Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam focuses on the performing arts, where the young students of the Gurukulam, as independent professional artists, are able to run their own theatre shows. English is taught as a second language at the Gurukulam, but without much exposure to English at home or in their previous schools, the students find it a difficult subject. My project focused on implementing a new simplified English Curriculum for the lower grades (class 4 to 8) and training the school faculty on how to implement that effectively.

**My Project**
As part of second language learning, I tried to implement context-based learning that connects arts, body, senses and emotions. To improve their independence in ‘Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing’ (LSRW), I used multiple strategies. Unstructured class rooms worked the best, with the library serving as a space to explore and nurture the language independently. Apart from intensive writing and reading workshops, I found storytelling to be the most effective tool. I set up a language lab to learn phonics for independent reading. I also used phonics as a tool to help children with undiagnosed learning disorders.

"When I came to your class for the first time, I was not clear about alphabets. English was a difficult subject. I used to merely memorize things. Used to get confused with the letters 'b' and 'd'. I felt bad when others teased me. Phonics helped me to identify sounds and improved my reading and writing skills. All the story days, games and role plays that we practiced were interesting. You gave us the confidence and space to make mistakes and learn from it" – Jeevitha, Grade - VII

Jamsheena, born and brought up in a Muslim community in Kerala, has been fighting against the institutions of family, religion and patriarchy all her life. Travelling across the country through the AIF Clinton Fellowship gave her an opportunity to explore herself personally and professionally, helping her realize how she can contribute to the society.
Background
BEMPU is a social enterprise that develops technology to address maternal and child health problems. To validate products for use with various populations and generate evidence supporting the clinical benefits and efficacy of products, BEMPU partners with reputable institutions to conduct research and show that new products are necessary and effective. My project focused on supporting BEMPU’s clinical research, market research for new products, and BEMPU’s social media presence to help achieve organizational objectives.

My Project
I designed and launched a research award program for six clinical studies to be implemented at centers around India. The research awards examine different uses for and outcomes of the BEMPU Bracelet, a device that detects low body temperature in premature/low birth weight babies and alerts. My work included designing an application and sending it to physicians, reviewing shortlisted applications, evaluating protocols, and coordinating the start of studies. I had the opportunity to visit two of these study sites myself and meet relevant staff, gain a more in-depth understanding of the study protocols, and provide training on the BEMPU device. This aspect of my project allows BEMPU to expand the reach of its intervention and understand how it can be best used in different settings in India. I have also worked to coordinate publication efforts for studies conducted previously, as well as designed protocols and data collection sheets for current studies to support research using BEMPU products at partner institutions. With other members of the team, I identified and connected with organizations who may be able to fund programs using BEMPU products and have also worked on grant applications. I managed the Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts, and was also responsible for email campaigns that kept BEMPU supporters updated.
Background

Naz implements the GOAL curriculum to educate young girls on health, hygiene, and life skills by using sports for development. My project focused on developing a mobile application for impact evaluation that would be used for Naz’s GOAL program coaches who implement the program in schools. These coaches are all young women (aged 17 to 33 years) and many of them are former participants of the GOAL program.

My Project

I worked towards designing a mobile app for impact evaluation that would replace the current system of paper surveys entered into Salesforce, which was not a system dynamic enough to meet the organizational needs. As the coaches would be the primary users of this app, I first gathered user information, understanding the context in which they use mobile devices, and learning how this app could fit into their everyday lives so that they would view it as an asset rather than a burden. The process began with ethnographic research and went through the stages of documenting the challenges faced by the coaches with their current system of technology, brainstorming new ideas for a better system, and prototyping a new mobile application to fit all of Naz’s needs. This included developing ‘low-fidelity’ prototypes (i.e. sketches) of what each mobile application screen would look like, as well as the user flow, which detailed the transitions between screens in the mobile application, and what the overall set up would look like. All these sketches evolved into a clickable, ‘high-fidelity’ prototype, which is how the mobile application will look and be utilized once it has been engineered.
Background
I partnered with the Snow Leopard Conservancy-India Trust, Ladakh to understand how Buddhism and ecology can coincide, particularly in Ladakh. I have primarily designed and helped deliver environmental education workshops in monasteries, or as they are called in Ladakhi, gonpas. These workshops are intended to spread awareness about the environmental issues facing Ladakh, enhance understanding about biodiversity and ecology, encourage monasteries to preach about conservation and guide with practical steps towards protecting Ladakh’s nature, as well as to engage traditional teachings within Buddhism that can be adapted to address current situations of environmental concern.

