

FIN India Volunteers 2005-2015



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Our Volunteers have come from different countries and a range of education backgrounds including:
General Management, Health, International non-profit Management, Agricultural Science, Developmental Studies, Economics and Medicine.



What our volunteers of 2015 have to say:
Manon Palomo – ENSAE, France – 24 years old .



What I learnt:

- The importance of having only a few but clear and specific objectives, so we are able to achieve them.
- The necessity of others; to work in a team is very efficient in terms of division of labour. Each person has particular capacities and fields of expertise: to understand these differences and to mix them lead to a better work.
- Within teams, the ability to listen and to adapt are essential to progress.
- That the most important is the passion we put in a project. To overcome the – numerous – obstacles, it is fundamental to love and to believe in the work we do.

What our volunteers of 2015 have to say:
Pranay Jain, IIT Kanpur India –23 years old .



What I learnt:

- A common goal can unite people speaking different language, from different countries and following different cultures. Work ethics also play a key role here.
- It is more important to find one's passion, the work done accordingly would automatically be more efficient.
- Every person has his/her own comfort zone and the way to work with them would differ. Success of a project depends sometimes more on inter-personal skills than technical know-how.

What our volunteers of 2015 have to say:
Lucile Rogissart, Sciences po – France –21 years old.



What I learnt: :

- How important & efficient synergy is in team work. The recipe for it is a subtle balance between hard work and chill time, individual and common work, as well as a good knowing of each member's capabilities and aspirations.
- Cultural differences are mainly affecting the software of people's mind, but the hardware (the values, the ethic...) can be very close between two people from opposed parts of the world.
- How to work in very autonomous way, under numerous constraints and how it can improve creativity among the team and the individuals.

From 2006-2012 our student volunteers have done the following

1. Capacity Building in the village through outreach and friendship

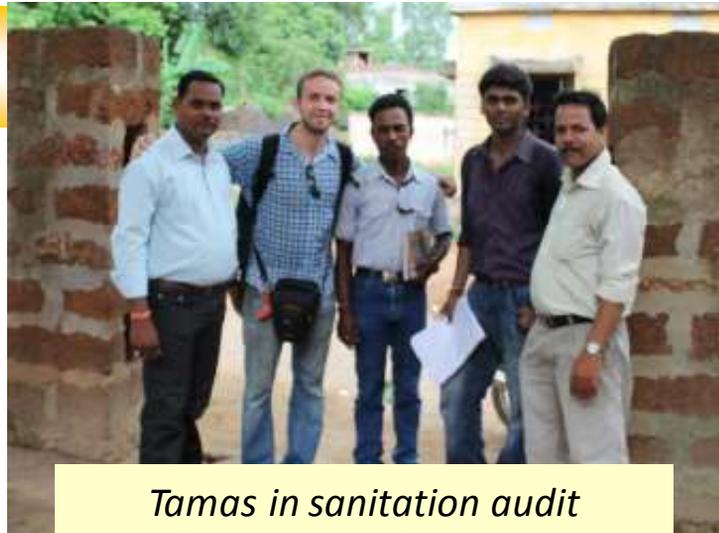


2. Design and organization of workshops on sanitation and waste management

Mathilde + Jordan in FINISH workshop in 2007



3. Organization of sanitation audits and waste management drives



Tamas in sanitation audit



4. Formulation of action research proposals

Annabelle and Antonin who helped us get our first action grant in 2006

Once an entire class participated.....



MSc. students of the Grenoble (France) engineering school ENSE (May-July 2011)

Masters Dissertations: To evaluate solar energy based products for base of the pyramid communities, with special focus on the requests of the fishermen of Kameshwaram;

Observation: Solar lamps used to guide planes to land can also serve the fishermen's needs. It can guide them to Kameshwaram from a distance of 5 kms in the ocean if it is mounted on a high enough platform.

Impact: FIN will formulate a project proposal to find funding for this.



Marion Menetrier (September 2010 – May 2011)

Mission: (i) To carry out a study of the literature on Bt cotton in India to understand implications of genetically modified plant varieties for rural developing country populations; (ii) organize a workshop of 'Responsible social investing'.

