Yearbook 2017-18, William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India
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Introduction

We are delighted to present this year’s AIF Clinton Fellowship Yearbook. The photos, data, and stories from the class of 2017-18, document the journey, learning, and professional achievements from the 10 months spent working at NGOs and social enterprises across 15 states of India. With accounts from all four corners of India, this is a tribute to the collective footprint that the Fellowship has left on the Indian development sector over the past 18 classes, and contribution it has made to building a lasting bridge between the civil society in India and the U.S. With this class, AIF will have sent over 452 Fellows to serve at around 202 NGOs and social enterprises, working on social issues ranging from education, public health, gender equality, livelihoods, environmental conservation, and sanitation, amongst others.

AIF is committed to ending poverty in India, and joins the global call to action to end poverty globally by working towards many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our Fellowship, over its history, has been a strong model of SDG-17: Partnerships for the Goals. In the following pages, we've also outlined how the individual contributions of Fellows have aligned with other Sustainable Development Goals. For readers, we hope that this book will act as a guide and inspiration on how to build inclusive solutions that strengthen cross-cultural partnerships. As we collectively strive for a more equitable society in our globalizing world, the importance of strong and respectful cross-cultural collaboration grows everyday. We hope that this yearbook will demonstrate the core values of the Fellowship – collaboration, partnership, and inclusion – that motivated the Fellows through the successes and challenges during their service tenure.

At this celebratory moment, we wish to acknowledge the generosity of our supporters who make the AIF Clinton Fellowship program possible. We wish to thank the Rural India Supporting Trust (RIST) for supporting both the 2017-18 and the 2018-19 Fellowship years. In honor of AIF Chairman Victor Menezes, the Stuyvie Comfort Grant has also supported a Fellow for the 2017-18 year. We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Co-Chair of the Board Lata Krishnan and Co-Chair of the AIF Clinton Fellowship Ajay Shah for their support of eight Fellows in the upcoming 2018-19 year.

To the graduating class of 2017-18: We are incredibly proud of you and your achievements. Your contributions will continue to make positive impacts through your host organizations in India, and we hope that the lessons you have learned from your experiences, organizations, mentors, and friends will continue to influence and inspire your lives. We hope that you will remain powerful ambassadors for AIF, and as you continue your professional journeys, you will continue to integrate the ethos of 'Serve, Learn, and Lead'.

With best wishes for an exciting next chapter,

Nishant Pandey
Chief Executive Officer
New York

Mathew Joseph
Country Director
New Delhi
Foreword

We continue to be very excited to be part of the AIF Clinton Fellowship program. The bonds between India and the United States continue to mature and develop as important assets for the two countries and for the global community. AIF’s William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India continues to expand and strengthen its role as an important creative force in nurturing those bonds. This year has been tremendous in terms of the new initiatives that AIF has pursued such as increased engagement of alumni of the AIF Clinton Fellowship, gaining new program and content partners, and expansion of the program to include Senior Fellows for the first time.

We hope that as you move forward to the next chapter of your careers, the time you have spent working in the field in India contributes to your understanding of the needs and aspirations of the common people in India. We also hope that you are able to continue your involvement in initiatives to improve their lives and also create a bridge between our two great societies. Finally, we hope you will maintain your association with AIF in one or more ways to help us continue to grow our programs in India.

We hope that you will use your experience in India to help others see the value of being a responsible citizen of the world in human and economic terms.

At this historical moment, there is an opportunity to strengthen the India-U.S. relationship to influence our global future for the better. Therefore, it is important to hear, first-hand, the inspiring stories of those who have participated in this learning experience, broadening both their own perspectives and those of their colleagues and friends in India and – once the U.S. AIF Clinton Fellows return home – in the United States.

Finally, we are excited to be able to play a part in the development of the future leadership of the NGOs and enterprises that will make the world a better place for all of us... You are that future!

Good luck and thank you very much.

Ajay Shah and Carl Pope
AIF Clinton Fellowship Co-Chairs
A Note from the Fellowship Staff

“Question!...Question!...Question!”

From the beginning of Orientation, it was clear that your class was going to handle this Fellowship with grace, humor, commitment, collaborative spirit, and most importantly, the ability to openly embrace chaos. When you were asked to encapsulate your values as a class, you all jumped creatively into the task, and came out with a song that represented how your class was building a common culture by recognizing the voice of each individual. This came through with the distinctive elements you interplayed to create the song, and the various interpretations of the different rhythms through dance, movement, and song. Throughout the journey of the past 10 months, you have all lived by these values of compassion, respect, mindfulness, curiosity, and equity and inclusion.

While the song had certain set elements, it was improvisational, and required that different individuals take leadership roles to perform the song. As you invited us to first hear your song, you asked us to co-create the song by acting as conductors. For us, this was a special moment, and set the stage for how we were going to navigate the Fellowship together – by sharing and collaborating responsibilities of leadership and community-building. Since that day, it's been an honor for us to co-create this Fellowship with you, and we wish to thank you for including us open-heartedly in this transformative, and challenging journey.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Senior Fellows – Molly, Roshni, and Razesh – for their immense contribution to the Fellowship this year. Their guidance, mentorship, and perspectives have added depth and rigor to your individual projects. In documenting the Fellowship from their individual perspectives, it has also added an invaluable resource for AIF for years to come.

With unwavering dedication and compassion, each of you demonstrated immense resilience, creativity, and persistence to throw yourself into unknown territory – whether it be a new language, environment, project, challenges – everyday. This year will have stretched you beyond your own conception of your limits, boundaries, skills, capacities, and ideas. The AIF Clinton Fellowship team has been honored to watch each of you dig deep inside of your own selves to expand your own potentiality.

As you move beyond the Fellowship, we hope to keep on finding a way to co-create together, even across borders and cultures. We invite you to bring your voice and leadership to the Alumni network, and to continue being part of our AIF community.

With Service, Gratitude, and deep admiration,

Amanpreet, Garima, Katja, and Katrina
The AIF Clinton Fellowship Team
History of the Fellowship

AIF’s William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India is shaping the next generation of leaders committed to impactful change, and strengthening the pillars of civil society. The Fellowship pairs a select number of young professionals with NGOs and social enterprises in India. Fellows support host organizations at a crucial moment of scalability by meeting their human resource and organizational needs through skills-sharing, training, and capacity-building. Together AIF, Fellows and host organizations form dynamic cross-cultural partnerships to exchange knowledge and skills, foster cross-cultural learning and collaboration, and fulfill the commitment to improve the lives of India’s most marginalized communities. Through ten months of service and fieldwork, Fellows gain knowledge of inclusive leadership in development in the fields of education, livelihoods, and public health.

In 2001, AIF launched the AIF Service Corps Fellowship program in an effort to help with rehabilitation of Gujarat after a devastating earthquake. In 2009, AIF renamed the program in honor of President Bill Clinton and the role that he played in the founding of AIF, from ‘AIF Service Corps’ to the ‘AIF William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India.’ Since 2011, Indian Fellows serve alongside U.S. Fellows in a bi-national cohort. Over the past 17 years, AIF has sent 452 Fellows to 202 partner organizations in 23 states of India. The 2017-18 Fellowship class is composed of 27 Fellows, 8 of who are Indian citizens, placed at 26 host organizations. This year, AIF also hosted three experienced development practitioners as Senior Fellows to support Fellows thematically on their projects.
Year at a Glance

Orientation, Fellowship begins

Midpoint and Thematic Conferences

Endpoint and Public Seminar

Learn

Understand

Implement

Evaluate

Disseminate
As a small grassroots organization, we value this partnership for the expertise, contacts, passion and helping hands it brings in. It enables our students and junior staff to broaden their horizon and learn from other young people like themselves, and we hope that this learning will be mutually beneficial and useful for the Fellows, too. We value the leadership and management of AIF that supports the young people working with a variety of organizations, and their commitment to make this possible.

Dr. Hanne M. de Bruin and P. Rajgopal, Kattaikkutu Sangam
EDUCATION
Project
Exploring the use of mobile technology and crafting a UX Design Process for mobile applications

Naz Foundation (India) Trust, Maharashtra Education

This was a transformative year of my life because it changed my perception of ‘Community’.

Akiera B. Gilbert

Partnership Story
The Naz Foundation (India) Trust works on sexual health issues and HIV/AIDS. Naz's GOAL Program has numerous facets including program implementation, curriculum development, and monitoring and evaluation. The initial goal of my project was to explore opportunities that mobile technology can offer in shaping the future of Naz Foundation. During the course of the AIF Clinton Fellowship, I developed a UX design process for two mobile applications, documented the process for developing mobile technology designs, drafted an instruction guide for third-party developers to accompany interactive prototypes, and created a comparison between different mobile data collection applications. I was able to make recommendations detailing how Naz Foundation can move forward with technology.
As such, one of my greatest professional achievements during this Fellowship has been allowing myself to change my mind, having the courage to start over with a new idea, and begin on a new path, essentially, from scratch.

**Journey**

This time last year, I was sitting in a classroom, eagerly waiting to graduate from university. I was bored, under-stimulated, and desperately wanted a change of scenery and to do something of importance. The AIF Clinton Fellowship found me at the perfect time. I was told during Orientation that this would be a transformative year for us, that we would be challenged and would grow more than we could anticipate at that point in time.