My Project
Through Phase 1 of my research, I travelled between gonpas, in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and centers of study in Dharmsala and Delhi to engage and encourage scholars and monks of Tibetan Buddhism to include specific teachings and principles that explicitly apply or could be adapted to inform nature conservation. In due time, I developed a list of principles to help guide the ideation and design of training modules. In Phase 2 of my project, I explored these topics more thoroughly in the context of Ladakh as I began hosting workshops. In Phase 3, I helped direct the organization and execution of a two-day conference, titled ‘Buddhism and the Environment in Ladakh’. This was the first conference of its kind to take place in Ladakh and saw local Buddhist Scholars, conservation experts, development professionals, and researchers discuss proactive steps towards protecting Ladakh’s environment. Moving forward, SLC-IT plans to continue driving and coordinating efforts with the All Ladakh Gonpa Association for informing and involving the monastic community within conservation efforts across Ladakh. The process of creating theme-specific Working Groups has also begun.

Andrew directed a Conference called ‘Buddhism and Environment in Ladakh’

After spending the past ten months creating and delivering environmental education modules for Ladakh’s monastic community, Drew is ever more curious about the intersections of religion, development, and South Asian society, has even more questions, and is taking new opportunities to continue engaging with this perplexing place he calls home-away-from-home.
Background
My project focused on exploring the applications of data science in development. Specifically, I applied machine-learning algorithms to predict an individual’s propensity to migrate using data on his socio-economic characteristics. The belief is that predicting rural-urban migration trends can help design effective policies that promote better urban planning and rural development.

My Project
The study leveraged data collected from household surveys in Tamil Nadu to train the machine-learning models. Machine-learning algorithms have the ability to learn from the data, work with high-dimensional datasets and optimize the solutions in a recursive manner, resulting in higher prediction accuracy. To measure the performance of the model, I used data on migration from the 64th round of the National Sample Survey, India. The factors for training the model include socio-economic characteristics of each individual like age, gender, place of residence, outstanding loans, strength of the household etc. and his past migration history. I performed a comparative analysis of the performance of different machine-learning algorithms to determine their prediction accuracy. Results show that machine-learning algorithms provide significantly better results in predicting migration decisions as compared to statistical models. My goal through this research is to propose the use of data science techniques in understanding human decisions and behavior in developing countries.

QUICK FACT:
Machine learning offers the avenue of looking beyond what the numbers have to offer and discern deep-seated pattern otherwise not evident, through a continuous process of learning and relearning from the data.
Connecting rural artisans with digital markets

Background
Avani has been working in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural women. While Avani’s enterprise has continued to grow, sales have lagged behind production capabilities, creating an inventory build-up and diminishing Avani’s ability to expand operations and the number of beneficiaries reached. Avani’s highly isolated location and relative lack of digital marketing expertise has exacerbated this issue, hindering Avani’s ability to reach more affluent urban customers and generate sales. My project focused on building Avani’s brand in sustainable fashion markets through three main interventions – digital content creation, e-commerce, and robust social media marketing.

My Project
In order to more effectively communicate Avani’s unique story and value proposition to a wider audience, I engaged with numerous digital platforms to create online articles and exhibitions highlighting Avani’s work and beneficiaries. For example, I partnered with the Google Arts and Cultural Institute, an online exhibition platform that highlights artists and artisans from around the world, to create a series of photo and story exhibitions on Avani’s production processes. I designed and launched a new E-Commerce website, which enabled Avani to sell its products online to customers across the country. Since its inception, Avani’s e-store has drawn over 4,000 visitors and generated over INR 50,000 in new sales, creating a new, rapidly growing revenue stream for the organization. In order to spread awareness about Avani’s brand and mission to a wider audience, I worked to increase Avani’s social media presence through the creation of an official Avani Instagram, blog, and email newsletter. I also maintained and improved Avani’s existing Facebook page. Through all of these efforts, Avani was able to reach over 8,000 unique new followers, substantially increasing its Facebook following while opening the brand to new forms of engagement via Instagram.

