and how good is this BLF program for our present generation? In a way, it is right that I don't have much information about it yet, because today is my first day here. I haven't really gone out or explored before. Once I see and experience it properly, only then will I be able to tell you more about it. I have never come here before, sir.

But in one sense, it is good. What happens is that such programs help open up the minds of children as well. When people travel and visit places, they get to see new things and learn different aspects of life. According to you, this BSF event—how is it better than other events? I won't speak much about that.

If you ask us about our medicines, we can explain those, because that is the field we are connected with, so we can share information about that. About this event, the people who are organizing it can explain it better. But one thing that can definitely be said is that when such programs keep happening, they help keep our minds fresh and happy. When people move around and explore, their state of mind changes in a positive way.

Through such events, one gains knowledge about many things. For example, at our stall, anyone who comes to visit can learn about Ayurveda from us. Similarly, there are many stalls here, and each stall owner will explain about their own work or products. So overall, such programs are very good and beneficial. In a way, thank you.

30. Kshijt Thakur (Visitor)

What's your name, sir? I'm Kshijt Thakur. Okay. So is this your first time attending the BLF?

No, it's my second time. I visited it last year. Okay. So how are you feeling today?

Like it's a vibrant place to visit. Lot of lot of knowledge can be accumulated right here. Beautiful place for tradition. Okay, so what do you think about BLF program and the committee organizing it?

I think it encourages everybody, like all the tribes and all to get up, get up and show their show their, uh, like vibrant arts to everybody. Like in the city. They can't get along that much. Okay.

Thank you so much. Welcome.

31. Manshali Ma'am - Volunter

What is your name ma'am? It's Manshali.

So what do you think about BLF? BLF is the wonderful opportunity for the writers also and for the readers also. This is the platform where different authors get the chance to tell their readers about their books. And we also get chance to know about authors, which we read and new authors also.

Okay, so what do you think about BLF impacting the youth in today's literature festival like DLF and others are very important because nowadays the generation is more towards the technology sitting with the laptop and the mobile. So I think this type of the literature festival are very feasible. We get chance to meet different authors. Apart from that, we get chance to meet other persons also who are interested in reading books.

So we get different friends. Also, we get chance to explore right now. Today we visited. So like tribals art we have seen, I just now heard the interview of Devanshi.

That was also wonderful. So it's the great platform for everyone. So is this your first time attending? No, second time I am coming.

So what do you think? How you perceive the city. BLF perceives the city like. Definitely it's attracting and promoting the literature and.

Everyone is getting the chance. And ah, my students also enjoyed here a lot. So wonderful opportunity and. Thank you so much for that.

Also you are saying that for this question of yours for young today's youth, this is wonderful place for that reading book on the Kindle is not that much beneficial. Coming here, taking book in the hands and feeling that that feeling is really wonderful. Thank you so much.

32. Ramesh Sir Attendee

So your good name? I'm Professor Ramesh. Okay, sir. So is this your first time attending the BLF?

No, it's the first time. It's full time. So can you describe how BLF has influenced the youth? It's not only influence, it will create an impact on the youth.

Especially youths are, you know, they are little bit away from the books and literature in the printed books and literature. The BLF **will provide opportunity and it will inspire youths to move again to the books**. Fiction, non-fiction, classic book, music and art. So it's a real it's not a virtual. So this is how they will create impact. So I request all youth should, you know, they should join this movement of spreading our art and culture and our traditions in the form of books to the rest of India and outside. What improvements would you strengthen its intellectual mission of BLF? This a mission is to spread our intellectual property to the whole world, especially in India. People are not aware about the this art and literature movements is picked up by BLF. So have you attend any session or such? No. I am always discussion for books.

This is my fourth year as a discussion. So today I got a very good book, makers of Dalit history. So I am going to, you know, discuss with the audience and okay, provide opportunity with them to discuss with the author. Okay.

So you are an author. No, I am not author. I am discussing I am author of engineering books. Okay.

They are not included in your books. My engineering book is a bestseller. The structural steel drafting and detailing a mechanical engineer. But a lot of interest in especially literature, events, literature.

So I come here frequently. Thank you so much, sir.

33. Udyansh Pandey

Good afternoon, sir. May I know your good name?

So, my name is **Udyansh Pandey**. I am a media student, so what do you think—how is **BLF** creating an impact? If you look here, most of the topics are connected with geopolitics, and they are also connected with old literature. When we talk about Jaidev's song *Govindam* and then move on to geopolitics, it gives the youth strength and an opportunity to come here and also read their old literature—literature they may have never seen or even heard of before.

Along with this, at an international level, the discussion around India's position makes this festival completely India-centric. It is a literature festival where conversations happen across all areas—from Indian literature to India's geopolitics. When all the topics that India covers overall are being discussed here, then to understand India, one must look at **BLF** at least once.

So, is this your first time at BLF, or have you attended it earlier as well? I have attended other literature festivals, but this is the **first edition of the Bhopal Literature Fest** for me. I am having a very good experience, and all the topics are extremely relevant. That is why it feels engaging to listen, and we are able to connect very easily with the speakers and the subjects being discussed.

Is there something specific—something that feels different to you? Other literature festivals focus more on literature; sometimes they also move towards politics. But here, **tribal communities** have been given a very distinct and separate platform. By bringing tribals and youth together through poetry and other forms, it feels like BLF is connecting different sections of society and, in a way, covering the whole of India.

That is why BLF feels slightly different from other literature festivals.
Thank you so much.

If you roam around the city, there are many places to explore. At the same time, through literature, we are showcasing the culture, because people who are from Bhopal as well as those who are not will get to know more about it.

34. Apoorva Ma'am volunteer

You left me last year. So how was your experience last year compared to this year? What changes did you notice this year or last year?

On the last day, the experience was just okay. Last year, it was amazing. Okay.

How relevant is BLF for today's youth, according to you?

It is very relevant because youth get exposure—different kinds of exposure. There are things like the tribal art camp, and interactions with visitors and speakers.

People who come for talks and discussions share valuable insights. If the youth genuinely listen to them, they can learn a lot.

Has BLF changed how you perceive the city?

I don't know, but it feels good to have our own literature festival in the city.

Okay, thank you. What's your name? Apoorva

35. Shreya (Visitor)

Good evening. What's your good name? Okay. So how relevant do you find yourself for today's youth? I think for me might be controversial, but I think the topics are very, you know, popular and very politically biased. So not for me, but maybe people would find it relevant. Is this your first time attending bailiff? I second time. Okay. Has bailiff shaped your academic or

career aspirations or helped you in any way? Uh, no. Like, I know the talks are interesting, and mostly they are book promotions, but not academically. No. Okay, so what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events? I think that because it's, you know, mostly based on literature. So that helps. But, uh, I think in cultural events is the best. Would you suggest some improvements that would help strengthen its intelligence? Topics can be better. The speakers. Speakers are good, but the interviewers can be. They can be better. Okay. So has it changed the perception regarding the city Bhopal? Oh no, I'm not from Bhopal, but actually I've been to Jaipur, so I've seen a better version of this so there can be many improvements. Okay. Thank you so much.

36. Ashish (Visitor)

Sir your Good name. My name is Ashish. How relevant is BLF for today's youth? So it's very much important for the Gen Zs and current generation to be rooted with their literature and especially with the roots of our nation, great nation. And this is the place where they can learn very much what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events. So if you talk about cultural livings and the difference, this is not the basically we should find the difference. We should find the what the value we are getting from the BLF every year. It's been eight years consecutive. So my my perception is that the learning they are taking from here, as in Bhopal Literature Festival, that is going to be remain whole life and who knows, they can be a better author at some point of time in their life as well. In what ways do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture? So? So this type of event, if you talk about BLF can be the source to restore the culture of India and especially for the great heritage of Bhopal as well. Is this your first time attending BLF? No, it's my third year and I'm partnering with this event as well. Okay, so you are in organizing team. Not exactly organizing team, but we are the part of BLF. I am from Delhi. Okay. What improvements do you think that BLF should take to improve or strengthen its. I believe they should involve youth instead of the managing the BLF in spite or all those moderation and all those day to day conversation is happening in the

37. Vinay Sachdeva (Visitor)

Good afternoon. Say a good name. Okay, sir. So has changed how you perceive the city? I'm first time in Bhopal. No, I'm first time joining this. Okay. How relevant is BLF for today's youth? For. The first time this programme. Ah. How are you? Enjoying the programme? Okay. Okay, sir. Thank you so much.

38. AK Shukla

Sir, your name is AK Shukla. Avaneesh Kumar Shukla How Relevant, BLF is for Today Youth. Very much. Very much because cutoffs have happened. They keep on Today's social network, so to actually see and go and see in such remote areas. It is very expensive. So to find this type of place. It is very, very good for youth. So what do you think about BLF? BLF. See, connecting the youth. The youth, whoever the people of any generation are, to

introduce them to their culture, their art is a very important task. So I think it is a very, very good move from the government. Whoever did it, it is very good. First time, first time and other literary effects other Chandigarh etcetera we are taking out. Thank you so much.