At Naz Foundation, we speak constantly about girl and child rights, violence against the girl child, and what it means to be ‘empowered’. None of it truly hit home until I found myself among a group of eight or so women, discussing their experience of sexual assault and abuse. What struck me was their composure. I was amazed. It took a large amount of strength, courage, and trust to share those stories. When I asked them why they decided to share them, their responses surprised me. They said, if they weren’t willing to confront it, who would? Why were they there if not to make a change? As I approach the end of my Fellowship, I continue to challenge myself by asking these questions. I am challenging myself to ask why, and how to continue on increasing my patience, my desire to embrace the unknown, and to dare to do more.

Akiera is particularly passionate about education and health. Being an AIF Clinton Fellow has encouraged her to be adventurous and become an innovator. After the Fellowship, she carries into the world a greater sense of how technology can be used for social change.
The AIF Clinton Fellowship provided me the opportunity to finally engage with, contribute to, and operate in the region of India I’ve been focused on for the past three years.

Andrew D. Kerr

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

**Project**

Religion and Conservation: Environmental Education for the Monastic Community of Ladakh

Snow Leopard Conservancy - India Trust, Jammu and Kashmir Education

"The Snow Leopard Conservancy - India Trust (SLC-IT) was looking for an AIF Clinton Fellow who could aid in formalizing and subsequently expanding their ongoing efforts to conduct workshops and deliver environmental education to the monastic community. The focus of my project was to develop a protocol for environmental education of the monastic community in Ladakh. This protocol contains information for a facilitator to effectively carry out a workshop in a monastic setting. I travelled between monasteries and centers of study to engage scholars and monks of Tibetan Buddhism about specific teachings and principles that explicitly apply or could be adapted to inform nature conservation. I explored these topics more thoroughly in the Ladakh context as I began hosting workshops. And finally, I supported the organization and execution of a two-day conference, titled 'Buddhism and the Environment in Ladakh.'"
Journey

Before reaching Diskit from Leh, many villages and their local monasteries fall into view. Of these monasteries, we could visit four in daylight: Tirid, Charasa, Ensa, and Samstangling. First, we came to Tirid and found it locked, shut and empty. Others too were locked, shut and empty. While looking down at the starkly blue and sandy Nubra River below, we just shared laughs at the irony and disappointment. We were able to locate the key keeper in the village below, and shortly were entering the monastery, barefoot. After touring through rooms full of paintings, we were allowed a generous time with a senior monk and talked about environmental awareness and lessons he had held onto from the Dalai Lama. During this interaction, we observed a keen attention to environmental protection, but one that was quite unaware of the particular types of efforts that make sense to the Sumoor village surrounding Samstangling.

My orientation on the place of SLC-IT interventions began to form. The road to Diskit is also a metaphor for my AIF Clinton Fellowship journey. Between closed doors in certain programmatic directions, surprising successes with random opportunities, and the ever-constant facilitation of relatives, friends, and nearby contacts of contacts, the journey to Nubra has been a constantly revolving experience. This prepared me for my immediate next steps of planning, steering the hosting committee, and coordinating the first ever conference among Buddhist scholars and conservationists in Ladakh. This process of creating the schedule, recruiting speakers, and getting endorsements and sponsorships has instilled in me a unique confidence and understanding for moving back to Lucknow to serve as resident director of an Urdu learning program.

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.
The most powerful thing the AIF Clinton Fellowship did for me was to open my eyes to my own potential and ability to work with people from different backgrounds.

Crystal L. Williams

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Partnership Story

Video Volunteers (VV) promotes community media to empower individuals in the poorest villages in India to create their own news and use video to advocate for change within their respective communities. The goal of my project was to add value to VV in the following departments: Human Resources, Training, and Fundraising. I drafted an employee handbook as a 'one stop shop' for basic VV information. My work with fundraising included writing grant proposals, strategizing and creating templates and documenting all key information for current and past grants. In addition to writing more than 12 grants and receiving a 42% success rate (including grants received and grants that VV was a finalist for), I also created a fundraising strategic plan. I supported the conversion of trainings into 'training the trainer' formats and contributed to strategic planning by working with the leadership to create a ‘Goals, Objectives, Strategies, Tactics’ (GOST) framework.

Project

Strengthening human resource practices, fundraising and supporting strategic planning

Video Volunteers, Goa Education
Journey

I felt that I had something to prove to myself and this Fellowship would serve as my litmus test. Was I really that strong and brave? Could I face challenges and lead in a diverse environment? My first couple of weeks in Goa made me doubtful. My greatest challenge was being dependent on others for absolutely everything; it made me very uncomfortable. I had spent the last two to three years striving for a level of independence and now I was throwing that away. I hoped it was the right decision.

Initially, I was only involved in my project because of the potential to utilize some of my recently acquired organizational management skills. Upon reading through more and more of VV’s documents, I became intrigued with their mission to help marginalized people. It was closely aligned with my personal story and journey. Personal discomforts faded, and my independence finally came after settling into my new flat and learning to drive a scooter. At the beginning of October, I experienced the unexpected personal tragedy of my father passing away. I did not know how to handle this, but I remember why I was doing this and how proud my dad was that I was taking this journey for myself. I knew that I had to keep going. I was careful to give myself space and time to walk through this tragedy at my own pace. I wanted to be completely honest with myself and get as much support as I needed because I knew this was something that made my father proud and I was intent on completing the journey. I believe that this experience has helped me prove to myself something that I knew all along: I am strong and resilient. I can face challenges on my own. I am more than capable of transforming discomforts into growth opportunities.

Crystal has worked in non-profit and government program implementation and strategy. She is also a spoken word artist and performer and believes that creative thinking should be at the core of our professional work. Within organizational management, Crystal strives to maximize resources and build solid strategies to accomplish goals.
The most powerful thing the AIF Clinton Fellowship did for me was to make me realize that the path I have chosen, which is to work for the rights of people - though tough at times - is the right path.

Deepika Thakur

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Indus Action Initiatives, Karnataka Education

**Project**

Support expansion to newer geographies through Partner Entrepreneur Network

**Partnership Story**

Indus Action Initiatives is a policy implementation organization with the approach to ensure effective implementation of the legislated rights, presently focusing on Section 12(1)(c) of the Right to Education Act (RTE), which mandates reservation of seats for children from economically and socially disadvantaged sections, in private unaided schools. In most parts, my work was with the expansion team to support them in expanding to newer geographies through its Partner Entrepreneur Network. My project mainly involved formulating a recruitment framework as per the organization's needs to revise the recruitment process from start to end. Through this framework, it is expected that there will be more uniformity in the assessment and evaluation of applicants who want to take up the role of the partner entrepreneur. In addition, it will help in understanding and monitoring the timelines at every stage of the recruitment process.
Journey

The AIF Clinton Fellowship for me was an opportunity to explore themes and issues which I did not have exposure to, namely education and effective implementation of rights. During one of my community visits in Bangalore, I met a shop owner who had lent a part of his shop to us to set up an application desk during the admission cycle, when the application forms for the 25% seats in private unaided schools are to be filled in by eligible families. During our conversation, I got to know that three out of four of his children were studying in private schools because of the Section 12(1)(c) provision. I was able to see the pride in his eyes when he spoke about his children being able to converse in English, a language which he is not well-versed in. This encounter made me proud of the mission I was associated with.

My AIF Clinton Fellowship experience would not have been possible without the team which was a source of support from the very first day of Orientation to the very end; my mentor with his rational and logical approach; my colleagues with whom discussions on work were often held over our shared love of chai, dogs, and TV; the local chai anna who kept serving tea with a smile; the larger team at my host organization who inspired me with their openness to being vulnerable and honest with their emotions; my flatmate for always checking on me (and giving me a sense of home-away-from-home) and last but not the least my AIF Clinton co-Fellows; each of them being an inspiration for their drive to contribute to a positive change in their host communities.

Deepika is a believer in inclusion for all, a dog lover and a dance enthusiast. In the duration of the Fellowship journey, she learned to thrive outside her comfort zone and gained a refined perspective on her professional and personal life and is grateful to all the people who made this possible.
The AIF Clinton Fellowship provided me the opportunity to engage in rural Bihar, one of India’s most stereotyped locations, and be challenged by it.

Esmeralda Herrera

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Partnership Story

My original project proposal was focused on a women’s empowerment group that directly affected Project Potential’s women entrepreneurship plan. A teammate and I were able to create flyers and meet with local women to discuss our intentions for this specific project. After engaging in outreach to build this program, this project could not lift off the ground as originally hoped.

Instead, I was able to fill in the gap in the organization’s HR department, which included creating HR policies, on-boarding documents, annual reports, volunteer/intern systems, and other necessary documentation to run operations. I was able to develop Project Potential’s first HR manual, organize two retreats for community building, conduct outreach mobilization and Monday morning meetings, and even helped lead the organization for our first foundation ceremony, which served the local people.
Journey

When you live with your organization in a rural, remote part of Bihar, every move you make or do not make is an outreach. From how many times I walk to the market during the week, to how I play with the kids during Holi, or whose house I haven’t had chai in yet, is a statement. For this reason alone, my AIF Clinton Fellowship journey at Project Potential has been unique, demanding but rewarding. I have taken my ambassador roles seriously as an AIF Clinton Fellow, a Project Potential member, as a Latinx-American and as someone from the Bronx, NY. Although I know I cannot, will not, and should not be the only representation for these identity groups, I merely wanted to be overly conscious and considerate.