Camille was born in England and raised in Singapore, but is a Pacific Northwest girl at heart, hailing from rainy Portland, Oregon. She is passionate about gender-based development, and over the last ten months, has discovered a newfound interest in the world of handicrafts and traditional arts.
Background
The goal of this project was to add value to Human Resources, training, and fundraising by assessing current processes and creating documents and processes to enhance functionality. My role was a part of the Human Resource team and I was lead in several initiatives aimed at accomplishing my project goal.

My Project
My project focused on enhancing business operations in the areas of human resources, training, and fundraising functions. The purpose of this project was to assess, streamline and improve general operations by reviewing, drafting and organizing key documents and processes, creating templates and standardizing formats to be used by the organization including the organization handbook for new employees. I also participated in the annual strategic planning initiatives working on the Strategic Planning team and creating a GOST (Goal, Objective, Strategy, Tactic) format for the 2018-2021 strategic plan. I led a strategic planning session for Chindu during an exposure visit. The Child Safeguarding Policy for Video Volunteers that I drafted received approval from Keeping Children Safe in the United Kingdom. Additionally, I wrote the nomination for Video Volunteers’ Community Correspondent Nadiya Shafi who won the 2018 Martha Farrell Foundation Excellence in Women Empowerment Award.
Background

Indus Action is a policy implementation ‘do-tank’ presently working towards ensuring effective implementation of Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act (RTE) by engaging with the stakeholders at government level, community level, and state level entrepreneurs. I worked with the Expansion team of the organization to strengthen the Partner Entrepreneur Network (PENs), through which the organization aims to achieve its mission of enrolling one million disadvantaged children in private unaided schools across India by 2020.

My Project

I was involved in formulating a recruitment framework as per the organization’s needs and revised the entire recruitment process for PENs. These Partner Entrepreneurs are individuals who are committed to bring about a social change and to set up their own non-profit organization for this purpose. The recruitment framework I formulated will bring about uniformity in the assessment and evaluation of applicants who want to take up the role of the Partner Entrepreneur. In addition to this, the framework will also help in understanding and monitoring the timelines at every stage of the recruitment process.
**Background**

My project began with ideating for a women’s empowerment group that would directly impact the organization’s women entrepreneur number. This allowed me to connect with the local community and create necessary curriculum for the organization’s educational system. My project then morphed into something the organization was more in need of: an HR manager.

**My Project**

Taking on the new role as an HR manager, I built templates, structures for communication, and organizational initiatives that directly impacted Project Potential’s organizational structure with the support of its two founders. Some of my biggest contributions consisted of creating the organization’s first HR Manual, first employee handbook, and the on-boarding system for employers/visitors/volunteers, just to name a few. Some other examples include, organizational initiatives such as “Family Fridays” and “Movie Saturdays” that help improve relationships within the organization and the communities in which we work. I also focused on organizational retreats, outreach mobilization, and helping the organization plan and implement its first foundation ceremony which served 600-700 local people.
Background
The primary focus of my project was to redesign Medha’s reporting processes in collaboration with other teams like marketing, operations and knowledge management to address the gaps in receiving sufficient numbers of high-quality impact stories from the field sites. The aim was to then make those stories the basis for reports and newsletters that are shared with the partner colleges. To meet this goal, the processes were to be improved at two junctures – between the field teams and the Lucknow office, and between the organization and its partner colleges in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

My Project
I started my work by immersing in the cycle of completing winter quarter reports that were due at the time, through which I learned the format, process and story requirements. I then set out to interview all of Medha’s Student Relationship Managers (SRMs) to gather stories for the spring college reports and pilot questions for a redesigned impact story collection process. I focused on some key questions: Which questions will draw out stories? Which barriers do SRMs face in reporting? Which stories can be shared from the field? How do Area Managers build effective partnerships? The result was a new system for the field team to more easily communicate stories and event information to the office while building their skill in report writing. Better data and increased ability of the Medha team to identify and capture stories will now allow Medha to tell better stories about its work and impact.

Jackson believes service means to serve one’s own community and as they define it. During the AIF Clinton Fellowship, Jackson joined a community in Lucknow with Medha. For him, the last ten months have been an opportunity to learn how he can continue to work on education-related topics in the future.
Project KOUSAL: A life skills program for the girls in Guwahati

Background

My project was a pilot project on life-skills education, aimed at adolescent females (ages 12-17 years) in an urban slum setting. While life-skills programs are not new to India, it is a relatively new concept to Northeast India. The goal of my project was to develop and build life-skills through non-threatening sports and physical activities.