39. J.W Joshi Sir (Visitor)

Say your name, J.W.. Okay, sir., has BLF shaped your academic or, perception regarding literature events? I've just come today.

Okay. It's your first time. Yeah. I've been visiting this place, two years before.

But this today, the first day I just started attending one session. Okay, sir. So how much do you find for today's youth? It's good.

Youth must take interest and take active participation in the debates or the discussions. So they will. They will get insight of what is going on. Have you attended any session?

I've attended one session. So how was it? It was very nice. Okay.

It was about this, development of India. So that was the first session and inauguration. Thank you so much, sir.

40. Shrut Kirti (volunteer at BLF)

Okay. So what do you think about. It's a good way for exposure, I feel. not just for literary, but other arts as well.

How relevant is BL for today's youth? How relevant do you find BLF for today's youth? I think for relevance they are contests and for more knowledge I think.

So Jo old age people are there lectures. So I think that is very informative. anything more about BLF, you can tell. right now, as a volunteer, I would feel that, I got to know that, range of age people from I saw ten years old also and sixty to seventy years old also.

So again, as I would say, a lot of exposure, not just for literary, literary, but every art form. They do it in any session or such. Did you attend any session? Shrut Kirti volunteer at BLF

Okay. So what do you think about. It's a good way for exposure, I feel. not just for literary, but other arts as well.

How relevant is BL for today's youth? How relevant do you find BLF for today's youth? I think for relevance they are contests and for more knowledge I think.

So Jo old age people are there lectures. So I think that is Yeah, I was volunteer, so I attended every session actually.

Okay. So how was it? **It was somewhat informative.** Some were a bit generic, I would say, but then yet again.

So we were happy to have them. That's all. Thank you so much.

41. Asha Jain (volunteer)

This is my second BLF experience. Yes. Last year I came here, and this year as well. I

know she will ask you this question—my name is Asha Jain.

Asha?

Yes, ma'am.

Ma'am, how do you think BLF has changed? How do you perceive the city?

The city? Yes, ma'am. It's wonderful to see so many school children coming here, looking around, and having this experience.

And it is the young generation that matters in the coming years. If they understand books and **the value of writers, then a lot can be achieved.** A classroom experience alone cannot do that.

Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

Ma'am, I know you want hyphens. No, that's all right.

Next question.

According to you, what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events?

BLF is concerned with books in a way that nothing else is. It gives you direct contact with the context in which books are written.

So if children who are reading books have questions and don't know who will answer them, they have the person right in front of them. They are reading their books and get to experience the writers directly—who has written this book.

42. Bhumi (Visitor)

Can we please take your short interview? Yeah, please. What's

your good name? Bhumi.

Okay.

So is this your first year attending the BLF? Yes, this is my first year attending the Bhopal Literature Fest.

Okay, so till now, what do you think about this BLF program? I think for today's youth or personally, for me, it will be a great exposure I will ever attend in my life. And personally I'm very a literature person. I like books all around me and today feeling the books all around me. It's nothing. Just uh, like I'm too excited for this event.

Okay, so according to you, in what ways do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal intellectual culture? I think according to intellectual cultural Bhopal, Bhopal talks a lot about the literature, art, culture and even even all around the state. The tribal camp is organized so it will be a great exposure if you want it to. It will be an intellectual, engaging session. Okay, so according to you, what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events? Yes. Very importantly, what make make BLF distinct from other cultural festivals? First of all, all around the globe, I think, uh, all around the globe, poets, writers and even film directors are coming, which are great storytellers. And in Madhya Pradesh, I think it will be a huge, huge Bhopal literature fest. And today it is and it is the eighth edition of the Bhopal Literature Fest. So it's, it's and, you know, very much engaging and enthusiastic fest. Okay. Thank you so much.

43. Anshika Makijani (visitor)

Good afternoon. Your good name? My name is Doctor Anshika. Makhijani. How your career or academic? I belong to literature background, so it hasn't shaped as such, but it has added a lot of information and it's a delight to listen to so many authors from various varied fields and having a information about that extended information. What do you think about BLF's impact on today's youth? It is important because especially with this year, I mean, this is the eighth edition. I've been the visitor, as a visitor, as a part of the team every year, but especially this year when they are doing on a theme. I mean, uh, to, uh, I mean, this is important for the youth to attend this because they should be connected to the roots. And this is also one of the themes in which youth can extend their information regarding their, uh, ancestors and, uh, you know, the know about of the development of our country. Yeah. Which aspects of BLF did you find most intellectually engaging and why? It would be a cliché term. Uh, I love to the literature where, uh, you know, it's talking about varied parts of India, the development of varied parts of India, like the first session in Antaranga, uh, was amazing, where he's talking about the, you know, Bharat in Northeast. And, uh, every author has its own aspect, probably. So it's difficult to measure. Each and every author was important. What makes PLF distinct from other cultural events as such? Say for Bhopal, I would say it's bringing people of Bhopal. We get to know that there are also people in Bhopal, those who have. I mean, we could witness by coming here. We could witness that how important it is for people and how it has been increasing its information day by day every year. The, uh, you know, um, the number of people increasing, the footfall is increasing. So it itself speaks a lot. Thank you so much, ma'am.

44. Sarthak Chopra (Oranganzing Commite)

Your good name, please. Yeah. So my name is Sarthak Chopra. So how relevant do you find BLF for today's youth. For today's today's youth. So yeah BLF is like a literature and art festival and which enhances your knowledge about literature, about authors and about the

ongoing, uh, we can say ongoing, uh, like, uh, right now session is going about operations.

So many people, uh, love it and many people wants to know much about the operations endure. And moreover, uh, like yesterday, uh, Piyush Mishra was there, who is an Indian actor and singer. So many of the people are following them, him and, uh, like, he's an inspiration for many people. Yes, sir. Has changed how you perceive the city, has changed how you perceive the city like Bhopal. Yeah. So, uh. Yeah. Bhopal. Uh, like if I say Bhopal was not known as much, uh, before BLF. So BLF is helping people to, uh, no more much, much more about Bhopal and its culture. And moreover, if we look about the tribal so uh, BLF is promoting, uh, tribal more and it's, uh, like Bhopal is the only city which is right now promoting tribal more. What improvements do you suggest for strengthening the intellectual mission of BLF? So I don't think, uh, there is, uh, many much things to improve. Uh, but the team is working to make it more, uh, inspirational, inspirational and to make, uh, people know much about much more about BLF. Okay, sir. Thank you so much, sir. Okay. Thank you.

45. Prabhat Podar (Influencer)

Your good name Sir, I am Prabhat Podar. So how relevant do you find yourself for today's youth? Actually, it is very relevant because there are a lot of blind spots. You do not know about a lot of things. It's the unknown. Unknown? You do not know what you don't know, right? So events like these actually give you a perspective in a lot of relevant things that you even don't know exist. So it's a very relevant event for me. So what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events? Uh, basically, I'm also a writer, so I'm in love with books and literature in myself, right? So any event that is related with these aspects are special for me at least. Uh, I'm more able to relate with them because they speak in my language. Probably in, uh, going for a lot of artistic things. I am not able to relate with them that much, but yeah, this is what I like. Okay. So what improvement would it would you think that would strengthen the mission of intellectual BLF? Uh, I think uh, a little bit better promotion is needed here. Uh, it's a wonderful event. I've been coming for the last four years, but, uh, a lot of people are unaware about the kind of event that is happening in Bhopal. So probably on the marketing front, they need to do better. Otherwise it's a wonderful event. So can you describe how BLF has influenced your thinking or learning? Uh, again, like, uh, it's a very participatory event. Whenever you come, you are able to talk to authors which otherwise are not, uh, not having any access to you. So there are there have been instances where authors have come to such events, and you have have a chance to talk to them directly and pick on their brains. So, yeah. And again, it gives you a lot of, uh, different ideas about things that you may not be aware of. So that's how that has, uh, thank you so much, sir. Thank you, thank you.

46. Mohashshree (Visitor)

. Your good name? Okay. How relevant is BLF for today's youth? It is quite. It is like a it's very relevant because it's exploring literature, art and other intellectual pursuits like this session or interaction impacted you the most if you have attended any? I did, I think the other one was quite nice. I also loved the one that took place yesterday Dastangoi one and I liked the session also. Okay, in what ways do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture? I think it brings them together. It um, because people come here, people meet people, sit in other people's sessions, and then there's a direct interaction of, you know, their their intellects, their what they're working with, what they think they should work with. So I think it's doing the work of fabricating a dynamic where everything is very

interactive and very, uh, alive. Okay. So is this your first time attending BLF? This is my third time. Third time. Okay. Has BLF changed the way you think about the city Bhopal? Has BLF changed the way? No. I'm sorry. I think I'll be a little biased because BLF is quite younger to me and I'm like a very proud, like very bhopali person, so I don't think so. It's just nice to see that there is a way to cultivate a community, and that there is something that we like. It gives us something to look forward to every January. So I think that is a very commendable thing. Which improvement would you think or suggest that it should strengthen the intellectual mission of BLF? Okay, I'm so glad you asked this question. Uh, I think, uh, because we're talking about youth, young people. Right? And we are too much concerned with, like most of these sessions are very much concerned with radical ideologies here. I feel like we are not talking about enterprising in literature. In arts, we are enough, enough, and we are more concerned with supposed mythological figures here with literature that is not relevant anymore. I mean, you can only so much talk about God at one point, right? You really need to talk about what's happening with humans. So I think that is ideological front. But apart from that, it's wonderful. Thank you so much, ma'am.