My journey with Project Potential has been unique in that I have gotten to know my co-workers personally. We share rooms, beds, food, and frustrations. We had to rely on each other because we were the outsiders in the area, even if most of us were Indians. My co-workers were going to be there for me whether I wanted it or not and that was a good thing. The surrounding villages to Project Potential’s eArthshala campus used to be scary for me at first. I didn’t want to walk alone to the market because I had internalized my outsidersness. Today, I’m the one introducing new co-workers to old friends. Walking through the village is familiar and has been my life for the past ten months. Riding a motor-scooter through the village street, waving at aunties who have served me chai or dinner, to children I’ve raced with screaming ‘hello didi!’ – my journey has turned full circle. This is my home, my Bihari family that I am extremely proud of. Every day is outreach and every day an opportunity for love and connection.

Coming in at an impressive 5 feet, 2 and 3 quarters of an inch, we have the reigning fireball from the Bronx, small but mighty, Esmeralda a.k.a MoMo Herrera. Esmeralda is a dancer, photographer, teacher, traveler, and language enthusiast all rolled into one. Other nouns may apply.
Project

Strategies for the implementation of simplified English curriculum

Kattaikkuttu Sangam, Tamil Nadu

Education

Partnership Story

Kattaikkuttu Sangam is a grassroots performing arts organization that trains the next generation of artists in the traditional South Indian kattaikkuttu theatre while providing quality academic education. The Kattaikkuttu Gurukulam (KKG) was established as a residential school along with a theatre company, the Kattaikkuttu Young Professionals, in 2002, on Kattaikkuttu Sangam’s campus in Tamil Nadu. As an institution primarily focused on the performing arts, my host organization had its own unique working culture that is highly dynamic in nature. My project focused on implementing a new simplified English curriculum for the lower grades (fourth to eighth class) and train the KKG educational staff. It took time for me to examine the situation and advocate successfully for the need to make changes in the English education system followed there.

Jamsheena Abdul Jabbar

The AIF Clinton Fellowship opened my eyes to the wide areas of uncertainties in the development sector and how I can contribute as an academician.

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project
We started making our own lesson plans with activities that connect body, art, senses and mind. Every morning, I gave one-hour lessons to my coworkers. It gave them confidence to communicate and inspired curiosity to learn with context-based learning methods. We found that some children were undiagnosed with learning disorders. We made the effort to spend time with them and learned how to guide children with dyslexia and hyper activeness. I used storytelling and theatre as tools to teach English as a foreign language. The greater impact that I made among the host community was on how to connect English with their thoughts, taste, nature and profession, i.e. theatre. Learning basic phonics made them confident to read independently.

**Journey**

Music, performance, farming, cooking, I realized how the environment was dynamic and kaleidoscopic! Whenever there were midnight performances in the villages, I went with them and wondered how artistic, brave and independent my students were when they performed in front of the communities. They taught me how to be tolerant in a crowd. When they performed if something went wrong, they taught me how to be optimistic, improvise and manage the situation.

My host organization changed me into a curious learner, active listener and made me understand that 'art is also education'. I made a family here. I am deeply bonded to this family in a professional and personal way. I am so lucky to have mentors like Dr. Hanne and P. Rajagopal. They gave me space to navigate independently and treated me as their family. This is the best part of the AIF Clinton Fellowship's journey: spending time with children and having shared learning experiences of culture and language.

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.
“The AIF Clinton Fellowship helped me to trust myself and be my own ally.”

Lina Jamila Khan

Partnership Story

Bhasha Sanshodhan Prakashan Kendra works with Adivasi and denotified nomadic tribal communities and aims to improve education for tribal children in the region. I was based at the Bhasha Adivasi Academy campus in the village of Tejgadh, Gujarat, about 95 km from Bhasha’s office in Vadodara. For my project, I was studying how Bhasha’s tribal language pictorial glossaries were being used by government school teachers, and how my colleagues’ alternative education program for children from tribal families was being implemented. I learned that although recent mother tongue teaching policies in India go up to class five, in practice, promising programs in comparable multilingual and resource-constrained environments in developing countries tend to stop at earlier grades. I also realized that Bhasha’s alternative education program was tackling multiple methods, like mother tongue education as well as remedial teaching.

Project

Monitoring and evaluation of teaching tools and alternative education programs

Bhasha Sanshodhan Prakashan Kendra, Gujarat Education
I began to produce findings that can add to the debate about making education a worthwhile and inclusive experience, and help my colleagues see possible changes in a different light.

**Journey**

In a class I took on environment and development, we talked about the mindset of an outsider from a developed country learning from people in a developing country – going beyond cultural exchange to accepting different ways to live. Being in Tejgadh, I’ve been learning in fits and starts. From purely an environmental perspective, I’ve definitely begun accepting a new way.

I’ve found that the urge of myself and other people of South Asian descent wanting to prove their intelligence and impress others, doesn’t fit well within the tribal community here. People are courteous, but I’ve learned at Bhasha that it is up to me to get to know them and ask questions, because they won’t go out of the way to talk to me about what they know. It’s an environment where getting to know each other takes time and is shaped by genuine regard for each other’s well-being. I have looked for this in my own communities back home and found it through Bhasha.

I’ll conclude with a poem I wrote:

Why for feelings of doubt?  
To think, what do I know?  
And to retreat inward.  
But! Once I find the thorns and dig them out I feel better.

Before AIF, Lina did program assessments and Monitoring and Evaluation, which meant a little fieldwork and a lot of time on the computer. For her AIF Clinton Fellowship, she used computer time, a smattering of languages, and empathy to get to know Bhasha staff, teachers and students, and some of their stories.
I found my voice, learned to trust my instinct, get out of my comfort zone and found the resilience within.

Maitreyi Nandhakumar

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

**Project**

**Developing curriculum for life skills and English**

Shaishav, Gujarat Education

**Partnership Story**

Shaishav is an organization which works not for, but alongside children to shape them into change-makers of society. The Balsena, or Children's collective, and Lokshala, or community-based education centers are programs of Shaishav where children play cooperative games and receive life skills, as well as learn in a space where learning is made fun, engaging and simple for them. My work at Shaishav helped bring in a new, fresh and different view to the workings of these two programs. With the changing times and needs of the children, the programs have had to adapt as well. As part of that change, I helped design and pilot new activities and games for the Balsena and re-designed and piloted an English curriculum that was completely activity-based, with an emphasis on spoken English. With the encouragement of my colleagues and my mentors, I was able to design activities which were contextual.
I facilitated sessions with more than 30 children, developed plays and dances for special occasions with the children, designed an English curriculum from scratch and piloted it in the Lokshallas myself. These collaborations and engagements have led to four very successful events, documentation of the events and feedback that led to the structuring of the English curriculum. During my time with Shaishav, there was a healthy exchange of knowledge, information, and techniques, which has made my worldview richer. Change truly is a collaborative effort!

**Journey**

I had thought I would come and make a difference, change lives and will have something concrete on paper to show for it. Yet, I now know what a naive outlook that was. Change is a slow and steady process which is based on a thorough understanding and truly remarkable collaborative efforts. It takes not months, but years to bear fruit.

The AIF Clinton Fellowship, in many ways, gave me the opportunity to try my hand at various roles and take on different responsibilities. I had the freedom to try new things and while it seemed extremely disconcerting in the beginning, I slowly eased myself into it. Beyond the numbers on the papers, we have learned to associate with development in the real world; working at a grassroots level is much more than just figures. It requires a thorough understanding of the context, an understanding of what the people want and not what we think they need, a team of dedicated staff on the ground who are willing to push themselves, mentors who can lead by example and understanding, funders who understand that vision, donors who believe in the organization, systems and structures – and a resilience to forge through the unknown.

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 and self-initiate projects.
**Project**

Grant writing and organizational communication

**Shaishav, Gujarat Education**

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**Partnership Story**

Shaishav is a 25-year-old child rights organization in Bhavnagar, helping children fight injustices with their own voices. It believes that by showing children how to organize, fight for their rights, and make cognizant choices about their futures, intergenerational change can be brought. A practical objective of my project at Shaishav was to make sure that I understood enough to write proper mid-term reports, grant applications and organizational documents such as the annual report and Shaishav’s newsletter. I successfully met these objectives as most of the grant funding that we applied for was well received by the funders. Another expectation from me was to fill gaps where Shaishav's full time staff needed help, through external or remote support.

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“**The AIF Clinton Fellowship provided me the opportunity to reconnect with my roots and understand how I could give back to my community.**

Subha Shanmugavel

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**Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project**

- **Quality Education**
- **Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**
Journey

One of the reasons I joined the AIF Clinton Fellowship was that I wanted to meet the people who undertake the tough responsibilities of grassroots development work. For a grant report, I had to give insights into the background and qualifications of the program facilitators.