My Project

My role was to manage and implement the project, from designing a survey for situation analysis, to drafting the curriculum based on the needs of the community, as well as training my colleagues on the basics and techniques of working with youth. I started with a survey of 100 girls to determine their ‘socio-economic and health status and interests’. Post-analysis, I drafted a report that included recommendations for this pilot life-skills program. I then developed 11 modules (lessons) and was able to conduct sessions on 7 out of the 11 in 2 select schools for girls from Class 6 – 10. I also worked with the FST field staff to understand gaps in their skill and experience and develop a Training of Trainers (TOT) to address it. Both manuals – for life-skill with adolescent girls and for staff members – as well as all the materials and resources that are part of the package will be used by FST in the future.

Janelle Antonio Funtanilla

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Graphical representation of various aspects of Life Skills

Janelle is from Hawaii and the first-born of Filipino parents. Her chosen profession is social work and she is passionate about adolescent development. She loves secret handshakes, seeing other people thrive, and good food. She doesn't claim to have all the answers but is a strong advocate for helping others make it in this crazy world.
Fair Trade Forum - India and Fair Trade Connection
New Delhi
LIVELIHOODS

Background
An increasing number of fair-trade organizations are effectively impacting the livelihoods of handicraft producers and economically disadvantaged communities, but many struggle to demonstrate their impact and attract sustainable or consistent levels of consumers. My project focused on travelling to five of the member organizations and providing them with professional support in digital marketing materials and crafting and sharing accessible and fresh stories about fair trade.

My Project
After weeks of connecting with, interviewing, and photographing the organizations and their beneficiaries, I edited and shared five 90-second impact videos and 50 photos to demonstrate each organization’s work. This material also served as marketing content for the two partners, Fair Trade Forum - India and Fair Trade Connection. Before any of the marketing material could be produced, the project required a consistent visual identity for each video, a set of graphic design ‘principles’ to link content on a range of experiences. Designed by Diana Muñoz of Fair Trade Connection, the color palette, fonts, and graphics tied the videos and social media posts together.

Kara is a storyteller who worked as a videographer and photographer for the social business network Fair Trade Forum - India and the media organization Fair Trade Connection. While capturing and providing marketing materials for FTF-I members, Kara travelled and brought her puns to West Bengal, Karnataka, Gurgaon, and Uttarakhand this year.
Background

I studied Bhasha’s alternative education program, Vasantshala, which is a residential, non-formal school in rural Gujarat for students from tribal (or Adivasi) families, who largely migrate for work. I also studied use of Bhasha’s tribal language pictorial glossaries in government schools.

My Project

For my project, I studied Vasantshala’s multilingual teaching and efforts to prepare students for government schools, and I assessed the extent to which the government school teachers report using the pictorial glossaries or other methods to become familiar with tribal languages. I took a step back to understand, which linguistic and educational methods were at work, and where did Vasantshala’s approach fit within mother tongue models in India and outside, and what could be learned about students’ enrollment in government schools and learning experiences. I pored over research, studies and policy papers, and observed the teachers and students as best I could. I also interviewed government school teachers and Block Resource Center officials, and spoke with the alumni of Vasantshala.
**Background**

My project looked to support and strengthen the content of the Lokshala and Balsena programs at Shaishav. As part of my project, I developed, streamlined and compiled a life skill curriculum for children between the age of 6-16 years, and developed and piloted grade-wise English curriculums (as a second language) for children of the same age.

**My Project**

I made use of the human-centered design to structure my life skills activities, which looks to map human experiences as a self-discovery process, encouraging the use of storytelling and tangible scenarios to arrive at solutions as a group. I developed short 5-minute videos to help children practice Spoken English. I also used various games and exercises like treasure hunts, Tambola, board games, play-dough, drawing, theatre and street play to help children learn phonic sounds, alphabet writing, and discuss topics of their interest.