47. Jhankriti Balani Singer (Aarushi)

So, what do you think like what makes BLF different from other cultural events? I feel it's a mixture of all the cultures, speak about varied topics and there is a lot of knowledge. We have a lot of insightful sessions, which makes it very interesting. They have it on music, they have it on history, they have it on.. Right now, they are having a session on mixed Bharat. There are various sessions and it's really well managed, I feel. And it feels like family. So, you are very fond of book reading and stuff, right? Not exactly, I'm just connected to culture. I'm a singer myself, I'm a classical singer. So, I understand art, culture. Yeah, and what do you think like how relevant is BLF for today's youth? How relevant is BLF? For today's youth. Today's youth? So, I feel that BLF really helps you reconnect with our culture, with art, with literature. So, I feel that's how it helps the youth and the youth should definitely attend the lecture. That's it.

Thank you so much. Thank you so much, ma'am

48. Aditi Kundu Visitor (Aarushi)

Please repeat your name. Ah, I am Aditi Kundu from. And I am from BSS College. Okay.

Yeah. So that. That's all right. You are coming for ah here for the first time.

No, this is the second time. Okay, so what all changes you have seen last year and this year? Uh, not. I wouldn't say that there were many changes because last year I wasn't able to stay here that long.

But this year I found it interesting. I was hooked in the interactions and the sessions. So it was really very interesting. And I willing to like, explore more.

Yes. And what makes BLF distinct from other culture? Even cultural events. It's like BLF also invites many authors and experts here and there.

Sessions is like they keep you hooked. The other sessions, if you if you see the other cultural sessions, they're like, okay, art, okay, dance. Okay. But there aren't such interesting sessions that can keep you like, okay, engaged, huh?

You sometimes zone out, but BLF you don't see here. Indeed. Yeah. And, uh, what do you think the relevancy like in today's youth literature.

Influence youth. Romantic stories. And if we see about the economic and the political interested, if we see of the generation, we are like, done with everything. Exactly.

So BLF kind of introduces these topics that sounds so hectic and so burdensome in a fun way. So it is kind of nice to. Yeah. Okay. Thank you so much.

49. Dr. sheeri khan Author (Aarushi)

We are from JLBS, and we are here to conduct a survey. Are you comfortable with me asking you a few questions?

So, how do you think this is relevant for today's youth?

Actually, this is relevant because I have published my books—around five to six so far. That is the reason I am here, as this platform provides a permanent space for me to build my network. At the same time, I will be able to meet like-minded people. It's a pleasure being here because earlier I was in New Delhi, and seeing such an event being hosted here in Bhopal is truly beyond my expectations.

So, it's good. This is our first time attending such an event.

Okay, and what do you think—how did you perceive the city?

So, as you know, Bhopal itself is a historical place. If you explore and read about its history, you'll understand how the city was founded. Bhopal has a rich history of its own. I've explored many places here—in fact, even the lake has its own historical significance and story behind its construction.

50. Sir IAS MK Rangit Singh (Author)

So, uh, how, uh, how much time you have been here? Uh, it is eight summit. Right. And then, uh, how have you attended all of these? This is my first. Okay. First experiences. Yes, sir. So, basically, uh, could you tell what all excites you here? What all interests, uh, brings you here? I belong to the Madhya Pradesh cadre of the AIS, and I worked in in Bhopal and in Madhya Pradesh most of my career. And therefore, to me, it's a homecoming in that way. I was here when when, uh, Bharat Bhavan was initiated and inaugurated by one of my colleagues, uh, and, uh, uh. I have been writing books. Uh, so, so basically, you are an author. I'm an author. Oh, wow. Uh, like, could you please name your book? One was on, uh, Beyond the Tiger. My specialization is on wildlife. I was director of Wildlife of India, though I am an IAS officer. Uh, I drafted the Wildlife Protection Act and other things. Um, and here I was a Scottish Secretary and Commissioner of Bhopal and other things. Um, my second book was on my PhD, which is the, um, blackbuck, Indian blackbuck. The third one is my autobiography, A life with wildlife, and the subtitle is From Princely India to the present. And

that is being discussed today at two o'clock. So we are really grateful to. And the fourth one is Mountain Mammals of the world. Since you asked for it. Right. And uh BLF how BLF uh, change your perceive of. No, I'm, I was very, very impressed by. As I said, this is my first, uh, I've attended as a literary festival, but this is the first time I'm attending. Uh, the blessing. Um, I may say this that, uh, amongst the literary festivals that I've attended, which is Jaipur and and others, this would be on a par if not a step ahead of all of them. But this has been one of the best I have attended so far, and I compliment the organizers for it. Thank you so much, sir. Say your good name. Doctor Ranjeet Singh. Thank you so much, sir.

51. Manish Jain (Visitor)

Good afternoon. Okay. So, sir, can you describe how BLF has influenced your thinking or learning? Uh. It has made impact and it will be very fruitful for the youngsters and it is making people creative. They are imagining about things which cannot be, which cannot be detected by vision. So in what ways do you think BLF has impacted Bhopal's intellectual culture? No, it's a part and parcel of intellectual culture. It's it has come into being with with the experienced and most literate people of the world. So it is their brainchild. So is this your first time attending bailiff? Yes I am. I have come here for the first time. Okay. So how are you enjoying today? No, it is fine. And, uh, whenever you come here in this vicinity, you come across to ideas and you are lying. You can imagine about anything. Not just arts, crafts, anything. Whatever your life, whatever your life. So, sir, have you attended any sessions or such? Yesterday I was there in inaugural session and I was. So how was it? Uh oh, it was wonderful. It was very, very nice. Okay, sir. Okay, sir. Thank you.

52. Ruchi Singh (Author)

Good afternoon, ma'am. Your good name? Yeah. Okay. Ma'am, can you describe how BLF has influenced your thinking or learning? Actually, BLF, like my daughter's first book, was released in BLF in twenty twenty. So for me it's very special. And this year also my daughter is moderating moderating a session with Anuja Chandramouli. Okay, so so ma'am, is this your first time attending BLF? No, no, I told you in twenty twenty my daughter's first book was released here. Yeah, yeah, this is this. Yeah. So, uh, has BLF changed your, uh, the thinking to perceive the city? Yeah. Like, for literature and cultural events. Our city is also organizing such a beautiful, like this event. So what makes BLF distinct from other cultural events? Yes. Basically, it's, uh, like for literature, we don't have any other program in Bhopal for literature like the BLF does. So in that way it's really good. Okay. So how relevant do you find BLF for today's youth? Yeah, they should actually they should because what we see in today's youth, they they lack the habit of reading especially the literature. So for them it's quite important to attend it so that they can inculcate inculcate the uh, interest in reading and literature. Thank you ma'am.

53. Ishan (Visitor)

Please record. Hi, I'm Ishan, I'm from Bhopal. How relevant is, uh, BLF for today's youth? See, today it's, uh, absolutely matching with the cultural and the diversity of India. So I think Bhopal is the best place. And PLF is playing an important and integral role where we can get a culture and diversity of India together. Have you previously attended? This is my first time. I'm coming over here for the first time this session or interaction impacted you the most? See, I have come here, uh, for the book launch, uh, of, uh, Shivji, of Mr. Prashant Dikshit. So that was quite, uh, I mean, uh, interactive, where we got to know him a pass. That has been, uh, beautifully described in the book. So that was the beautiful session for me. In what ways do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture? We'll see. Bhopal's intellectual culture is all about, uh, its cultural activities. And I think, as I said, Bhopal is the best place in entire India where you will get the all the theatre artists, all the, uh, who's in who and all the drama artists and all at one place. So I think all should visit Bhopal and you will get a lot, and you will learn a lot from all these people. What would you, uh, what improvements would you suggest to be left to increase or strengthen its intellectual mission? Well, I think BLF needs, uh, more volunteers in terms of, uh, uh, making a good read, good reach at social media so that it can impact more audience, more marketing, more marketing in terms of more promotion on the social media platforms is much required because, right, right now what I have seen, a little less influence is over there. So that is what I think it should be added. Okay. Thank you so much for your time.

54. Ganjendra singh (visitor)

I am Gajendra Singh. So how relevant is BLF for today's youth? It is very much. In what ways do you think BLF contributes to Bhopal's intellectual culture? It promotes their richness, intellectual culture. What makes BLF distinct from other cultural events? There is no other program like this in Bhopal. Like BLF. Is it your first time attending BLF? No. Second time. Okay. What improvements would strengthen its intellectual mission? I think it's quite rich, but not right now. Okay. I'm happy. Okay. This session of interaction impacted you the most. Yesterday I was sitting with Piyush Mishra. Interaction session. Then it was Dastangoi Dastangoi which she has reinvented and continuing this. I was listening and yesterday morning I was attending this algorithmic intelligence from my friend Prashant. Thank you so much, sir.