The stories of Shaishav's staff aren't heard as often as the stories of children, and it is usually because the staff is too humble and would rather reserve the spotlight for children. As such, I was glad to have the opportunity to speak to one of the facilitators from this perspective and learn more about her life outside of Shaishav. She told me an amazing story of willpower, incidents which moved both of us, and was a testament of how strong the bond between the staff and Shaishav's children really is. She told me of how her mother had struggled and why she understood the needs of her students so well. She described meeting child laborers after 7:00 pm and staying late into the night to work with them because that was the only time they had. She said one of the pinnacles of her life was when two children from Shaishav described her as their role model while they were at a child rights conference abroad.

I can honestly say this was the most poignant moment of my AIF Clinton Fellowship.

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.
We found that the process – right from the stage of application to that of pairing the Fellow – is extremely sensitive to the needs of the host organization and the applicant and thought-out to the slightest detail. Most importantly, the ten month Fellowship has brought in a richness of cultural and intellectual exchange on both sides, shifts in attitudes and new perspectives. Bhasha Centre would love to continue this valuable association in the future!

Sandhya Gajjar and Dr. Sonal Baxi, Bhasha Sanshodhan Prakashan Kendra
PUBLIC HEALTH
Project

Research to support innovation: Understanding the market for new products, designing research awards and selecting study sites

BEMPU Health, Karnataka Public Health

“The AIF Clinton Fellowship provided me the opportunity to understand how medical technology, an aspect of public health I hadn’t been exposed to before, can improve access to care for underserved populations.

Abigail Smith

Partnership Story

BEMPU Health develops technology to radically improve maternal and child health outcomes in India and other developing countries. In the process of developing this technology, BEMPU ensures that products are supported by robust evidence and that sufficient research has been conducted to demonstrate their efficacy before scaling products in the market. To effectively work in this sphere, there must be data demonstrating successful implementation of BEMPU’s products with different populations and in different geographies in India. As such, BEMPU requires a wide range of clinical data for its products. Various aspects of my project have addressed this organizational need. Through the Research Award, six studies examining different uses for and outcomes with the BEMPU Bracelet will be launched in five different locations in India.
Abby developed a passion for public health through her experiences and coursework at the University of Wisconsin. Her placement at BEMPU has offered her the chance to strengthen her public health research and fieldwork skills, and has been a great opportunity for exposure to health-related development issues in India.

**Journey**

This experience has strengthened my understanding of public health as a uniquely interdisciplinary field and has shown me the importance of working with individuals from different sectors, from clinical research to design and engineering, to effectively tackle public health challenges. The enormous potential of health technology is now more evident to me, particularly innovations that are culturally specific, and carefully designed with input from families and healthcare professionals. I am glad I was able to have this in-depth chance to see just how valuable our devices can be at an individual level, empowering parents to take an active, informed role in improving their child’s health; and at a systems level, addressing large-scale neonatal health issues.

While I was sure that I wanted to have a career that combined clinical medicine and public health, the experience at BEMPU has reinforced this desire and allowed me to see what different iterations of this goal might look like. I now see working in the field of global health, especially in India, as an important part of my future. I am very grateful to the AIF Clinton Fellowship and to BEMPU for the opportunity to understand and refine this goal, and I am excited to continue to explore this space.
Shruti Rajan

"I learned the value of interacting with individuals from completely different fields than mine. It challenged me to operate beyond my comfort zone, face unfamiliar situations, and experience new friendships and professional relationships."

Partnership Story

Keystone Foundation was founded on the basic principle of co-existence and interdependence. It leads its members to find innovative ways to provide a space for the growth that benefits all life in the Nilgiris. I joined the community well-being team in their mission to expand the scope of rural development to include conversations on health. My main project was working alongside the community health workers to build health modules for dissemination of knowledge on health. One of the main ways that I have helped document the contemporary public health issues of the Nilgiris is by co-creating health modules that are drawn from the cultural context of the indigenous communities. The information contained within these modules has the potential to contribute to how Keystone moves forward with grants and the recruitment of partners with a common vision in the field of preventive and holistic health.

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

- 3 Good Health and Wellbeing
- 10 Reduced Inequalities

Project

Working alongside community health workers to build health modules for dissemination of information on health.

Keystone Foundation, Tamil Nadu, Public Health, Yearbook 2017-18, William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India.
While my project was a large impetus for embarking on the AIF Clinton Fellowship, more salient motivating factors remain: 1) the opportunity to learn about the challenges of healthcare delivery in a different setting and 2) to discover the poetry of a South Indian existence.

This year persuaded me that the most powerful thing that could happen to medicine is the leadership of the local heroes. The community health worker is a perfect example of a health delivery practice that empowers even the most marginalized, to secure their health and well-being and to be able to do so in harmony with their own beliefs and traditions. Equally, this setting has encouraged me to see how crucial a motley crew of environmentalists, human rights activists, field workers, physicians, and social workers are in addressing health inequities.

Secondly, and perhaps the most transformative part of this year, has been becoming a part of the South Indian culture that finds life in the music, the hills, and in humanity. Having my memories of childhood in India scattered between now and then, and sprinkled over here and there, I craved to resolve the dissonance of being South Indian but not fully understanding what that truly means. Being in South India has afforded me the opportunity to have my body and mind shaped by the environment that I longed for so long to relate to. I hope that the place that allowed me to put down more roots of love for this country is enough to pull me through until I come back for unremarked yet not unremarkable experiences of a certain South Indian existence.

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 this Fellowship has led her to immeasurable professional and personal growth.
Partnership Story

Shrouded in layers of shame and silence, the education about menstrual hygiene is neglected for numerous young girls and women, often leaving young girls vulnerable to severe distress and social ostracizing. AIF’s Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative (MANSI) in Uttarakhand, a young organization, is successfully piloting projects to ensure that rural Indian women receive the basic healthcare and support for ante-natal and post-natal care for safe and healthy delivery of babies. Deeply concerned about issues of adolescent health, MANSI wanted to devote time to gather information to strategize and build a program to address these issues. This is exactly the space where an AIF Fellow comes into play.

I worked with MANSI to conceptualize, design and roll out a baseline research of the menstrual hygiene related
knowledge, attitude, and practice among rural girls aged 11 to 19 years in three districts of Uttarakhand. We surveyed 897 girls from Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh and Haridwar.

This study provides the evidence base for MANSI to be able to advocate for menstrual hygiene interventions, with the government and donors.

**Journey**

As an inexperienced researcher, I was extremely nervous when tasked with conducting field research on menstrual hygiene in rural Uttarakhand. At the same time, I recognized this project as a huge opportunity to learn first-hand in the field. With guidance and advice from other AIF Clinton Fellows, Senior Fellows, and the MANSI field team, I quickly learned that conducting field research is fraught with unpredictable challenges and new roles. I was not simply just a researcher; I was also an educator, an advocate for girls, an ambassador of the United States in addition to being an AIF Clinton Fellow, and a student of life.

Initially doubting myself, I wondered whether I had the capabilities to complete and deliver on my project. In the midst of all these fears and confusions, somewhere I saw a beautiful and vibrant chaos, that has its own rhythm. This chaos tests you in ways you’ve not known before, but if you pull through, you’ll be stronger and better. As it turns out, this journey is what I needed to find the strength, courage, and confidence within myself.

This journey started with an ambitious Tibetan immigrant wanting to serve a place she calls her second home and ends leaving her stronger and more resilient. After fumbling through challenges, learning to balance between self-advocacy and complacency, she gained a perspective of her privileges in an unfamiliar, beautiful Indian chaos.
We have found the help provided by AIF through its Fellowship program to be extremely valuable in our efforts to expand our work. Simply put, AIF finds the best and brightest that are committed to doing important development work like we do at LSS, and works diligently to pair them with organizations that vitally need their talents to strengthen and expand their work. AIF is also a pleasure to work with, communicating consistently and clearly about the program, making sure that the host organization and Fellow are well matched and work well together throughout the program, and providing assistance where needed.

Derek Vigil and Gopal Singh, Lok Sahbhagi Sansthan
The AIF Clinton Fellowship gave me exposure to the field of development research.

Asra Yousuf

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

**Project**

Research on internal migration and novel approaches to studying migration

IFMR Lead, Tamil Nadu Livelihoods

**Partnership Story**

Traditionally, development research revolves around analyzing data statistically to discern trends and patterns. Now, with the proliferation of machine-learning techniques and its application in diverse areas, there is a scope to apply this to the field of development research, too. IFMR Lead recognizes the need to move beyond a sample survey mode of data collection and evidence generation, and acknowledges the powerful role of analytics in complementing their existing research methodologies.

The purpose of my project was to contribute to the literature on internal migration from an academic standpoint and propose novel approaches of studying it. This is the organization's first foray into leveraging data science techniques for studying social issues—a shift from the traditional statistical methodology it generally applies.
The paper, when published, can help my host organization showcase its capabilities of performing advanced analytics and further garner support for the 'Data Innovation Lab' it is working towards.

Journey

It wasn't a whole new environment for me. I was familiar with Chennai, having lived here before. I was familiar with tech and data, having worked on it before. Yet, it was a challenge unlike any other I have dealt with. As anyone remotely acquainted with the world of technology knows, it is ever-changing and dynamic. Hence, I began the journey of the search of a problem definition, scoping and designing. I learned that clean and complete survey data is a myth and you have got to work with all you have. I recognized the limitations in my knowledge, having never worked with a certain class of algorithms before, and therefore began the struggle to fill in the gaps. I realized the importance of project management as I juggled unmet timelines, blockers and an ambiguous road ahead. The Midpoint conference offered a refreshing change. Among others, this gave me the opportunity to learn the amazing work being done by other AIF Clinton Fellows. A field visit to the villages of Bihar further offered me a closer view into the lives of those we were striving to uplift. It was an immensely enriching experience to observe up-close the execution of a randomized control trial and the efforts of the numerous people who make it effective.