**Output in Numbers**

- 10 Theme based life skills manuals developed
- 10+ Teaching and learning materials for English created
- 10 Life skills modules piloted
- 130 Children taught basic English
- 15+ Life skills modules piloted
- 45+ Children taught basic English

**Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project**

- Education

**Quick Fact:**

Balsena (Children’s Collective) is Shaishav’s flagship program run by the children, for the children, with Shaishav acting as a facilitator. Lokshala (Community Education Centers) involves community members, trained in innovative teaching methodology, to provide quality academic support and instruction to the children most prone to dropping out of school.

**Maitreyi Nandhakumar**

Maitreyi Nandhakumar entered the Fellowship to work on the cusp of education and psychology. She has learned to trust her instinct, dive into projects without over-thinking, course correct events as they happen, facilitate sessions, self-initiate projects.
Background
Switch ON’s project promotes Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to increase farm income and make small and marginal farmers empowered. I focused on preparing the detailed project report and helping the team in planning business, resource mobilization, social mobilization, farmer meetings, government official meetings, together with conducting an assessment of the pilot phase of the project.

Bank linkages of Farmer Interest Group (FIGs)

My Project
I designed the questionnaire, analyzed data using STATA, prepared a baseline assessment report, and prepared the cluster profiles of three districts in West Bengal. For example, from the pilot phase income-earning analysis of the first mobilized group, I found significant increase in the income of farmers after being members of FPO. Based on the data, the team formed a detailed project report. I also interacted and liaised among the farmer community, government officials, and concerned agriculture department on farmer’s benefit by government programs/schemes.

Effect of Farmer Producer Organization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount per month</th>
<th>Before FPO</th>
<th>After FPO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm Income</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>6400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Input Cost</td>
<td>2800</td>
<td>2630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farm Earning</td>
<td>3200</td>
<td>3770</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brought up in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, Manish is a development professional from Tata Institute of Social Sciences. A recipient of the President Award for Social Service, Manish enjoys working with a wide variety of people to achieve a common goal efficiently and realistically.
Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Program - Aga Khan Trust for Culture
New Delhi
LIVELIHOODS

Background
I worked with the women’s livelihood component of the Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative. One group I supported was Insha-e-Noor, a 60-member enterprise that creates handicraft goods, forms of aari embroidery, sanjhi paper cutting, tailoring, crochet, and binding and packaging. The other group I supported was Zaika-e-Nizamuddin, an 11-member catering company that was created to address child malnutrition in Nizamuddin Basti (settlement). It provides food for the supplementary nutrition program, has a kiosk that sells healthy snacks outside the SDMC primary school, and offers home delivery with traditional Nizamuddin cuisine. The overarching goal of my AIF Clinton Fellowship project was to improve the business functions of both Insha-e-Noor and Zaika-e-Nizamuddin through creating market linkages, increasing member engagement and working on policies and procedures.

My Project
My AIF Clinton Fellowship project was really wide in scope and on some days, it required creating a catalog of products for corporate clients, on other days it required creating excel sheets documenting financial details, and on some (lucky) days it required taste-testing kebabs. One key task I helped with was to initiate the registration of Insha-e-Noor as a producer company, the absence of which was holding the group back from Corporate and International orders. My work involved balancing research on the legal and statutory requirements for registration while putting together all the required documents. I was also involved in planning and implementing the first pop-up restaurant for Zaika-e-Nizamuddin. From supporting the team to host a test kitchen, to promoting the event on social media, to supporting recipe scaling, layout design, supply procurement, members’ training, and coordinating with other livelihood groups like Sair-e-Nizamuddin and Insha-e-Noor for the event. The event, held on March 11, 2018, was a proud moment for me and all the women I had worked with.

Minahil is grateful to have spent the last ten months working with the women of Zaika-e-Nizamuddin and Insha-e-Noor at the Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative. Her days have ranged from analyzing financial data to selling kebabs at exhibitions to facilitating community meetings.

QUICK FACT:
The Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative is a public private partnership among the Aga Khan Foundation, Aga Khan, Archaeological Survey of India, South Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Central Public Works Department. It was built on the model that cultural heritage can itself be used to promote economic growth.
Background
The anti-trafficking campaigns in the country, as well as outside, inadvertently alter the focus from forced labor migrants who are severely exploited, to the ‘duped’ female migrants ferried into underground sex work. The controversial question of a common platform between human rights and anti-trafficking campaigns comprises a large debate among scholars in the field of human rights. My project examined this interrelationship in the Indian context. The investigation was done by examining the legal and advocacy interventions of Jharkhand Anti Trafficking Network (JATN) in Jharkhand, India through the legal ethnography of JATN’s legal archive and the state legal archive.

