



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 Kameshwaram; (ii) Contextual Action & Research with a possible visit to the village (if interested and necessary). 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 Internship Projects for Masters Level Students:

On site in Kameshwaram for 5 weeks or with visit to Kameshwaram
1. Village Survey
2. Evaluation of FIN projects
3. Contributions to mapping the village
4. Identifying all the fossils, i.e. government projects/infrastructure that lies abandoned.
5. Conducting a pond-cleanup
6. Conducting a workshop for targeted stakeholders like shopkeepers on WASH issues
7. Conducting training workshops in project management, time management, social justice, climate change, tolerance, democracy.....and other topics of social interest in village
8. Creating entertaining science based material to trigger awareness and behavioural change and teaching them to targeted groups.
9. Conducting workshops on composting and all aspects of waste management in village
10. Writing and editing content for FIN facebook and reports