Looking back, there are definitely things I would have done differently, questions I would have asked, problems I would have dug deeper into, but maybe these will just be lessons to take forward on my next journey! Isn't that what new experiences are about – learning and taking it forward!

Asra Yousuf holds a degree in Computer Science and has an interest in decoding development problems with computational algorithms. She is fascinated by all things data and the stories it can tell. Her AIF Clinton Fellowship at IFMR Lead gave her the opportunity to apply data science techniques to socio-economic research.
Project

Digital marketing and communication for a sustainable fashion brand

Avani, Uttarakhand Livelihoods

“Camille Mercedes Parker

The most powerful thing the AIF Clinton Fellowship did for me was help me to discover my own hidden reserves of resilience and strength.

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Partnership Story

I hesitate to say that my work changed Avani. After all, Avani has been operating successfully for over 20 years in the Kumaon region without my assistance. To claim that, in my short ten-months, I 'changed' Avani would not only be an overstatement, but also a disservice to the men and women who have dedicated decades of work to this cause. On a smaller scale, however, I hope that my project helped shift Avani's artisans towards a greater appreciation for the value of their work. Early in my AIF Clinton Fellowship, I decided that I would create a blog post series for the Avani website titled, 'Meet the Makers'. Each entry would feature an in-depth interview with a farmer, dye worker, weaver, or spinner from Avani's supply chain. Through the many interviews, photo sessions, and exhibitions I worked on with Avani's weavers, I helped to bring the stories and skills of these women to a larger, more global stage.
My hope is that in the process, these weavers were able to realize that the work they did was worthy of being widely shared and praised. I want these women to see themselves as Weavers with a capital 'W' – skilled, talented professionals in possession of an increasingly rare talent.

Journey

I once read a quote about India from Joan Robinson, a Cambridge economist, who said, 'The frustrating thing about India is that whatever you can say rightly about India, the opposite is also true.' I can't think of a better way to describe my own experience during the AIF Clinton Fellowship, where moments of frustration have been matched by moments of grace, and days of extreme loneliness have been met with encounters of quiet beauty. There hasn't been a neat beginning, a difficult middle, or a satisfying end to these ten months. Rather than an arc, my journey has been a winding road, filled with switchbacks, potholes, uphill climbs, and exhilarating downhill bursts.

What I'll take away from the AIF Clinton Fellowship are small moments, rather than sweeping revelations. Perhaps what I feel more than anything after my time here is a heightened sense of awareness, stillness, and appreciation for the small moments. I also learned to treasure those moments like little jewels; to hold them up to the light and admire their complex beauty. When I get back to the U.S., I have no doubt that the question, 'How was India?' will become a common refrain. If the asker has time, I imagine I'd invite them to sit, have some chai, and look through these moments, these little treasures, with me. Maybe they will see some grand lesson or maybe, like me, they'll see them for what they are: glimmers of grace, beauty, and understanding.

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.
Partnership Story

Medha is a Lucknow-based social organization that improves career opportunities for youth through its employability skills programs. My project aimed to strengthen Medha’s reporting processes and internal data communication processes by improving data collection and communication between the field and the office and between the organization and its partner colleges in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. My project filled a gap in Medha’s existing processes by improving data collection and communication between the field teams and the Lucknow office, and between the organization and its educational stakeholders. Strengthening these processes is crucial as Medha prepares to expand its reach by doubling in size in 2018 and again in 2019. I think the word ‘timely’ captures my work here adequately.

Facilitating data collection and communication for a skills development program

Jackson Walker

The AIF Clinton Fellowship provided me the opportunity to integrate into an Indian workplace and learn and practice research techniques.

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Serve LEAD

Livelihoods

Yearbook 2017-18, William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India
I happened to join Medha at a moment when they were trying to scale up and expand their reach greatly. Because of this, they wanted to look at their internal reporting and training processes.

**Journey**

When I was accepted as a Fellow, I had the opportunity to pursue one of my childhood dreams: to work in the Indian social sector. I have long been drawn to the education space and working with youth as a career interest, so the opportunity to come to India to serve with an educational non-government organization was one which I have cherished. It has been a chance to bring together my passion for education related work and my academic interest in South Asia to develop new skills, gain new experiences and open my mind to new career and life possibilities afterwards.

When people ask why I want to be a professor of South Asian history and literature, I always find myself giving the same answer: I want to teach the youth and to see them grow to be more confident and more self-aware than I was at their age. Teaching may not end up being my future career but being an AIF Clinton Fellow has helped me understand the wide range of ways I can continue to work and serve in education spaces, even without being a direct facilitator or teacher. If I will take any particular learning from this experience, it will be a greater knowledge of how to turn my passion and my academic background into a life of service.

Jackson believes service means to serve one's own community 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 into the future.
The most powerful thing the AIF Clinton Fellowship did for me was to bring together like-minded Americans and Indians and give us an amazing opportunity to experience this country in a unique way and make us become practically bonded for life.

Janelle Antonio Funtanilla

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Project

Situational analysis and curriculum development for life skills

Foundation for Social Transformation - Enabling Northeast India, Assam Livelihoods

Partnership Story

Foundation for Social Transformation - Enabling Northeast India (FST) is a philanthropic organization that has its reach in many different projects and areas of Northeastern India. Project KOUSAL (Knowledge on Utilizing Skills and Leadership) is a life skills program focusing on the development of 60 female youth participants through the use of non-threatening physical activities. I have been involved in designing and implementing the situational analysis, life skills curriculum and training the trainers (ToT) for Project KOUSAL. The life skills curriculum had 11 modules developed on the following issues: financial literacy, self-respect, leadership, puberty/menstruation, healthy lifestyle, responsibility, goal setting, environmental issues, healthy relationship, stress management, sexual and reproductive health, and effective communication.
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.

Serve: The service part may be the easiest part to talk about, but also probably the hardest part of the AIF Clinton Fellowship, at least for me. India, specifically with the project I signed up for, and the organization I was placed with, gave me this opportunity to serve. From the reports I've completed, to the conversations I've had with my colleagues, to the energizers I've conducted with the girls, all these things and more, encompass the service I've given to my host community in Guwahati, Assam.

Learn: I was placed in an organization called Foundation for Social Transformation - Enabling Northeast India. What I wasn't aware of, was that I would undergo my own personal transformation. A lot of my ideas, norms, and beliefs were challenged, and I needed to review, re-learn, and revise my way of operating. I spent the first half of my Fellowship in catch up mode. Every single day, I had to learn something; learn about something, learn about someone, and re-learn what I thought I already knew. Learning is the easy part; it's accepting, applying, and teaching others that's challenging!

Lead: Generally, I didn't see myself being any kind of leader in any aspect of my life. However, once I was able to find my groove and had a good handle with the challenges I was facing, I realized the 'lead' component came out in a much more natural way. I think the growth that I've seen in myself is definitely in this component. Learning to lead is important, but also learning to follow and giving others the chance to lead is just as important.
Partnering Story

My host organizations collaborated with each other to address a challenge in the fair-trade field: more and more organizations impact the lives of producers and economically disadvantaged communities, but many struggle to demonstrate their impact and to attract the level of consumers required to be sustainable. Fair Trade Forum - India (FTF-I) and Fair Trade Connection (FTC) already work to address this challenge, but this project provided them the opportunity to train a young person in marketing content creation and fair trade principles and send them independently to member organizations.

My job was to get to know the organizations, their beneficiaries and employees in the short time I spent there. Through interviews, film, and photography, my attempt was to craft and share accessible and fresh stories about fair trade.

Kara Elizabeth Morgan

The most powerful thing the AIF Clinton Fellowship did for me was give me the chance to work as a professional storyteller.

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Project
Marketing content creation: Developing short films and photographs

Fair Trade Forum - India and Fair Trade Connection, New Delhi Livelihoods
Journey

As I prepared to conduct my first visit to a fair-trade organization on my own, I was terrified. I started the visit with my research and a plan, with the awareness that almost nothing would go according to it. I no longer had my supervisors by my side, but I knew I could ask them questions at any time, and I remembered their training and advice. That was one of my most challenging weeks of the year: during my first interview, my interpreter left for fifteen minutes, because my accented, mumbling, fast English was not understandable; I shot two interviews in almost direct sunlight, under the false impression, I could edit the blown-out background; I had to conduct one interview through two translators. With all of these challenges, I could not simply stop working or freak out when I made a mistake, but I learned from my supervisors that I could and should take a moment to adjust my plans. I had to learn to trust myself, with the confidence that while I would make many mistakes, I had the ability to cope with and adjust to them. As I completed more field visits and edited my material into 90-120 second impact videos, I remembered my leadership and creativity were not only required on the ground but also at the editing desk. As I edited, I became proud of my output and started to have faith in my ability to cope with my mistakes. In the organizations or at the editing table, I started to feel 'self-assured.' As I said goodbye to the last organization in a remote section of Uttarakhand, I received a compliment for my level of comfort and ease with the organization and community. I smiled and thanked them; they had no idea how far I had come to get here.