My Project
I accessed JATN’s legal archive to analyze the cases that JATN had already dealt with. For the analysis of state-led legal interventions, I used online legal archives such as manupatra (http://www.manupatra-fast.com/), and Indian Kanoon (https://indiankanoon.org/) for data collection. The legal ethnography was done of cases from 2013-2017.

Mujeebu was posted at Srijan Foundation, Ranchi. The self-reflection of this journey helped him discover a better picture of his future. As a fresh graduate, he developed a cherished and grounded understanding of how theories learned in classrooms translate into the ground realities and he learned to make sense out of it.
Breaking the barriers

Lok Sahbhagi Sansthan
Jaipur, Rajasthan
LIVELIHOODS

Naveen Kumar
Samuel Kori

Sustainable Development
Goals linked to the project

My Project
I worked on a feasibility study for the formation of the FPO for which I first formed 20 Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs). The plan was to give the participant farmers necessary support to identify crops appropriate to their context and provide access to modern technology through community-based processes including Farmer Field Schools. Through this their capacities will be strengthened and their access to forward linkages with technology for enhanced productivity, value addition of feasible products and market tie-ups will also be facilitated.

My project focused on establishing a women’s Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) in order to empower women and farmers to earn a sustainable livelihood. The purpose of the project was to collectivize farmers, especially small producers, at various levels across several villages, so as to foster technology penetration, improve productivity, enable improved access to inputs and services and increase farmer incomes, thereby strengthening their sustainable agriculture-based livelihoods.

Naveen is a nature lover and likes to spend time working towards conserving our climate and environment. After graduating in Engineering, Naveen worked for the government before joining the AIF Clinton Fellowship to serve, learn and lead. He strongly believes that ‘Actions speak louder than words.’
Background

Anganwadi centers (Early childhood care centers) are vital institutions designed for the welfare of communities in rural India. There are guidelines as to how these centers can and should operate, but unfortunately people do not always receive their entitlements. As an organization that works with rural tribal communities in Southern Rajasthan, VAAGDHARA often works closely with Anganwadi centers for livelihood, health, and nutrition initiatives. My project focused on conducting a research, identifying gaps in VAAGDHARA’s interventions or Anganwadi center actions, and work with VAAGDHARA team members to resolve those gaps.

My Project

I developed a survey regarding food procurement and distribution in order to investigate the efficacy of the work VAAGDHARA was doing as well as the work being done by the Anganwadi centers. While I could assess only 10 out of the original 15 Anganwadi centers in the given time frame, I was able to identify gaps in the delivery of VAAGDHARA’s programs from time-to-time and report these for action. I also supported VAAGDHARA in documentation and internal archiving.
Background
NEADS works in the flood affected areas of Golaghat district of Assam on relief distribution, constructing drinking water sources and supporting livelihood activities by distributing seeds etc. My project focused on using Participatory Action Research (PAR) to develop a model of disaster resilient livelihood for the people living in the flood affected areas of Mohura Mukh ward of Bokakhat block of the district.

Quick fact:
The Mising Tribe (formerly known as Miris) belong to Tibeto Burmese group and has agriculture as their main occupation.

My Project
I designed the research project and subsequently implemented it with the support of the staff from NEADS. I used bottom-up approach as a medium of work thereby attempting to promote leadership, ownership, and engagement from the community. The context of my work lay in promoting the sustainable lifestyle of the Mising tribal community in the area for long-term livelihood generation activities that influence the current state of education, health and living standards in the area. At a later stage after completion of the research, I prepared a concept note and proposal for the livelihood intervention project that that will work in selected villages of the Uttar Mohura ward of the Bokakhat Block in Golaghat district of Assam. I took the initiative and onus of submitting the concept note and proposal to a host of organizations in order to generate funding for the project. A couple of organizations responded with interest. One of the organizations has come forward to fund the proposal suggesting to expand the scope of the project in line with the findings of the work done by me. They have offered to increase the budget allocation to four times the initial budget (yearly) and offered support for a longer term. I am supporting the organization to develop the final proposal document with suggested changes and building capacity as well.
**Background**

Youth4Jobs runs a national network of placement-linked job training centers for youth with disabilities. Not Just Art, a start-up of Youth4Jobs, supports this mission from an arts perspective by promoting and selling artwork by artists with disabilities and by conducting instructional art workshops for youth with disabilities in Youth4Jobs’ partner schools. My project focused on identifying, onboarding, and representing Not Just Art’s inaugural cohort of 20 artists with disabilities, as well as introducing art education for visually impaired children.