55. Jasleen Khanuja (American Journalist)

SPEAKER 1(Interviewer):

We are from Jagran Lake City University, Bhopal. We just wanted to ask some questions related to BLF for research work, so how did you get to learn about BLF?

SPEAKER 2

So, basically, I am an Indian American journalist. My name is Jasleen Kanuja, and I own a channel there, which is called Yo India TV, Yo India TV, which we air not just on cable and OTT platforms in 190 countries, but also on social media. We are very active. And when we were doing our India trip just for a family visit, we saw the Jaipur International Literature Festival, you know, because that's very popular. And we were planning to visit Hawa Mahal and some tourist places there.

But, you know, Bhopal is my husband's hometown, and we definitely had to come to this place. You know? And the weather is really awesome at this time. You know? Yeah.

Bhopal is a city of lakes. It's beautiful. It's green. But we were thinking, like, what we will do there because we have seen everything here. And then we searched online, and we found BLF.

SPEAKER 1

Wow! So have you been to any other literature fests, or is this your first?

SPEAKER 2

This is not my first. In the US, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area, we cover a lot of festivals and events. We have met so many celebrities from Bollywood Hollywood, local politicians, from the city mayor to the, you know, senators of the United States. We have interviewed a lot of people. We are also heavily into technology because, you know, it's the Silicon Valley of the world.

Yeah. So a lot of technocrats, a lot into artificial intelligence, and, you know, innovative and cool stuff is there. Okay. So we have covered one good, which I would actually like to quote, is SALA fest, South Asian literature and art festival, and we've been their media partner since their inception in 2019.

SPEAKER 1

Okay. So how relevant is BLF for, like, today's youth?

SPEAKER 2

BLF is not just relevant, but it is imperative to have these kinds of festivals because of the art and tradition and culture, which is not known to the youngsters and to the broader community, particularly from the tribals of India and the hardcore distant areas. You know? That is highlighted. India is very rich in heritage and culture. All parts of India, you know, not just Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, which are the core neighbouring areas or the hardcore content of display in Bhopal Literature Festival.

But in the US, we try to cover everything hardcore from India and take pride and glory in our culture and heritage. BLF is doing a great work in bringing this forward for one and all.

SPEAKER 1

One more question. What similarities do you find between this literature fest and the one you went too?

SPEAKER 2

So the South Asian literature and art festival is done by nonprofit art forum SF. You know, like, we have the nongovernmental institutions, you know, NGOs in India. Similarly, we have nonprofits in the US. Okay. So sometimes these also get grants from different sources to fund the mission of supporting heritage and culture, language and literature.

Right? That is more focused on literature in the sense that I have interviewed the Booker Prize winner, the Pulitzer Prize winner. You know, these are some of the big names, the biggest awards in the world for literature. So they focus on the best of the best from the world because in the US, we can have the opportunity of demonstrating the best. You know? Yeah. That's such a country. Right? Although India is no less, it doesn't mean I I don't mean to say that. We are Indians.

We have become Indian Americans, and we take full pride in Indian culture. But that focuses primarily on art, like, as an Indian American journalist, I also got an opportunity to interview Deepthi Nabal. Okay. You know? And she lives there.

She made it to the festival. You know? Jab we Met. Everybody loves Jab We Met. And he has unique thoughts.

He had a great panel, and I had a one on one with him for a long time. And we made, like we mixed his songs and movies, and we made a great show out of it. This year in 2025 I mean, now it's last year. It's just January 2026. We still go back, like, 2025.

We had an opportunity to interview the Nobel Peace Prize winner, Abhijit Banerjee. Again, he's an Indian American, and he's rare of the rare. Who wins the Nobel Prize? You know, Trump was also aspiring for the Nobel Prize. It's not an easy thing to get.

So, they try to bring in the best of the best there. This festival is more of, like, the hardcore. You know? Because I saw so many stalls from Chhattisgarh. I also did some shopping, you know, some earrings, some, you know, ladies shopping always love the pashmina shawls, have special embroidery from Kashmir and all. You know? These things are difficult to have there, but they have great pieces of art. They have great paintings and artists there, and you have great paintings and artists. I also saw an artist here who has a whole exhibit gallery here. Right? Yes, sir. Which is very impressive. I also took some videos and pictures of that. I wish I could meet that artist so that it is global. This is local. So it is and, again, it is South Asian. So it is focusing on South Asian. Like Sri Lanka. Like, the Booker Prize winner, for example, was from Sri Lanka. So they can invite people from other countries, South Asian countries as well. This is hardcore, I think, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, and then other states of India, some of it. But largely, Madhya Pradesh because Bhopal is all about, you know, MP.

SPEAKER 1

Thank you so much for your time. It was very inspiring.

56. Dr. S BANERJEE (HIGHER EDUCATION)

SPEAKER 1(Interviewer):

I just wanted to ask a few questions. How did you learn about BLF?

SPEAKER 2

Thank you. I'm doctor Dr. S BANERJEE. Basically, I'm from higher education. And, naturally, my colleagues used to come to BLF, and I'm also fond of literature, So that's how I started coming up here after so many years. And now I'm associated with Janjati Kalashivil Melak because now I'm retired, and I have much more time. So, these arts and artists, when I interacted with him, that inspired me, actually.

SPEAKER 1

So how do you find it here?

SPEAKER 2

Very progressive because I have been associated with it for the last three years. With this melak. So it's growing day by day, year by year, and in the future also. Yesterday also, Manfri

ji came, and he announced that we are going to conduct such a melak in all tribal districts and many places like Indore and Jabalpur, Gwalior.

SPEAKER 1

You have been coming here for the past three years? What changes have you noticed?

SPEAKER 2

Only progress and progress. These are the positive changes. And, of course, BLF is even older than this. So BLF is progressing like anything. So many writers have been associated with that also, and it's very satisfying, very fulfilling. Because I'm from education, I feel that this is very, very useful for the students from all fields.

SPEAKER 1

So what do you think about the importance of art and literature?

SPEAKER 2

Art and literature, minus art and literature, science is nothing, and we are nothing. So they are very important. They bring improvement and all sorts of personal progress and personality development. Art and literature are very, very important for us.

SPEAKER 1

Do you have any message for our youth?

SPEAKER 2

Yes. Every youth should be involved with art and literature. Without literature, nothing can be imagined. Yeah. It's very useful. It's very important for life and for progress and progressive personality also.

SPEAKER 1

Very inspiring. Thank you, ma'am.

57. Dr. RAJEEV MOHAN

SPEAKER 1(Interviewer):

We came here for research work. What's your name?

SPEAKER 2

Doctor Rajeev Mohan.

SPEAKER 1

So how did you get to learn about BLF?

SPEAKER 2

One of my neighbours is a speaker here. Okay. So, because he sent us the schedule so they all know.

SPEAKER 1

So did he conduct the session?

SPEAKER 2

He's going to conduct the session now.

SPEAKER 1

So are you looking forward

SPEAKER 2

Yeah. Yeah. Sure. Sure.

SPEAKER 1

So is this your first time attending BLF

SPEAKER 2

Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

SPEAKER 1

Have you been to any literature fest before

SPEAKER 2

Other No. No. No.

SPEAKER 1

What's something that stands out to you about this environment?

SPEAKER 2

There are a lot of school children here. School and college college children, basically. And it's not very crowded. Yeah. A lot of people from different fields are here.

SPEAKER 1

What makes BLF, like, distinct from have you ever attended any other. No, You haven't.

SPEAKER 2

No, I attended many conferences and all that. But not a literary fair, I think so. Can't remember. Yeah.

SPEAKER1

Okay. And then what's the importance of art and Literature?

SPEAKER 2

Yeah. I think that's why we learn about what people from different parts of the country are doing, and it brings you closer to people of different backgrounds, education, and regions. And it helps the nation develop, it helps in all fields of life in their scientific temperament and it brings a name to the country also that it has a rich and diverse culture.

SPEAKER 1

Something that you like about this environment?

SPEAKER 2

The environment? Yeah. Yeah. It's not crowded, and there are a lot of young people there. That's what's happening.

SPEAKER 1

Thank you so much.

58. FIROZ SIR AND NISHU NEEMA (DPS Tr. VOLUNTEER)

SPEAKER 1(Interviewer):

So how did you get to learn about BLF?

SPEAKER 2

Actually, I'm a volunteer DPS teacher.

SPEAKER 1

So, like, what ask so, like, what are you doing, sir?

SPEAKER 2

But I'm a teacher. Or social media basically.

SPEAKER 1

So what's something that stands out to you about this event?

SPEAKER 2

Sorry?

SPEAKER 1

Like, why did you think, like, to bring your kids to your school in this event? What inspired you?