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 Fair Trade Forum-India members, Kara traveled and brought her puns to West Bengal, Karnataka, Gurgaon, and Uttarakhand this year.
Project
Baseline research on agriculture in three districts of West Bengal

Switch ON, West Bengal Livelihoods

The most powerful thing the AIF Clinton Fellowship did for me was to engage me with a grassroots level organization that opened a gate of vast learning for me.

Manish Singh

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Partnership Story
Switch ON (Environment Conservation Society) works towards increasing access to sustainable livelihood opportunities for underserved populations through advocacy, capacity building and supporting innovation. This was Switch ON’s first project from Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) to promote Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). I worked on the project since its inception and designed questionnaires, analyzed data, prepared baseline assessment reports and cluster profiles of three districts in West Bengal. I was the first person in the organization to use STATA for data analysis. Though it took more time than the conventional method, the results were more accurate and informative. A decision to use this software came after advocacy for the need of accurate information and interpretation.
Journey

I completed my post-graduation in May 2017 and this was my first professional experience. During my post-graduation from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, I had read a lot of theories and approaches from national and international journals, articles, and periodicals. The AIF Clinton Fellowship gave me the opportunity to test all those theories on the ground. I found that in the development arena, theories, innovations, and models that are successful at one place in a specific geography and society may not be successful in another geography and society, because every society has its own commonalities, customs, and cultures. We always need to be open to adapt to changes as and when they come. Change is continuous and it enables you to create new things with new thoughts.

In the beginning of the journey, I was thinking this would be some kind of internship where I would be placed in some organization and would learn by doing for ten months, then utilize the learning in professional path – but for me, it turned out to be much more than that. It was a great responsibility to have ownership of a project that directly deals with the lives of people.

Brought up in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, Manish is a development professional from the 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.
The most powerful thing the AIF Clinton Fellowship did for me was place me at a development organization that was run for and by Indians – and Indians who were from the same communities we worked in.

Michael Kinzer

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Partnership Story

Much of my work has gone towards the livestock leasing program, where farmers lease goats or chickens from The Goat Trust (TGT). TGT promotes small livestock-based livelihood through demystifying production technology, building institutions and promoting standards of marketing and linkage across the globe.

While knowing which questions to ask to measure their incomes requires technical knowledge on survey administration, my host organization's culture had not required the employees to ask the type of economic questions necessary to measure impact. I created a mobile app for the field staff to follow up with the clients. Assessing the livestock bank’s progress now means not just examining the health of the leased livestock but also approximating the clients' livestock-based income.
Journey

This year has been tremendously difficult. Culture shock, health problems, linguistic barriers, and work frustrations have repeatedly overwhelmed me. Simultaneously, I am more content with where I am in both my career and my life than I have been in years. I was a freshman in college, when a guest speaker with a long career in international development encouraged our class to live, work, and visit abroad as much as one can. He boldly proclaimed that the more time you spend in different cultures and with people unlike yourself, the better a person you become. Anyone who has spent any time in another country or even a different subculture within their own country will explain how doing so is uniquely difficult and rewarding. Before the AIF Clinton Fellowship, I was doing meaningful work in one of America's poorest cities through another social impact fellowship program, and I struggled with the idea of leaving a community whose problems had become important to me. I reasoned that with India's much larger population and higher rates of poverty, the human scale of social problems in India would dwarf the scale of problems in the U.S. It's impossible to compare human suffering, but comparing the number of people suffering, seemed a safer bet. As such, I entered the AIF Clinton Fellowship not just determined, but obliged, to make changes on scales that I simply could not make in the community I had worked in previously. I entered the AIF Clinton Fellowship needing to create real change in people's lives. However, it has reminded me that creating real change is difficult, frustrating, and slow. Still, I would not trade the AIF Clinton Fellowship experience for anything else.
This was a transformative year of my life, because I spent every day with women who were challenging societal structures and were moving towards becoming financially independent.

Minahil Khan

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project

Project
Creating market linkages and enhancing member engagement

Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Program - Aga Khan Foundation (I), New Delhi
Livelihoods

Partnership Story

The Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Program is a non-profit, public-private partnership among the Archaeological Survey of India, Central Public Works Department, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the Aga Khan Foundation. My project was aiming at setting the foundation for the Women's Livelihood Programs to become independent entities that provide Basti (community) women a stable, safe, and secure work environment. Throughout my project, I have worked with the group on core business functions like costing of products, creating operational structures, and expanding market linkages. One component of my project was to work with the Zaika-e-Nizamuddin members and staff to work towards a long-standing desire for the women of Zaika-e-Nizamuddin to own a shop or a restaurant. Looking at the growing trends of pop-up restaurants and heritage walks in Delhi, we tested the waters through an event-based temporary pop-up restaurant.
Sair-e-Nizamuddin, a heritage tour guide group, and Insha-e-Noor, a women-based handicraft enterprise, partnered to provide our guests the full Nizamuddin experience. We recruited customers, renovated the venue, and ran test kitchens. During the event, Zaika-e-Nizamuddin reached a major milestone by hosting an extremely successful first pop-up restaurant.

Journey

Perhaps for the first time in my life, I cannot honestly use the quotes and frameworks of experts to contextualize my own Fellowship reality. Simply because every quote on the internet felt wholly inadequate and all journal articles felt too distant. Simply put, my personal journey through the AIF Clinton Fellowship is transcendent. There is no one overarching lesson or reflection I feel comfortable ascribing to or drawing a conclusion from. It’s arguably the first experience of my professional and personal life that has been completely mine – not motivated or suggested by a mentor or my family. Maybe, even the only experience I’ve entered without a clear professional objective. The lack of specific motivations or objectives almost seem irrelevant because it became clear to me early on that this experience would be both transformative and trying in ways I had never imagined.

Nearly every day, a conversation with co-workers, work tasks, or an interaction with community members forced me to challenge and think critically about my perceptions of development work and my own presence as a Muslim South Asian American Woman, here in India. As I decide on how to reflect on and contextualize this experience, I’m abandoning development frameworks and women’s empowerment quotes. I’m choosing to let it be defined by the women who let me work alongside them as together we strove for our own independence.

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.
Project

Research on complex intersection of perspectives around trafficking, migration and human rights

Srijan Foundation, Jharkhand Livelihoods

Mujeebu Rahman K.C.

The most powerful thing the AIF Clinton Fellowship did for me was pushing me out of my comfort zone.

Partnership Story

Srijan Foundation leads the Jharkhand Anti Trafficking Network (JATN). The network functions across 13 districts of Jharkhand, both at the grassroots level and at the policy level to combat the issue of trafficking and lessen the risk of unsafe migration. Instead of proposing to stop migration itself to tackle the vulnerabilities of trafficking, JATN emphasizes the right to mobility and safe migration. The purpose of my research was to critically examine how the human rights framework can form and reform the legal interventions of JATN to tackle human trafficking. Communication was a component of my project, including developing an online platform for Srijan Foundation, where the stakeholders can learn about the social and developmental issues that the foundation engages with.
By developing a communication platform, I will leave a legacy that will long transcend my service as an AIF Clinton Fellow, and the foundation will be able to use the platform to take its work to new heights in the future. Most of my co-staff have already started writing their experiences and sharing their ideas through this platform.

**Journey**

Like any other AIF Clinton Fellow, I also wanted to contribute to the success of my host organization and make visible impacts. On the first day, I walked into my host organization with nerves and uncertainty. As a fresh graduate, I had neither formal work experience nor had I been exposed to an office atmosphere, which would have been helpful in my new role. However, I had assured myself that I was competent and capable of learning, adapting and doing meaningful work. In the beginning, my whole focus was reading and researching to find a clear picture of the issue I was trying to address. I slowly began to understand my field and research area. Adding an extra hand to our resource team of JATN at the Srijan Foundation, I was able to explore the areas of research that my colleagues have not been able to do because of time and human resource constraints. I started taking responsibility for my output instead of looking at the supervisor to give me objectives and deliverables. I am very thankful to Pooja, my mentor, for giving me the independence, which offered me something that I have never had before: a unique opportunity to do things in many ways and control my own professional development. I believe this to be the rarest opportunity and will forever be thankful to Pooja and the AIF Clinton Fellowship team for allowing this to happen.

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.
Partnership Story

Lok Sahbhagi Sansthan is an Indian non-governmental organization founded in 2010 in rural Rajasthan. All its activities are focused on the idea that given the chance, communities will create opportunities and solutions for themselves. There are over 100 women self-help groups (SHGs) established and many of these women SHG members are farmers. My AIF Clinton Fellowship project has helped them to strengthen this SHG network as well as helped the formation of a women Farmer Producer Organization (FPO). This is an opportunity for them to be more independent and as days progress, they will develop enterprise skills, too. There has been only one women's FPO in Rajasthan till now and once this women's FPO is formed it will be an example for so many prospective women farmers. It is a professional achievement I will be proud of.
Apart from the above, I have also designed a new website for the organization along with a unique logo, social media pages, and reports. I made a short film to serve as introduction to the organization’s work. I developed the proposal to apply for a grant on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM), which cleared the first round of selection. Additionally, I designed and facilitated an International Rural Development Immersion Camp sponsored and organized by Lok Sahbhagi Sansthan in partnership with CMD Expertise.