**My Project**

As the Project Coordinator, I worked to promote art as a livelihood and valuable creative outlet. One of my responsibilities was to develop and implement art workshops in Youth4Jobs’ partner school, the Government High School for Blind Girls in Malakpet, Hyderabad. I created lesson plans and worked closely with the staff to develop creative and engaging activities for the students. I worked on finding ways to adapt visual art projects to suit students with visual impairments, so they do not feel overwhelmed or discouraged while overcoming their sensory limitations and my language barrier. I also managed the web foundations for Not Just Art and liaised with artists, funders, and other stakeholders.

**Not Just Art by the numbers**

| 20 | Artists supported by Not Just Art |
| 80+ | Art workshop participants |
| 3 | Art workshops held in schools & training centers |
| 9 | Indian cities represented |
| 4 | Not Just Art team members |

**Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project**

- 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
- 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

**Priya Adina Charry**

Priya is an information professional with experience in public and academic libraries, archives, and arts institutions. She is an advocate for community empowerment through inclusive education and creative expression. A product of the (West) Indian diaspora, she believes in the power of art to build and nurture cross-cultural connections.

---

“I don’t know what the painting was looking like nor [did] I know the colors used for the painting, but still I was enjoying [it] and felt that we were treated like any other sighted person. It was a proud moment for me and if someone could give us further training in this field, I am ready to learn and explore.” – Manikeshwari (Class 10)
Background
Keystone believes that Community Health Workers (CHWs) have the potential to fill the gap when public health systems and other structural entities fall short of serving the last mile. I focused on co-creating and developing the ‘One Health’ Keystone training kit that takes a preventative health care approach and outlines interventions aimed at the structural and intermediary determinants of health. The kit will build the capacities of both the Keystone staff members and the Community Health Workers on topics of primary health care.

My Project
I created seven working documents on primary health care topics that were tested and qualitatively evaluated through ‘Training of Trainers’ sessions. I also supported the archiving of all the social entitlements that are offered by the central and state governments for Keystone to use to make posters and pamphlets for the Community Health Workers. In addition to the ‘One Health’ training kit, I also supported Keystone in collecting data on the current state of alcohol and substance use amongst the community members. This led to the plan to create a contextual community-driven alcohol and substance abuse training in collaboration with the doctors from the hospital.

“...We learnt in the training that there are many ways to make a community healthier. I know we learn a lot of technical things but just seeing that we also have a right to improve the situation is what I like about working as a community health worker.” - Field staff, Keystone Foundation

Shruti is motivated by her passion towards improving the health infrastructure of vulnerable communities worldwide. In everything, she aims to be mindful of breaking away from rigidity of black and white and nurturing the greys of life. She believes that the AIF Clinton Fellowship has led to immeasurable professional and personal growth.
Background
Shaishav, a 25 year-old child rights organization in Bhavnagar, helps children fight injustices with their own voices. It does this through its Balsena (Children’s Collectives) and Lokshala (Community Learning Centers) programs. My project focused on assisting in the planning and funding for Shaishav’s educational initiatives.

My Project
I started by undertaking an organizational needs assessment that helped me understand the organization, its structures and all programs. This in-depth understanding helped me write mid-term reports, grant applications and organizational documents such as the annual report and Shaishav’s newsletter in the months that followed. I worked on obtaining more funds for the organization and increasing its visibility through a digital marketing strategy. I was successful in supporting the organization to receive funding for two additional Lokshalas that it was planning to start next year. Basis the needs assessment, I also identified gaps and recruited volunteers and interns as pro-bono talent. These volunteers, from GAP, Tata ProEngage, and Nasscomm, supported video editing, translating, donor scoping, and search engine optimization (SEO).

According to the 2004 Human Development Report on Gujarat, overcrowding of schools, discrimination of underprivileged children, and teacher shortages prevented the literacy rate from climbing above roughly 70%, a figure which should be much higher to match a state with such economic growth.

