



Friend in Need India – Impact Internships

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1. About Friend In Need India

Friend in Need Trust was created after the Tsunami of December 2004 to rehabilitate the village of Kameshwaram in the Nagapattinam district of Tamil Nadu that had been significantly affected by the tsunami. Friend In Need (FIN) India Trust is focused on studying pathways to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and India's national missions with special focus on Sanitation, Waste Management, Water and Behavioural change. The originality of FIN is that it was created and still led by an academic, an economist, Shyama V. Ramani, Professor in the United Nations University (UNU-MERIT) in Maastricht, Netherlands. Thus, it functions as an action-research unit with the strong participation of students and volunteers from various walks of life. We have trained students from India, Europe and the USA. We take about 10 to 15 students per year for internships.

We offer two types of internships: (i) Village internship in Kameswaram; (ii) Offsite homebased internship focussing on research, communication and knowledge sharing on our topics of interest. Please note that those interested in full time village internship have to be proficient in spoken Tamil. For interns opting village internship, comfortable stay, food and travel expenses within the village will be covered by Friend In Need. However, travel costs to the village shall be borne by the intern (negotiable if the intern is located outside Tamil Nadu). **We take at most 3-4 students from a college per year, because we want to give them personalized attention.**

2. Why we stand Apart

In contrast to a typical desk job, where students are required to work on pre-determined tasks, in FIN we co-design the project with the students according to their interests and professional goals while meeting our needs. They will be mentored regularly by the founder of the organization Dr. Shyama V. Ramani, and given plenty of room to think on their own, unlike in other internships where they have to report to a hierarchical chain of command. Indeed, students will be given opportunities to create impact and will be evaluated accordingly. Our internship is also a self-exploration journey, which will offer students a chance to discover their interests, strengths, weaknesses and skills. We aim to improve the employability of



our interns.

3. The type of Intern we seek

We seek candidates who are:

- deeply passionate about development, tackling climate change and making India a clean, safe and healthy country for all.
- have outstanding presentation and analytical skills
- are strong team players, with ability to take initiative and thrive in both an entrepreneurial and academic setting
- have strong written and oral communication skills
- have intellectual curiosity to understand research methods and policy interpretations
- have interpersonal skills to connect with all stakeholders, from school children to senior government officials

4. Examples of Offsite Internship Projects: (They can also be done in Kameshwaram!)

Offsite internships anywhere
1. Implementing a mob-intervention clean-up near a bus-stop with impromptu workshop given to the by-standers, report given to the MLA and head of municipality concerned.
2. Doing a market study on low cost solar panels, non-electricity based sanitary napkin incinerators, ecological detergents
3. Measuring the “waste generated’ by your college and the “waste to value opportunities” missed & Doing a workshop for students and staff – on WASH issues
4. Creating entertaining science based material to trigger behavioural change in awareness interventions
5. Creating “social marketing” FIN public health and safety commercials to trigger behavioural change (non-littering, sticking to lane, stopping at red light etc. are our targets) – and getting them played in FM stations and anywhere else.
6. Writing and editing content for FIN facebook and reports
7. Creating materials for orientation course to India today – for foreign students who



want to do an internship with FIN