**Journey**

At a personal level, it was challenging for me to adapt and live in these rural conditions with just basics in place. This Fellowship helped my inner transformation by making me stronger, both emotionally and mentally. It proved to me that true India lies in these six-lakh plus villages of our country. If given a slight chance, people of rural India have the potential to learn and adapt quickly. On the other hand, I saw that Rajasthan suffers from problems such as water scarcity, skewed sex ratio, highest number of child marriages in the country, and female feticide. I only had ten months to do something, which would impact both agriculture and women’s issues. Since I belonged to agriculture academics and also had worked in a government bank as Agriculture Officer before joining the AIF Clinton Fellowship, I came up with this idea of empowering women farmers through promotion of a producer organization. Breaking all the barriers and taboos, along with the help of my mentor and host organization staff, I was able to turn this concept into reality and form farmer interest groups, which combined to form a producer organization. I learned community mobilization and management skills through my AIF Clinton Fellowship project.

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.’
Parijat Jha

Project
Streamlining documentation, communication and archiving

VAAGDHARA, Rajasthan Livelihoods

Partnership Story
VAAGDHARA is an expansive organization working towards augmenting livelihood sources and options by improving traditional agricultural practices among the tribal population and other marginalized groups. The team members here were tied up in so many activities and so focused on the communities they are working with, that they sometimes forgot to document the good work they had been doing. This is where I stepped in as an AIF Clinton Fellow. I was able to archive projects, interventions, trainings, and other events that VAAGDHARA was conducting so that we could share it with a larger audience. One example of this is the Jan Jatiya Kisan Swaraj Yatra. This was a movement where VAAGDHARA team members went to 101 villages in southern Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat in 16 days to increase awareness about nutrition-based agriculture, true democracy, and true childhood.

The AIF Clinton Fellowship solidified my interest in South Asia and empowered me to commit to working for marginalized communities in this region of the world.
Having been exposed to diverse communities in India and the U.S., Parijat has been observant of and sensitive to structural oppression, resource inequality, and a lack of equal opportunity for dignified living. The AIF Clinton Fellowship has sharpened his understanding of these issues and has grounded his pursuit of equality for all.

**Journey**

To describe my journey, I would like to share my impressions through this poem that I wrote:

Warmth. The pavement blesses my naked feet. My eyes seek reasons underneath. What’s behind my vision even I don’t know, for the light that shines is chosen glow. When naked feet walk on sunburnt clay, my insides squelch my own dismay, For I’ve been taught that only privilege can walk upon this way. We sail across these warming seas anxious hope running through our veins. Ears to the ground for stories strangers keep. We write about their frozen pains. But just as frozen glaciers melt, we feel not all that strangers felt. There’s no such thing as empathy. There’s no such thing as empathy!
Still. Hope is a stone that needn’t be lost. Dive into the silence and do not gloss over the flora and fauna which may seem simple to the brow that’s furrowed and to the eyes that twinkle. Sit in the silence and be with people. Let production not drive the machine-driven mind. Go your own way, question what you’re given. You may be surprised with what you find.

Journey

I followed different teams each and every day and was able to document the process of gathering people together, delivering the presentations, and connecting people with VAAGDHARA’s work. I also played the role of a monitor for our interventions at the ground-level in Anandpuri block.
Partnership Story

North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS) has a history of working on disaster relief in Assam and amongst the flood affected communities in the Brahmaputra flood plains. The current work done by the organization in the flood affected areas of Golaghat district of Assam involves relief distribution, example constructing drinking water sources and supporting livelihood activities by distributing seeds. The likely interventions in the area of livelihood are mostly constituted as part of relief activities. This, though contributing to temporary rise in incomes, does not lead to long term sustainable economic support.

Through the AIF Clinton Fellowship, we have been able to lay our work in context of the existing activities. The livelihood proposed as part of the project (an outcome of the research) looks for a sustainable and long-term change for the community.

Project

Participatory Action Research on Livelihoods

North-East Affected Area Development Society, Assam Livelihoods

“
This was a transformative year of my life, because I explored my ability to work in an area where the language, culture and challenges were completely different from my past experiences.

Prashant Anand

Sustainable Development Goals linked to the project
The experiences of conducting research, community meetings, formulating a project concept note and proposals, and funding proposals have offered me new professional competencies and skills. My project aimed to benefit communities by: 1) Developing organic leadership 2) Promoting indigenous ideas and motivations 3) Higher levels of community engagement in the process of decision making and implementation, and 4) Community ownership in the long run.

**Journey**

The change we seek for a larger population comes about by bringing communities together. The AIF Clinton Fellowship gave me the opportunity to be a part of a topography, people, organization and culture that offers the opportunity to learn the process. The communitarian experiences coupled with the cultural narratives, offered me interesting insights into community relations that I would not otherwise have learned. It is important to see that the people, polity and culture have a deeper influence on the local experiences that I have had as a AIF Clinton Fellow. As the initial days passed, I realized that this was exactly the experience I was looking for. The challenges encompassing culture, language, organizational practices, people's issues, economy were galore, yet each time I got an opportunity to work on them, it felt fulfilling.

As part of my personal journey, I value the interaction with different minds in the AIF Clinton Fellowship cohort. The objectivity it brings to the experience is amazing. At times, it challenges the belief systems, which works on your own position in the long run. It also offers the potential to learn and look at forming long-term associations with the people from other cultures. There are elements of collaboration and shared learning.

Prashant is from Uttarakhand and holds a masters degree in Social Work from the University of Delhi. He intends to capacitate people for sustainable living based on indigenous knowledge and choices. His interest is to set up a model of innovation in education and democratic engagement and socialization with children, youth and communities.
Project

Promoting established artists with disabilities and fostering art skills in children with disabilities

Youth4Jobs, Telangana Livelihoods

The AIF Clinton Fellowship has allowed me to test myself in a uniquely challenging environment. It has also shown me the incredible potential of an open mind and a worthy cause.

Priya Adina Charry

Partnership Story

Youth4Jobs (Y4J) works to systematize the process of linking Persons with Disabilities (PwD) to labor markets to ensure impact with scale and quality. My project, Not Just Art, was created to fill a gap Youth4Jobs detected in their work on skilling youth with disabilities for employment. Not Just Art is a digital platform to promote art as a form of sustainable livelihood for people with disabilities. I was responsible for corresponding with the artists across India, managing the web and social media presence, and organizing and facilitating art workshops. I was the direct connection between artists with disabilities and Youth4Jobs, offering resources and networks to these artists. I was also the connection between our office and the world of disability art, sharing artwork and workshop volunteer opportunities with my colleagues.
Journey

The AIF Clinton Fellowship can be described with a number of words – challenging, uplifting, educational – but above all, for me it has been enlightening. Before embarking on the AIF Clinton Fellowship, I served as a librarian, helping people find information and answers. While I definitely did not have all of the answers, I did have a motivating motto: “I don't know, let's find out.” This statement has never been truer than during the AIF Clinton Fellowship. Upon arriving in India, I soon became aware that there was so much I didn't know here – about the development sector, India's cultures and customs, and how I fit into all of this. It was daunting to confront this vast expanse of unknown. But upon settling in, I embraced my unfamiliarity and committed myself to 'finding out'.

There are aspects of the current disability legislation and social attitudes toward disability that are frustrating at best and appalling at worst. For months, I felt as though I could be doing more. I felt that my work at a desk in an office was trivial, that it was small in the grand scheme of human rights and development and would have little impact. As I have found out, most big changes start with small steps. This knowledge came through my interactions with the artists and their families, who expressed deep gratitude for our commitment to their art. It came through the smiles and laughter of visually impaired girls participating in our art workshops. The AIF Clinton Fellowship has allowed me to test myself in a uniquely challenging environment. It has also shown me the incredible potential of an open mind and a worthy cause.

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.
Tod Steven Etheredge, II

Over the last ten months, I have served as an AIF Clinton Fellow with the Turn Your Concern into Action (TYCIA) Foundation. The TYCIA Foundation was founded by Mohit Raj, a former AIF Clinton Fellow. It focuses on three primary thematic areas: inmate care, educational remediation for students out of school, and agricultural security. With TYCIA, I have been involved with all three projects; however, my primary project focused on constructing a manual for the use of former inmates after their release from Tihar Jail. When the manual was first conceived, it was supplementary to the work that is being done in the relatively new Better Life Prison School at Tihar Jail.
Journey

When I first arrived in India, I had a malinformed understanding of the challenges one faces while working in the development sector in India. As a generally optimistic and hopeful guy, I felt that although there will be some challenges, things would eventually come together. Although I still stand by my initial analysis, I have a more sober understanding now of what it takes to get things done. Dealing with challenges of organizational funding, governing bodies, and other small challenges really extended my overall level of resolve professionally.

Throughout the AIF Clinton Fellowship, bouts of sickness, personal loss, and open racism tested my personal fortitude, but I now feel stronger. As I move forward in life, I feel that I am better equipped to walk flat-footed into challenges knowing that there is a viable solution with patience and persistence. For the future, I have a dream to create more opportunities for cultural exchange for primary schools in the developing world. Through my time here, I learned about some of the challenges, however, my time here also helped to affirm that there is always hope.

