ORGANIZATION: Seva Mandir
Website: www.sevamandir.org

Position: “Mapping Aspiration of Youths”: Youth Program Researcher, Evaluator and Designer

Internship Focus Areas: Education, youth development, rural development, program design, monitoring and evaluation, ethnographic interviews

Location: Udaipur, Rajasthan, India and surrounding villages.

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION:
Seva Mandir is one of India’s leading development nonprofit organizations. Since 1968, we have partnered with 360,000 people across 700 villages of southern Rajasthan, one of the world’s most impoverished places where people live on an average of $0.35 a day. We run a comprehensive range of programs that ensure families have clean drinking water and can grow enough food to eat, offer disadvantaged students a quality primary education, provide critical maternal and infant health services, empower women, and develop a community’s ability to self-govern.

YOUTH PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:
Seva Mandir’s Youth Resource Centers (YRC) equip rural youth with the knowledge, capacity and skills to help them face the challenges of the society within and outside their village. The basic objective of this programme is to provide these youth a platform of their own where they can come together to pursue serious self-advancement and organize initiatives to improve their village. While every YRC is different, examples of YRC programs include: village libraries, recruiting and connecting youth to vocational training, social activism campaigns such as re-enrolling dropouts in school, sports tournaments, study groups and microfinance groups.

Rural youth in India are often given little decision making power in the family or village affairs, and find themselves lost between childhood and adulthood. Support from YRCs help them realize their value in society and discover their hidden talents and potential. YRCs provide a platform for the young adult community to debate and take action on issues that matter to them.

Please visit http://www.sevamandir.org/education for more information about the YRC program.

INTERNSHIP DESCRIPTION:
The intern will lead and author a study to map the aspirations of youth. We view “aspiration” in a holistic manner- not only with respect to employment opportunities, but in regard to what kind of life do youth want, the nature of their relationships, their hopes for their communities, etc. The results of the study will directly inform changes in the design and strategy of the YRC programme.
The project will involve collecting information from different age group, socio-economic backgrounds and villages. The project will include observations and involvement in regular activities at selected YRCs. It will also include one-on-one interviews, focus group discussions and other participatory tools to develop an in-depth understanding of the views and thoughts of youth for their own future as well as for their community.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Draft questionnaire and facilitate data/information collection
- Observation of and participation in regular activities at selected YRCs
- Data compilation and analysis
- Submit written report and give oral presentation to the organization’s leadership
- Provide support to the education team in designing and planning adaptation of the YRC program based on your study

EXPECTED SKILLS OF THE INTERN:

- It is highly desirable that the intern come for at least 6 months. We will also consider summer internships with a minimum length of 10 weeks. The organization is flexible as to your exact start and end dates. To adjust to the rural Indian development context, and to effectively contribute to the organization, longer commitments are essential.

- Ability to self-manage an independent project with limited supervision. At other times, ability to work collaboratively with field and head office staff.

- Strong written, interpersonal and persuasive skills that will allow you to connect to and encourage reflection in the young people you interview.

- Adaptability, patience and cultural respect to work in a rural Indian context.

- A demonstrated professional and ethical commitment to progressive social change, bottom-up development and the idea that the most disadvantaged can and should take responsibility for solving their own problems.

- Written and spoken English. Basic Hindi preferred but not required. Seva Mandir can arrange translators, based on availability of them - for non Hindi speakers.

INTERNING AT SEVA MANDIR:

Over 100 interns come to Seva Mandir every year seeking hands-on exposure to the international development sector at the grassroots level. We host over 100 interns a year, and believe that they
can have a large impact. All of our interns have the opportunity to spend a significant amount of time in the field. The most successful interns at Seva Mandir show a high level of initiative and self-motivation, and want to contribute something back to society.

TO APPLY: If you would like to volunteer at Seva Mandir in the above mentioned project Please fill out the form available at [www.sevamandir.org/volunteer](http://www.sevamandir.org/volunteer) and attach it along with your resume in an email to our Volunteer Coordinator, Ms. Preeti Shaktawat, at [preeti@sevamandir.org](mailto:preeti@sevamandir.org).

HOUSING: If accepted, most interns are provided free housing on Seva Mandir’s campus in Udaipur City.


APPLICATION DEADLINE: Rolling through April 15, 2014. We will evaluate applications as we receive them, and will accept an impressive candidate. Early application is advised if possible.