SPEAKER 2

Actually, it's kind of its own kind of festival here. Like, people are going to Jaipur to attend the Jaipur literature festival, or it is happening in our city. So why doesn't it?

SPEAKER 1

So you wanted to learn more about it? So how relevant is BLF for today's week?

SPEAKER 2

Actually, like, today's kids are more into social media and all. So it's a kind of connecting them with literature. So youth not only attend the festival, but also as a participant. Poems or So, like, introduce literature interest

SPEAKER 1

Mam, You want to add something?

SPEAKER 3

Yes. I think I want to answer the second question. What was it?

SPEAKER 1

What's something that stands out to you about this?

SPEAKER 3

Yes. Yes. Actually, see, our institute is a flagship institute, and we want to give all kinds of exposure to our students, and that's why we are here. And, obviously, if someone who is connected with literature, or she is grounded, rude. And by this kind of festival, we are trying for the same.

So that's the motive. Our students are involved in the organizing committee. Our students perform Saraswati Vandana as well. So they are getting all kinds of exposure, culture, how things work, and they are learning so many things. So that's a great opportunity for us and even for our students.

SPEAKER 1

So what's your name?

SPEAKER 3

I'm Nishu neema and he is firoz sir from Delhi Public School, Bhopal.

SPEAKER 1

Thank you so much.

59. GAURI BIJRONIA AND MIYA NABISON (NID COLLAGE VOLUNTEER)

SPEAKER 1(Interviewer):

So how did you guys get to learn about BLF? Basically,

SPEAKER 2

Our college told us to volunteer over here, BLF. They told us about NID MP, National Institute of Design. Yes. Guys come here to volunteer. We have literature and art festivals. Yeah. We'll get to know cultures, paintings or crafts because I'm auditing for TAF. Mhmm. So I got to know the reason. It's not just painting.

There is a lot of meaning behind it or how we can promote it. Because of the culture code, that's how we will promote it. Even how biodegradable or resourceful will look just like there's one toy from Andhra Pradesh. Yeah. Yeah.

Yeah. Toys They use natural colours, natural dyes. The thought behind it, everything, it's just so

SPEAKER 1

So you're getting to learn a lot of stuff.

SPEAKER 2

A lot of stuff. Yes.

SPEAKER 1

So what, like, what's something that stands out about you?

SPEAKER 3

For me, I think it's culture because, genuinely, cultural season is all year round, and this is one thing I personally look for.

SPEAKER 2

And we're in the center of India, Madhya Pradesh. So we can only get to know about the Madhya Pradesh culture. All over India 87 additions and more stuff too. It's nice to know every culture, and we can learn from it.

SPEAKER 3

Plus, volunteering here is an experience. Like

SPEAKER 1

How has that experience been for you?

SPEAKER 3

I think we have found the right audience. Since we are from a design background. There are people coming who are genuinely interested in knowing what we are doing.

SPEAKER 1

So yeah. What do you guys do?

SPEAKER 3

So we are foundation students from NID, and second semester So, basically, there's this so we have three disciplines, industrial design, communication design, and external and apparel design. Foundation, we do everything, and then in the second year, we choose which one we want to go into. So here it isn't, like, a display of our works, and some common things are activities around the campus. These are the posters that we made for our fests and our festivals. It's nice.

SPEAKER 1

What may like, have you attended any other literature events

SPEAKER 2

events like that?

SPEAKER 3

I think we both are from bhopal. So we both have attended BLF earlier as well.

SPEAKER 2

I have participated in competitions, also painting competitions on.

SPEAKER 1

Like, how long have you been attending this one?

SPEAKER 2

Last year, I went for the first time. 2023.

SPEAKER 1

What is the progress that you have been seeing since?

SPEAKER 2

The progress in what sense? Like, in BLF.

SPEAKER 3

I think I've seen more people now. I think people are much more aware and people are more curious to know what's happening around here. And I think they are more, like, to know culturally or heritage They're more aware. They're interested. Yes.

SPEAKER 1

Thank you so much.

60. GLORIA MAKASARE (NIFT VOLUNTEER)

SPEAKER 1(Interviewer):

So how did you get to learn about BLF?

SPEAKER 2

I am from NIFT College, and I am also volunteering here. So that is how I came to know about here

SPEAKER 1

Okay. And what's something that stands out to you about this place?

SPEAKER 2

A lot of artisans get collected over here. And as a design student, we also have to research a lot of crafts. Yes. So it is very helpful for us to, like, to know about other artisans and the craft that they do.

SPEAKER 1

What are you learning?

SPEAKER 2

I'm a communication designer in a company called "Lyft. And, like, recently, what I liked about this event is we have an assignment in which we have to research someone's craft in detail. So it is very good exposure for us to choose one because there are many, so we get to know. Which one did you choose? I'm still thinking I have, like, the puppetry show. So, yeah, that's something I and then there was this mask kind of. That also I liked. How relevant is BLF for today's youth? It's really relevant because, like, people would get to know about what has been in the past, like, the arts and all of stuff. If we know, like, something comes into trend.

But people feel like it is a modern trend, but it is just something taken from the ancient times or some ancient craft. So that is very relevant that people would get to know about it.

SPEAKER 1

Is this your first time coming to an event like this?

SPEAKER 2

No. I've been to bill BLF last year also, and I've just been to a lot of craft events for college purposes. Like, last year? Last year, actually, I was just a fresher in the craft and design industry. So I was just looking around, but then now I have a year's experience of knowing how important it is for someone to be from this craft background.

SPEAKER 1

Okay, Thank you so much. Have a nice day.

61. AANVI SINGHARIA (COLLEGE STUDENT)

SPEAKER 1(Interviewer):

So how did you get to learn about BLF?

SPEAKER2

I got to learn about BLF through my college because many people from my college are attending. Many speakers who have come to BLF have already visited our college as well. That's how I learned about BLF—from my teachers.

SPEAKER 1

How relevant is BLF for today?

SPEAKER 2

Pretty relevant, I would say. I think there are four to five colleges here, and there are school children as well. So I would definitely say it's a success and really relevant.

SPEAKER 1

What is the importance of art and literature today?

SPEAKER 2

I think in this very fast-paced life, we should sometimes slow down and appreciate art, which is why BLF is perfect for this opportunity.

SPEAKER 1

Okay. Thank you so much.

62. Neha Das

Vasudha: Neha, what do you think about how relevant BLF is for today's youth?

Neha: I think BLF is still relevant, but the way it connects with youth has changed. Young people today are more focused on practicality and real-life impact.

Vasudha: That's true. Many students feel that traditional forums don't always match their fast-paced lifestyle.

Neha: Exactly. However, BLF provides a platform for intellectual discussion, exposure to leaders, and new perspectives, which is very important.

Vasudha: Do you think youth actually engage with it deeply?

Neha: Some do, especially those interested in literature, politics, and social issues. But others may feel it's too formal or less interactive.

Vasudha: So maybe the issue isn't relevance, but presentation?

Neha: Yes. If BLF uses more digital platforms, social media, and youth-centric topics, it can attract more young audiences.

Vasudha: That makes sense. Today's youth want discussions that are relatable and solution-oriented.

Neha: Absolutely. If BLF adapts to current interests while keeping its core values, it can remain very meaningful for the younger generation.

Vasudha: I agree. It still has value, it just needs to evolve with time.

Most used word - "youth"

63. Aditi Mehta

Vasudha: Aditi, what are your thoughts on the relevance of BLF for today's youth?

Aditi Mehta: I believe BLF is still very relevant for young people, but the way youth engage with such platforms has changed. Today's generation prefers experiences that are practical, interactive, and impactful.

Vasudha: That's true. Many students feel that traditional forums do not always match their fast-paced lifestyle.

Aditi Mehta: Yes, but BLF offers great value by providing intellectual exposure, meaningful discussions, and interaction with authors, thinkers, and leaders.

Vasudha: Do you think youth actively participate in these discussions?

Aditi Mehta: Some do, especially those interested in literature, politics, and social issues. However, others feel the format is too formal or less engaging.

Vasudha: So the challenge is more about presentation than relevance?

Aditi Mehta: Absolutely. BLF needs to adapt by using digital platforms, social media, and youth-centric topics to attract more young participants.

Vasudha: That makes sense. Youth today prefer discussions that are relatable and solution-oriented.

Aditi Mehta: Yes, and including interactive sessions such as live Q&A, panel discussions, and workshops would make BLF more engaging.

Vasudha: How else can BLF connect better with students?

Aditi Mehta: Inviting young speakers, entrepreneurs, and content creators along with authors can help youth relate more to the platform.

Vasudha: What benefits do students gain by attending BLF?

Aditi Mehta: BLF helps students develop critical thinking, improves communication skills, and broadens their perspective on social and global issues.

Vasudha: Does it also help in career development?

Aditi Mehta: Definitely. Interaction with experienced professionals and leaders provides inspiration and guidance for students' future careers.

Vasudha: So overall, BLF contributes to personal and professional growth?

Aditi Mehta: Yes. If BLF evolves with changing youth interests while maintaining its core values, it can remain meaningful and impactful for today's generation.