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 has learned more about who he is and how he wants to serve humanity.
Vipin K. Shri

This was a transformative year of my life because I learned to adapt and rely on my leadership skills. It gave me the courage to be the person who got things done over someone who only wanted to be liked.

Partnership Story

Jaipur Rugs Foundation aims to serve as a social innovator promoting the cause of artisans by providing them with decent work opportunities and leading them towards their socio-economic well-being. My project had a combination of market research, digital marketing as well as internal communications. Part of my job was to find the unique perspectives leading to the designs, turning them into stories that consumers can understand and appreciate, and bring recognition to the artisans who deserve it the most. On a personal note, I believe my biggest contribution to the host organization and community is creating a greater feeling of value for the Artisan Originals project. I wanted people to not look at it as an experiment but a new direction where weavers, craftsmanship, and skills-building were on top priority. I also planned and implemented Manchaha Mela, a full-day event for the recognition of the Artisan Originals weavers.

Project

Market research, digital marketing and communications

Jaipur Rugs Foundation, Rajasthan Livelihoods
Journey

Vipin Shri, the Start-up Marketing Manager: that was my title, which was my life up until ten months ago. Frankly, it meant nothing – it was a small piece of who I am and I never really showcased much about my personality, or my goals, or my dreams, or most importantly, how I felt about things both big and small. Then the opportunity for the AIF Clinton Fellowship came along. I jumped at it, but with a few hesitations such as “What if I fail at it?”, “What if I don’t find a job after?”, or “What if I lose friends and a beautiful relationship in the process?” Thankfully, I took those questions as small risks to pay for what would be the greatest experience of my life. Then I was sent over the list of the other AIF Clinton Fellows a month before departure. I read each bio, analyzing every line, and ultimately compared myself with them. I thought about quitting before even starting! Luckily, I decided against it. The first few interactions bolstered the confidence I needed to get by these next ten months.

Vipin Shri, the Start-up Marketing Manager is still around, but now that’s just one persona out of many. Now that guy, me, is a full-fledged part of the community of AIF Clinton Fellows, Jaipur, and the five villages I’ve visited in Rajasthan.

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.
In the 10-month journey as a host, Srijan explored newer areas. The Fellowship has helped Srijan gain insights on the organization’s needs and priorities and has helped in strengthening and developing new skills among the organization members. Srijan looks forward to nurturing and fostering the symbiotic relationship with AIF.

Pooja Rajiv, Srijan Foundation
SENIOR FELLOWS
Molly Pathak

Molly is a freelancer and works for vocational skill education and livelihoods. Her professional inclinations are program implementation, monitoring, impact evaluation, research and documentation. She likes to compare and contrast present-day development issues with classical theories of development through case studies and reflective observations, which she pens down as blogs, essays, articles, and stories. Molly believes that her principles define who she is. So while professional goals are specific locations on a career map where she would like to reach, integrity is the compass that she follows.

Molly volunteered for different organizations before moving to work full-time in the development sector. It was through her first assignment at the Azim Premji Foundation that she developed a deep allegiance towards the development sector and since then has been working towards the advocacy of quality education, which would lead to sustainable livelihoods.

“I have always believed that there is nothing more fulfilling than field work in the development sector. As a Senior Fellow with AIF, I had this fantastic opportunity to work with AIF Clinton Fellows who were deputed on field. Through this engagement, I have had an immense sense of professional as well as personal fulfillment and look forward to remaining associated with the causes that AIF supports for a long time in the future.
Roshni Subhash has been associated with women's rights, gender and public health for the past fifteen years. Having worked in partnership with stakeholders drawn from NGOs, CBOs, national and state governments, domestic and international donors, Roshni is attuned to communication practices and needs across different spheres in the development universe.

Roshni believes that communication can play a key role in furthering the sustainable development agenda; especially when it is grounded in context and backed by evidence and principles. This belief is key to her work as she partners with organizations to design communication that is geared for impact and developed through a process of participation and immersion. As the Founder and Director of StratComm, she leads the organization in this journey and designs and manages strategic communication initiatives.

"The opportunity of working with 27 young people with varied experiences, specializations and interests was truly unique. A common strength of this cohort has been their ability to move beyond the familiar, question ideas and beliefs they have held close thus far, and lead and contribute in the process. I believe this encapsulates what AIF’s William J. Clinton Fellowship for Service in India, brings to the development world – young professionals who understand what it means to work effectively and sensitively in contexts, which are vastly different from their own. This agility and sensitivity, I believe, is a requisite for the next generation of leaders driving the development agenda."
Razesh Kumar

Razesh is the Co-Founder and Director of ‘Revisiting Schooling’, an education start-up based out of Alwar, Rajasthan. The start-up specializes in content development, teachers' training, program design, research and evaluation.

Razesh has worked in the development sector for more than fourteen years in the education domain in various capacities such as a teacher, teachers' trainer, researcher, program head, and consultant. He has worked with eminent organizations in the domain including Bodh Shiksha Samiti, Azim Premji Foundation, Tata Steel Ltd-CSR, STIR Education, and Aide-et-Action South Asia. Razesh’s areas of expertise are program implementation, research, teachers' training, pedagogy of language, early literacy, assessment tool development, and philosophy of education. He has published various research papers and articles at the national and international level.

“ It has always been a pleasure to work with young professionals. I enjoyed working with these young AIF Clinton Fellows from India and the U.S. I was amazed to see their commitment, readiness, professional ethics and their hunger to learn finer nuances of development work. I trust that I learned more than I contributed to the AIF Clinton Fellowship program; I take pride in it and will always cherish this experience.

Mentees

Prashant Anand, Livelihoods
Parijat Jha, Livelihoods
Minahil Khan, Livelihoods

Lina Jamila Khan, Education
Jackson Walker, Livelihoods
Jamsheena Abdul Jabbar, Education

Deepika Thakur, Education
Crystal L. Williams, Education
Andrew D. Kerr, Education
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Avani

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Meenu Chopra and Ronny Hermosa
Fair Trade Forum-India and Fair Trade Connection

Namrata Goswami
Foundation for Social Transformation - Enabling Northeast India
Ekta Kothari Jaju and Surajit Chakraborty
Switch ON

Sanjeev Kumar
The Goat Trust

Mohit Raj
Turn Your Concern Into Action Foundation

Jessica Mayberry and Radhika Gupta
Video Volunteers

Varun Rangarajan
Indus Action Initiatives

Dr. Hanne M. de Bruin and P. Rajagopal
Kattaikkuttu Sangam

Derek Vigil and Gopal Singh
Lok Sahbhagi Sansthan

Cocky van Dam
Naz Foundation (India) Trust

Tirtha Prasad Saikia
North-East Affected Area Development Society

Parul Sheth and Falgun Sheth
Shaishav

Pooja Rajiv
Srijan Foundation

Sanjeev Kumar
The Goat Trust

Jayesh Joshi and Rohit Samariya
VAAGDHARA

Meera Shenoy
Youth4Jobs
OUR SUPPORTERS

RURAL INDIA SUPPORTING TRUST

The Rural India Supporting Trust's (RIST) mission is to work towards creating an equitable society within all communities in India. In facing this challenge, they are supporting the AIF Clinton Fellowship. RIST provided a generous donation to AIF for the support of the Fellowship program from 2017-2019.

Over two consecutive program years, RIST will fund ten Fellows in Uttarakhand and other underserved regions of India. Fellows are serving with non-government organizations and social enterprises to support sustainable projects in the field of livelihoods, education and public health. The grant given by RIST supports the selection, deployment and training of Fellows, as well as hosts programmatic conferences, monitoring, building capacity, research, and the dissemination of knowledge through a post-program service component. RIST and AIF are partnering to enhance capacity and impact of India’s social sector through channeling specialized skills, knowledge, and best practices to areas of greatest need.

Equally important, due to the U.S.-India cross-cultural exchange of the binational cohort of Fellows, we create an ecosystem of understanding and cooperation, to forge strong ties between India and the global leaders of tomorrow.

Rural India Supporting Trust Fellows:
Camille Mercedes Parker
Jamsheena Abdul Jabbar
Mujeebu Rahman K.C.
Prashant Anand
Tsering Lhamo

STUYVIE COMFORT

To support the AIF Clinton Fellowship, the Stuyvie Comfort Grant supported two Fellows working in the field of Education in 2016-17, and is supporting one Fellow in the field of Livelihoods in 2017-18. The grant has been made in honor of AIF Chairman Emeritus Victor Menezes for his dedication to AIF and his accomplishments as a leader in philanthropy. The grant is being used towards selection, deployment, and training of Fellows, hosting programmatic conferences, monitoring, and capacity building and research.

Stuyvie Comfort Fellow:
Janelle Antonio Funtanilla
The American India Foundation is committed to catalyzing social and economic change in India, and building a lasting bridge between the United States and India through high-impact interventions in education, livelihoods, public health, and leadership development. Working closely with local communities, AIF partners with NGOs to develop and test innovative solutions and with governments to create and scale sustainable impact. Founded in 2001 at the initiative of President Bill Clinton following a suggestion from Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee, AIF has impacted the lives of 4.6 million of India’s poor.

Learn more at www.AIF.org