



Kunal Dongre

Host organization: Educate Girls

Fellow position: Financial Planning & Analysis Manager

Fellowship duration: June 2025 – June 2026

Degree: MBA

Professional experience: 10 years



Summary

Led budgeting, forecasting, and financial analysis to support programmatic and organizational decision-making capacity. Partnered with leadership teams to build annual budgets, track spend against grants and donor commitments, and model program costs and scalability

The problem Educate Girls aims to tackle

- The persistent educational disadvantage faced by girls across Central, Northern, and Eastern India. Despite progress in enrolment, barriers such as poverty, gender norms, and learning gaps continue to prevent millions of girls from accessing and completing quality education.

The solution Educate Girls provides...

- Brings out-of-school girls back into education, improve their retention and learning outcomes, and support adolescent girls and young women in completing secondary education through open schooling pathways. By mobilizing communities and strengthening the education ecosystem alongside government partners,

... contributing to the SDGs:



Opportunity for a Fellow

- Understand how financial planning, budgeting, and resource allocation shape program delivery at scale.
- Learn to navigate complexity, analyse trade-offs, and translate strategic priorities into operational decisions.
- Build systems, processes, and cross-functional partnerships that strengthen organizational effectiveness and impact.
- Develop patience, judgement, and systems thinking while contributing to mission-driven work.

“My experience as a Fellow...

...has been an exercise in learning to sit with ambiguity. What started as budgeting and planning evolved into understanding how small decisions, assumptions, and trade-offs shape organizational outcomes. It has made me more patient, reflective, and comfortable with the slow work of building systems that last.

- Kunal Dongre



Kunal's achievements...

- Supported annual budgeting and resource planning for a large multi-state education initiative, improving cost visibility and decision-making across program teams.
- Designed structured budgeting templates and planning workflows, training 12 program leads and improving consistency across the budgeting process.
- Led budget rationalization exercises across major cost heads, balancing operational needs with efficiency and supporting informed resource allocation.
- Supported donor-linked budgeting and utilization tracking, strengthening financial stewardship across program functions.
- Facilitated cross-functional budgeting discussions and scenario analyses, helping align financial plans with organizational priorities and program delivery.

... contributing to Educate Girls

12

Program leads trained on budgeting methodologies.

6

States Supported Through Annual Planning & Budgeting

1

End-to-End Annual Budgeting Cycle Delivered

Kunal's next challenge

Kunal plans to pursue the CFA program, deepen his understanding of sustainable investing, and explore opportunities at the intersection of finance, systems thinking, and social impact.