Most used word - "students"

64. Eshani Jain

Vasudha: Hi, Eshani. I'm going to ask you two questions. First, how relevant is BLF for today's youth?

Eshani: I feel that BLF is very relevant for today's youth. In a time when literature is often considered boring or outdated, BLF shows that literature is still meaningful. It exposes young people to different perspectives, encourages broader thinking, and helps us question ideas more deeply.

Vasudha: That's interesting. My second question is, how has BLF influenced your thinking or learning?

Eshani: BLF has helped me think more openly and question things more deeply. It has encouraged me to look at topics from multiple viewpoints instead of accepting information at face value.

Vasudha: Has it changed the way you learn as a student?

Eshani: Yes, definitely. BLF made learning feel more interactive and engaging, rather than just rote or textbook-based learning. Listening to speakers, discussions, and real-life examples helped me connect theory with practical understanding.

Vasudha: That sounds like a positive impact.

Eshani: It really is. BLF has made the learning process more meaningful and enjoyable for me.

Vasudha: Thank you for sharing your experience, Eshani.

Most used word- "learning"

65. Hazel Begwani

Vasudha: Hi! What's your name? Hazel:

Hi! I'm Hazel.

Vasudha: Nice to meet you, Hazel. I'd like to ask you a few questions. First, how relevant do you think BLF is for today's youth?

Hazel: I think BLF is extremely relevant for today's youth. It creates a space full of creativity, ideas, and storytelling. There's so much exposure for young people—it encourages engagement with literature in ways that feel fresh and interactive. It really gives everyone a platform to express themselves and share their perspectives.

Vasudha: That sounds interesting. Can you give an example of how someone your age might benefit from participating in BLF?

Hazel: Sure! For example, someone who's passionate about writing or poetry can get feedback from others, collaborate on ideas, and even discover new genres or authors they hadn't explored before. It's not just about reading—it's about discussion, creativity, and self-expression.

Vasudha: That's a great point. So, can you describe how BLF has influenced your own thinking or learning?

Hazel: Personally, it's really broadened my perspective and made me more inquisitive. It's shown me that learning doesn't only happen in a classroom. Through BLF, I've learned to express my thoughts more clearly, to listen to others, and to approach ideas creatively. It's

made me realize that knowledge and learning can come from conversations, debates, and storytelling, not just textbooks.

Vasudha: That's impressive. Do you feel that BLF has helped you in other areas of life as well?

Hazel: Absolutely! I've become more confident speaking in public, and I've learned how to analyze and appreciate different viewpoints. It's helped me think critically and communicate better, which I think is really valuable for both personal growth and future opportunities.

Vasudha: It sounds like BLF has had a big impact on you. Would you encourage other young people to join it?

Hazel: Definitely! I think every young person can gain something from it, whether it's improving creativity, building confidence, or just enjoying the process of learning in a fun and interactive way. It's an experience that stays with you.

Vasudha: Thank you so much for sharing your thoughts, Hazel. It's been really insightful!

Hazel: Thank you! I'm glad I could share my experience.

Most used word - "experience"

66. Tanis Malcom

Vasudha: How relevant do you think BLF is for today's youth?

Tanis Malcom: Oh, yeah. I'd love to share my point of view. I think it's very relevant. I'm really happy to see this festival happening and the youth events taking place as well. It's a great opportunity for young people to get involved in literature, and it also gives local authors exposure to the ideas and creativity of the younger generation. I'm really pleased to see that.

Vasudha: That's wonderful to hear. Can you describe how BLF has influenced your thinking and learning so far?

Tanis Malcom: Thank you. I'm just starting to explore the program and understand the different events, but the sessions look really interesting. I'm planning to buy some books and read them, which I think will help me expand my understanding of India and its literary scene. I feel it's a great way to broaden my perspective and learn in a way that goes beyond the usual classroom experience.

67. Mehtab Singh

Vasudha: How relevant do you think BLF is for today's youth?

Mehtab: Oh, yeah. I'd love to share my point of view. I think it's very relevant. I'm really happy to see this festival happening and the youth events taking place as well. It's a great opportunity for young people to get involved in literature, and it also gives local authors exposure to the ideas and creativity of the younger generation. I'm really pleased to see that.

Vasudha: That's wonderful to hear. How do you think BLF has influenced your thinking and learning?

Mehtab: I'm looking forward to seeing what I learn over the next couple of days. Just looking at the program, there are lots of diverse topics, and I'm sure it will influence my learning. I'm not quite sure how yet, but I get the sense that the conversations here will be unique—things you don't get to experience every day. Hopefully, I'll learn something new and broaden my perspective.

Most used word - "learn"

68. Tanya Sharma

Vasudha: how relevant do you think BLF is for today's youth?

Tanya: I would say it is quite relevant. I'm from Andhra Pradesh Tourism, and we've nominated Bhopal as a city for literature. I think the people of Bhopal should know about their literary heritage and how rich our city and state are in literature.

Vasudha: Thank you. And how has BLF influenced your thinking and knowledge?

Tanya: I've been following BLF since it started. They have consistently hosted amazing writers, authors, and thinkers. It definitely influences your thinking when you attend their sessions and listen closely. It's a great opportunity that everyone should experience.

Vasudha: Can you give me an example of something you've learned from BLF?

Tanya: A couple of years ago, Kabir Bedi was here. I attended his session, and the way he shared his life from his own perspective was truly eye-opening. Usually, we only know people from an outsider's view, but in such sessions, you get to understand them deeply. You realize there's a fascinating backstory behind every author and writer. BLF really gives you a peek into that.

Vasudha: Okay, ma'am. Thank you so much for sharing.

Most used word - "literature"

69. Rakhi Swal

Vasudha: Okay, ma'am. We are from JLU, and we'll ask you a few questions about BLF. Please share your perspective—whatever you think about it. The first question is: how relevant is BLF for today's youth?

Rakhi: I think it's a good initiative—a great space for students to come, learn, and gain insights from well-known personalities, writers, and others. It helps them understand what's really going on in life. So, I believe it's very useful for students to have a wider perspective.

Vasudha: Right. Okay. Next question: do you think there's any skill development happening in today's youth through BLF?

Rakhi: Yes, definitely. BLF can be very motivating for young people. It can help them explore different streams or discover their own talents. Sometimes, by attending, they can figure out what they want to do in life and take steps in that direction.

Vasudha: Is there any leadership involved?

Rakhi: It may be. Those who are involved in volunteering or organizing events are definitely developing leadership skills.

Vasudha: Okay. And how will BLF help align their futures—for example, their mindset? How does BLF help shape that?

Rakhi: BLF can open up students' minds to a broader view of life and the world. It allows them to see things through the eyes of people who are deeply involved in their fields—writers, speakers, and experts with in-depth knowledge. So, students gain a much wider perspective.

Vasudha: Okay, ma'am. Thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Most used word - "people"

70. kirpa gaur and nandini rajte

Speaker 1 (Interviewer):

So, how did you guys learn about BLF?

Speaker 2:

Since we're from literature and psychology, it was important for us to attend. Our teachers also encouraged us.

Speaker 3:

I also attended a session by Rajiv sir, which was very enlightening. It focused on BLF and the importance of literature festivals for the youth.

Speaker 1:

How are you guys finding it here so far?

Speaker 2:

The first session was nice.

Speaker 3:

Yes, we learned a lot. There was so much to take in.

Speaker 2:

We want to attend more sessions, but we can't change our halls.

Speaker 1:

What did you learn from the sessions you attended?

Speaker 2:

The first session was about India. The views and opinions of the speakers were really impressive and insightful. I didn't realize someone could love India this much.

As Gen Z, we often just want to leave the country, but the speakers were so proud and had such a strong belief in India. That was honestly very nice to see.

Speaker 3:

They also highlighted many points we weren't aware of—developments in India that we can be proud of but don't usually hear about because negative news tends to dominate. That perspective was refreshing.

The next session was a bit boring, though, because of accent differences. The speaker was from abroad, and without enough background context, it was hard to fully understand everything she was saying.

Speaker 1:

Have you attended any other literature festivals or similar events?

Speaker 2:

No, this is my first one.

Speaker 1:

Same here. So, what's something that stands out to you here?

Speaker 3:

I think the enthusiasm—to learn and to share knowledge.

Speaker 2:

Yes, exactly. People are rushing to attend sessions, listen to their favorite speakers, and meet authors. It's really nice to see so much excitement.

Speaker 3:

In every session, people want to ask questions and gain more knowledge. It's so refreshing to see how intrigued everyone is by the speakers and the subjects they're discussing.

Speaker 1:

That's amazing. Thank you guys so much. Can I have your names?

Speaker 2:

I'm Nandini.

Speaker 3:

I'm Girma.

Speaker 1:

Nandini Rashdev and Girma—thank you so much.

Speaker 2:

Thank you.

71. Saurabh Nigam

Speaker 1 (Interviewer):

So, how did you get to learn about BLF?