Subha Shanmugavel is a health policy graduate interested in poverty alleviation and human rights. She joined the AIF Clinton Fellowship to serve the country of her birth and learn more about South Asian development. Working at Shaishav has made her realize the power of community ownership and collective thinking.
**Background**

The primary focus of my project was to provide support to inmates of Tihar Prison's Jail #5 post their release from incarceration. TYCIA was already working with the young inmates to have a better quality of life and break the cycle of re-incarceration amongst first-time offenders. I worked on the development of a manual for post-release assistance along with ideating on creating a hotline that will work as a post-release hotline directly connecting the newly released inmates and the organizations that can assist them.

"I am a firm believer that upon release, ex-offenders should be afforded a second chance to become productive citizens by providing rehabilitation and education that will help them join the workforce." – Charles B. Rangel, U.S. Congressman

**My Project**

I worked with TYCIA to identify the needs of the inmates and develop the manual that is essentially a guide that connects the newly released inmates with aid-organizations in different areas around Delhi. The comprehensive manual contains details of organizations working in life-skills, conflict resolution, drug de-addiction, food, clothing, shelter, legal assistance, employability, and a number of other areas. Developed in English and soon to be translated to Hindi, the manual is also being developed as a pictorial guide for the ease of illiterate inmates. To be provided to the inmates on their release from jail, the hope is that the manual will mitigate the hassle of post-release survival. The organizations featured in the manual also benefit as they can employ former inmates fulfilling their mission of helping marginalized people.

Tod Etheredge, II loves life and people. Over the past ten months he has grown in patience, flexibility, composure, and determination. Through trials, successes, and joyous experiences, he's learned more about who he is, and how he wants to serve humanity.
AIF-MANSI, Uttarakhand
PUBLIC HEALTH

Background
The primary focus of my project was to conduct a state-wide survey of rural adolescent girls on the current situation of menstrual hygiene knowledge, attitudes, and practices. MANSI is successfully piloting projects that ensure that rural Indian women receive the support and healthcare for ante-natal and post-natal care for safe and healthy delivery of babies. However, they needed support in gathering data on adolescent reproductive health in order to initiate new ideas.

My Project
I conducted village-based surveys, targeting 897 female adolescents aged 11-19 years in three districts of Uttarakhand – Uttarkashi (Nugaon and Mori Blocks), Pithoragarh (Berinag and Didihat Blocks), and Haridwar (Bhagwanpur and Narsen Blocks). Following a robust research process, I undertook literature review followed by surveys conducted in 10 random villages in each of the three districts. I used a comparative quasi-quantitative method to collect and analyze data from the three districts. The information that I collected will help create a project plan for a menstrual hygiene program by MANSI.
Background
The Artisan Originals initiative helps put the spotlight on a group of rural artisans who are expert hand-knotted carpet weavers but also have an unquenched thirst for creativity and visual storytelling, which they express through one-of-a-kind rugs. I worked directly with these artisans to tell their personal stories and help translate their craftsmanship into language that would hopefully be understood by everyone, not just rug customers.

My Project
Storytelling was the main component of my project. There was a systemic way of collecting insights and disseminating them into a narrative that highlighted both the personal triumph of the individual artisan and the rug itself. I collected and wrote over 40 Artisan Originals (AO) stories for which I liaised with the Design department to see which artisans in which villages are producing AO rugs and visited the villages and reached out to bunkar sakhi (weaver liaison) of relevant village to set up interviews with each AO rug artisan. Using 5-6 basic questions to start the conversation, then ad hoc questions after to tie-up the story, I took the insights back to weave a story for both the artisan and the individual rug. I used the content from stories in award submissions and scripts for AO videos.

A marketing manager turned social impact fellow sounds peculiar, but this professional switch was exactly what Vipin needed to finally use his people skills for people first. In ten months, there's been a visible positive shift in both how he sees himself as an Indian-American and as a business professional.

Jaipur Rugs Foundation
Jaipur, Rajasthan
LIVELIHOODS

Quick Fact:
In India, weaving has always been considered a low-caste profession and with the advent of mechanization and technology in the industry, the need for rug weavers has been diminishing at a rapid rate in the last 20 years. As this profession heads towards eradication, 2.5 million people in India risk losing their livelihoods as rug weavers.