Speaker 2 (Interviewee):

Last year, I authored a book called *People Powered Startups*. My publishers, Penguin, introduced me to the organizers of BLF around August or September. That's how I got in touch with them, and they invited me to speak about my book. That's the background.

Speaker 1:

Is this your first time at BLF?

Speaker 2:

Yes, absolutely.

Speaker 1:

Have you attended any other literature festivals?

Speaker 2:

I've attended the Jaipur Literature Festival, but this is my first time attending as an author.

Speaker 1:

Amazing. What do you think is the importance of art and literature in today's society?

Speaker 2:

I think art and literature—any art form, really—are critically important because they keep us rooted in our culture. That’s how our history, traditions, and roots are conveyed, in different forms.

Without art and literature, there’s really no way to stay connected to them. In fact, one of the reasons I started writing my book was exactly this. It’s also the best way to ensure that future generations remain aware of our traditions, roots, and culture.

Speaker 1:

What is something that stands out to you about this event?

Speaker 2:

I’ve only been here for about 30–45 minutes, but what really stands out is the sheer magnitude of the event—the lineup of authors and the diversity of topics being discussed.

As I was walking around, I noticed books on culture, art, business, economics—it’s incredibly diverse. The scale of the event is huge.

I actually come from this part of the country—I’m from Jabalpur—and before the organizers reached out to me, I had no idea that such a large literature festival was being organized here. So yes, the scale of the event really stands out.

Speaker 1:

I know the name of your book.

Speaker 2:

People Powered Startups. It’s right there if you’d like to take a look.

Speaker 1:

I will. And your name?

Speaker 2:

My name is Saurabh Nigam. I’ll give you my card in case you need it.

Speaker 1:

Thank you so much.

72. Akshat ohja

Interviewer: So, how did you get to learn about BLF?

Interviewee: It’s actually a short but fun story. I was on Reddit, trying to promote my show like I usually do, and I came across a post on the Bhopal subreddit about volunteering at BLF. That’s how I first heard about it.

I googled BLF, then called one of my best friends, Vidhanshi, and asked her if she was free on the 9th, 10th, and 11th. She told me she was already volunteering at BLF. I was shocked and immediately said I wanted to do it too.

The next two days were basically spent convincing everyone to let me volunteer. They were selecting people they liked, so I had to persuade them a bit—nothing dramatic, just convincing them to take me. Eventually, they agreed, and that’s how I got here.

Interviewer: So you came from a school?

Interviewee: Yes.

Interviewer: And how are you finding it so far? What stands out to you?

Interviewee: I really like the aesthetics and the decoration. I love that they haven't used plastic—it's mostly natural, which I really appreciate. The environment is already in a bad state, so this felt thoughtful.

I like the pop of color, the bags, the flowers—everything is very cute. Overall, I love the vibes and the people here. The volunteers from NIFT are really nice, and I'm considering going into design, so that's inspiring too.

Interviewer: So it's a good opportunity for you to learn and experience things?

Interviewee: Exactly.

Interviewer: Have you attended any sessions yet?

Interviewee: Volunteers aren't really allowed to sit through sessions because we're always assigned work. For example, during the opening ceremony, I had to keep running around handling things.

That said, I might get a sneak peek into some sessions because the person I'm following enjoys attending them too.

Interviewer: Do you think this experience is helping you?

Interviewee: Yes, definitely. Mostly because of the people here and the authors. I really like them.

Interviewer: Are there any authors you're excited about?

Interviewee: I think Nitin Karke is going to be here, and everyone's very excited about that. Even apart from well-known authors, the general vibe of the people here is amazing. Someone I heard speaking earlier has written 75 books. Can you imagine that? I've read only 31 in my life.

Interviewer: Do you plan on writing something of your own?

Interviewee: I'm writing a book as a hobby. If a publisher agrees, I might get it published. I don't really want to self-publish because it's a lot of work. For now, writing is just something I enjoy.

Interviewer: Which aspects of BLF have you found most intellectually engaging?

Interviewee: I can't really say yet—it's just started. I haven't had enough exposure, but it's already been fun.

Yesterday, I learned a lot about the person I'm following, Meenakshi Ma'am. She was the head of Air India's entire North division.

Interviewer: That's incredible.

Interviewee: It really is. What's interesting is how she explains things using flight-related examples—like how before takeoff, there are dozens of checks to ensure everything is in order. She's amazing and very fun to follow.

Interviewer: Do you think BLF has influenced your thinking or learning?

Interviewee: Yes, mainly because of Meenakshi Ma'am. I just met her yesterday, but she's already had a big impact on me.

In her first speech, she spoke about giving extra respect to senior artists because they're used to it. She herself isn't very young, yet she's extremely down-to-earth. She's truly an icon—a legend.

Interviewer: That's wonderful that you found someone so inspiring.

Interviewee: Yes, my volunteering now mainly involves following her

around. **Interviewer:** Has BLF changed how you perceive the city of Bhopal?

Interviewee: Yes, it has. I always thought Bhopal was a sleepy city, almost like a retirement hub. Literature events like this weren't something I associated with it. BLF is something new to me, and it's really nice to see this side of the city.

Interviewer: Do you have any suggestions for improving the event?

Interviewee: It's already really nice, but maybe something different could be done with the banners. Everything else is great—I just had to suggest something.

Interviewer: Thank you so much for your time.

Interviewee: I love giving interviews.

73. Anshuman

Speaker 1 (Interviewer):

How did you get to know about BLF?

Speaker 2 (Interviewee):

I got to know about BLF because I've been attending this event for the past five years. It has always been very informative and insightful. The authors come from different backgrounds, and writers bring so many perspectives to society.

What I really enjoy is that you also get to meet the authors and have conversations with them, which is extremely insightful.

Speaker 1:

What's one conversation that you remember?

Speaker 2:

One conversation that really stood out was with an author named Anandita, whom I met recently. She had very informative views on feminism—how it's shaping society right now and where we might be headed in the next decade or so. It was a very intuitive and insightful conversation.

Speaker 1:

So you've been coming here for the past five years. What changes have you seen?

Speaker 2:

The aesthetics of the entire event have improved a lot. The National Institute of Design has played a role in organizing it, so everything looks beautiful now. The arrangements and decorations are very well organized.

Speaker 1:

What do you think is the importance of art and literature?

Speaker 2:

Art and literature shape our society in many ways. They give us different perspectives and allow us to express ourselves in the most beautiful way possible. Without art, I don't think the world would exist the way it does today.

Art takes many forms—music, literature, drawings, poetry—and all of them shape society over long periods of time. So I think art, in all its forms, is essential.

Speaker 1:

Do you have any message for today's youth?

Speaker 2:

My message would be to live your life fully—value every second you're living right now.

Take part in events like these because you'll learn far more here than you sometimes do in institutes or colleges.

It's important to attend such events and connect with people who share similar mindsets and insights. You can learn a lot from them.

Speaker 1:

Thank you so much.

Speaker 2:

Nice session.

Speaker 1:

Thank you. Have a nice day.

74. kriti chauhan srivastava

Speaker 1 (Interviewer):

What's your name?

Speaker 2 (Interviewee):

Kriti chauhan srivastava.

Speaker 1:

So how did you get to know about BLF?

Speaker 2:

I work as a social media manager at Manjul Publishing House, and we have an official bookstore here. I'm part of that team, so that's how I'm connected to BLF.

Speaker 1:

Is this your first time attending?

Speaker 2:

No, this is actually my fifth time attending.

Speaker 1:

Have all these visits been in Bhopal?

Speaker 2:

Yes. I live in Bhopal.

Speaker 1:

Have you attended any other literature festivals besides BLF?

Speaker 2:

I'll be going to the World Book Fair in Delhi. It starts tomorrow.

Speaker 1:

That sounds fun. What's something that stands out to you about BLF?

Speaker 2:

I love reading books and talking to authors, so this is the perfect place for someone like me. The sessions here are very enlightening and empowering, and I really love the energy of the festival.

Speaker 1:

Have you spoken to any authors?

Speaker 2:

Of course. Since we're publishers, I speak with a lot of authors.

Speaker 1:

How has that experience been?

Speaker 2:

It's been great. They're very kind and open to questions, and they're happy to talk about their books.

Speaker 1:

What do you think is the importance of art and literature in today's society?

Speaker 2:

I think it's very important. Art and literature shape how a human being grows and becomes who they are in life. Art is a very important aspect of that process.

Speaker 1:

Do you have any message for the youth?

Speaker 2:

People should read more books. Books can truly change your life, especially non-fiction.

Speaker 1:

Do you have any recommendations?

Speaker 2:

I have many. In non-fiction, one must read *The Compound Effect* and *Atomic Habits*. For fiction, books that are shortlisted or longlisted for major prizes are usually excellent.

Speaker 1:

Is there any book that has personally shaped you?

Speaker 2:

Yes, *The Compound Effect*. It was recommended to me by my school psychologist. It's a wonderful book about building habits and maintaining them.

Speaker 1:

We'll definitely check that out.

Speaker 2:

Sure—it should be available here.

Speaker 1:

Thank you so much.

Speaker 2:

Thank you. Bye.

75. Manish Johari

Speaker 1 (Interviewer):

Your name, please?

Speaker 2 (Interviewee):

Manish Johari.

Speaker 1:

Hi, Manish. What do you do?

Speaker 2:

I work in venture capital. We fund startups and work closely with them on their growth strategies, with the aim of helping them become the next Zomato or Swiggy.

Speaker 1:

How did you get to know about BLF?

Speaker 2:

My wife is an author, and we recently shifted to Bhopal. People who are familiar with the city told us that Bhopal has a very vibrant literature festival. The city itself is known for its literary and cultural activities—creative writing, theatre, music, and more.

I'm originally from Jaipur, which is famous for the Jaipur Literature Festival, so I was already familiar with the idea of large lit fests.

Speaker 1:

Have you attended the Jaipur Literature Festival?

Speaker 2:

Yes, I have.

Speaker 1:

What similarities or differences do you find between the two festivals?

Speaker 2:

I attended Jaipur Lit Fest several years ago, when it was still relatively smaller but had started becoming very crowded.

Here, it's the first day and also a working day, so while there's a good crowd, it doesn't feel overwhelming. The space feels well spread out, and you see a lot of genuine enthusiasts around—readers, writers, administrators, and people trying to understand the mood and spirit of the festival. It's quite engaging.

Speaker 1:

Did you attend any sessions today?

Speaker 2:

Yes, I did.

Speaker 1:

How was the experience?

Speaker 2:

It was very nice. My wife, Karita Bhattnagar, is an author, and her session was today. She was joined by co-panelist Anandita Ghosh. Both of them write about women-centric themes, so the discussion revolved around relationships, women, and self-actualization. It was very interesting.

Speaker 1:

What do you think is the importance of art and literature today?

Speaker 2:

Without art and literature, we might as well be robots. One side of our thinking is logical and practical, but the other side deals with emotions, philosophy, psychology, and meaning.

That's what makes us human.

If you remove that side, we become machines. Art and literature keep that human element alive.

Speaker 1:

Absolutely. Do you have any message for today's youth?

Speaker 2:

Don't stop reading—and if you can, start writing. Reading and writing go hand in hand.

Whatever you write, don't stop, because writing brings out your inner self. It gives you the tools not just to deal with the world, but to succeed in it.

Speaker 1:

Thank you so much. That was very inspiring.

Speaker 2:

Thank you. What are your names?

Speaker 1:

Ashwina.

Speaker 2:

Nice to meet you, Ashweena—and Muskan as well. Have a great day.

Speaker 1:

You too. Thank you.

76. Govind Dewaliya, Govind Saxena, Sudin Srivastava

Speaker 1 (Interviewer):

हम BLF के बारे में कुछ सवाल पूछना चाहते हैं। हम जागरण लेक फ़सटी यूएनवफ़सटी से हैं और यहाँ रसचक्कर के लिए आए हैं। आप लोगों को BLF के बारे में कैसे पता चला?

Speaker 2:

अगर हिंदी में पूछेंगी तो हम ज़्यादा सहज रहेंगे।

Speaker 1:

ज़रूर। सर, आपको BLF के बारे में कैसे जानकारी मिली?

Speaker 2:

हमारे ज़िले में सूचना प्रकाशक विभाग और ज़िला पंचायत है। संभवतः आयोजकों ने वहाँ सूचना भेजी होगी। वहीं से हमें जानकारी मिली। ज़िला पंचायत के अधिकारियों ने हमसे कहा कि अगर आपकी रुचि हो तो वहाँ ज़रूर जाइए।

Speaker 1:

आप किस क्षेत्र से आए हैं और आप क्या कार्य करते हैं?

Speaker 2:

मैं इतिहास लिखता हूँ। इतिहास पर मेरी एक-दो किताबें भी प्रकाशित हो चुकी हैं। हमारे साथ गोविंद सक्सेना जी हैं, इनकी भी इतिहास पर एक पुस्तक है। हम मूल रूप से इतिहास लेखक हैं और हमारी सांस्कृतिक रुचियाँ भी हैं। इसलिए यहाँ आए कि एक ही जगह सब कुछ देखने को मिलेगा।

Speaker 1:

क्या BLF में आपकी यह पहली बार उपस्थित है?

Speaker 2:

भारत भवन आना तो हमारा नियमित है—हम हर एक-दो महीने में आते रहते हैं। लेकिन BLF में हम पहली बार आए हैं। यह आयोजन शायद दो-तीन साल से हो रहा है।

Speaker 1:

आज की पीढ़ी के संदर्भ में आप BLF को कैसे देखते हैं?

Speaker 2:

अगर केवल अंग्रेज़ी से प्रभावित पीढ़ी की बात करें तो यह उनके लिए ठीक हो सकता है। लेकिन अगर हम पूरे देश की युवा शक्ति की बात करें तो मुझे नहीं लगता कि यह आयोजन पूरी तरह उपयोगी है। यहाँ लगभग सभी कार्यक्रम अंग्रेज़ी में हैं—यहाँ तक कि इवेंट्स की भाषा भी अंग्रेज़ी है। उद्घाटन सत्र में एक वरुण साहित्यकार ने स्वयं कहा कि अंग्रेज़ी अतिथियों से बचने का प्रयास किया जाना चाहिए। देश की लगभग 90 प्रतिशत जनता और युवा अंग्रेज़ी नहीं समझते। कुछ ग़ने-चुने लोग ही अंग्रेज़ी समझते हैं, और अंग्रेज़ी के ज़रिये वही वर्ग पहले भी शासन करता था और आज भी प्रभाव बनाए हुए है।

Speaker 3:

ज़्यादातर कार्यक्रम पूरी तरह अंग्रेज़ी आधा रत हैं। चाहे टॉक सेशन हों या बुक फेयर—बुक स्टॉल्स पर भी 70 प्रतिशत से अधिक किताबें अंग्रेज़ी में हैं।

यह आयोजन मध्य प्रदेश में, भोपाल में हो रहा है, जहाँ अधिकांश विद्यार्थी हिंदी माध्यम से आते हैं। ऐसे में हिंदी माध्यम के लोग या बच्चे यहाँ आएँगे तो कुछ देर रुकने के बाद उन्हें लगेगा कि यह उनके लिए नहीं है, क्योंकि उन्हें समझ ही नहीं आएगा कि हो क्या रहा है।

Speaker 3:

यह सच है कि युवाओं के लिए जो गतिविधियाँ हैं—टॉक शो, संवाद, नए विषय—वे प्रभावी हैं और प्रेरित करते हैं। लेकिन इसका लाभ अधिक से अधिक लोगों तक पहुँचे, इसके लिए हिंदी के कार्यक्रम भी समान रूप से होने चाहिए।

Speaker 2:

कम से कम हिंदी में एक narrative तो होना ही चाहिए।

Speaker 3:

या फिर अनुवादक की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

Speaker 2:

कई व्यक्ति अंग्रेज़ी माध्यम से पढ़े-लिखे होते हैं, उनकी तैयारी भी अंग्रेज़ी में होती है—यह स्वाभाविक है। वे अंग्रेज़ी में बोलें, लेकिन बगल में कोई हो जो उसका हिंदी अनुवाद कर दे।

Speaker 3:

आप यहाँ देखेंगे—सभी बैनर, फ्लेक्स, पोस्टर अंग्रेज़ी में हैं। अगर कोई ऐसा व्यक्ति आए जिसे बहुत कम अंग्रेज़ी आती हो, तो उसे यह भी समझ नहीं आएगा कि BLF का मतलब क्या है। अगर फुल फॉर्म या हिंदी अनुवाद होता, तो यह ज़्यादा प्रभावी होता।

Speaker 4:

खासकर जब आयोजन हिंदी भाषी क्षेत्र में हो रहा है।

Speaker 2:

बिल्कुल।

Speaker 4:

एक और बात जो मैं देखता हूँ—आजकल बच्चे हिंदी बोलते भी हैं तो ऐसा लगता है जैसे अनुवाद कर रहे हों।

Speaker 2:

वह हिंदी नहीं, हिंग्लिश हो गई है।

Speaker 4:

अगर हिंदी बोली जाए तो उसका उच्चारण और भाव हिंदी जैसा हो, उसमें अंग्रेजीयत न हो—इस पर ध्यान देना चाहिए।

Speaker 3:

हम अंग्रेजी के विरोध में नहीं हैं। अंग्रेजी का अपना महत्व है। लेकिन मातृभाषा भी उतनी ही महत्वपूर्ण है। जहाँ बहुसंख्यक समुदाय हिंदी माध्यम का है, वहाँ हिंदी माध्यम के आयोजन ज्यादा प्रभावी होंगे और ज्यादा लोगों तक पहुँचेंगे।

Speaker 1:

आप अपना नाम बता दीजिए।

Speaker 2:

मेरा नाम गोविंद सक्सेना है।

Speaker 4:

मैं सुधन श्रीवास्तव हूँ।

Speaker 1:

धन्यवाद। आप विदशा से हैं?

Speaker 2:

हाँ, विदशा से।