Observation: (i) There is a distinct difference between the findings of academic research and that of activist groups and more research is necessary to identify why this is the case; (ii) The MFI crisis in India has happened for the same reasons as the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the USA and also largely fuelled by hot money from the West, therefore indicators to guide responsible social investing are crucial.

Impact: FIN is confirmed to a good organizer and coordinator of workshops involving debates on sensitive topics. And a research article on Bt cotton is underway.

Tamas Medovarszki (June 2011- September 2011)
Sciences-Po (France)

Mission: To coordinate an audit of the sanitation drive of an MFI (micro-finance institution) partner of the FINISH programme.



Observation: Lack of accompaniment of beneficiaries before toilet construction and lack of regular monitoring and accompaniment of beneficiaries after toilet construction is leading to sub-optimal conversion of loans into toilets and ineffective use of toilets thereafter.

Impact: FIN is recognized as an effective organization for carrying out sanitation drive audits.

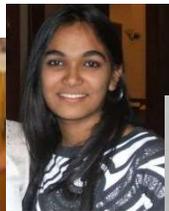


Chloe Mark (June 2010 - Aug 2010) Sciences-Po (France)

Mission: To carry out an audit of the sanitation drive of an MFI (micro-finance institution) partner of the FINISH programme.

Observation: The loans were efficiently converted into toilets, but most of these toilets seem to be environment-contaminating because the septic tanks are too rudimentary to be safe. Furthermore, only a quarter of beneficiaries cited a change in their health status after acquiring their toilet.

Impact: The report was extremely appreciated and led to further demand for sanitation audits.



Aditi Kumar and Timothée Fruhauf (June 2010 - Aug 2010)

Lady Shri Ram College (India) & Sciences-Po (France)

Mission: To examine: What are the determinants of the incidence of diarrhoeal diseases in adolescents in Kameshwaram? In particular, is the presence or absence of toilets one of these determinants?

Observation: The incidence of diarrhoea in Kameshwaram is significantly higher than the rate in same age group in high income countries. However, further statistical analysis is required to isolate the impact of access to sanitation from that of other complementary factors like access to water, nutrition, hygiene and waste management.

Impact: Given the excellent quality of the research methodology developed, it will be applied to a larger population study in Kameshwaram.



Mathilde Lefevre and Jordan Trombetta
(July 2009 - July 2010)
ENS-Cachan (France)

Mission: To evaluate how we can create a willingness to pay for toilet repairs and waste management.

Observation: FIN has a real visibility problem within the village. All know Mr. Paranjothi of FIN as a person, but not as a representative of FIN. They do not know of FIN or what it does.

Impact: Many steps taken to create visibility, understanding and trust. Mr. Paranjothi is now clearly aware that not only he but FIN must be known and understood by the villagers.



Sophie Sfez and Gabriela Simonet (Jan 2010 - July 2010)
Paris-AgroTech (France)

Mission: To see if organic farming techniques can be adopted by local farmers and if the students in Kameshwaram can be taught to litter less and throw garbage into specified garbage bins.

Observation: Persistence pays (see their report). It is possible to bring about behavioural change in schools but this must be sustained through accompaniment, monitoring and putting in place a management system.

Impact: FIN is still working on this. The basic problem is to get the school to participate financially and to convince them that parents would also appreciate having a clean school and be willing to participate in maintenance.

OUR FIRST INTERNS.....



Annabelle Didier and Antonin Benyacar (July 2006-July 2007) ESC-Grenoble (France)

Mission: To evaluate the first projects of ecosan construction.

Observation: Outsourcing problem – FIN cannot control quality of installations as a ‘financier’ of other constructing NGOs.

Impact: FIN hired 1 local staff to be in village on a daily basis and 1 to come from the city regularly and send in reports to ensure quality.



Morgane Sevat and Timothée Romain (June 2008-August 2008) (France)

Mission: To formulate a project for waste management of fishermen of Kameshwaram;

Observation: A self-sustaining program of waste management is possible with 15 Rs being paid by each family; initial investment in infrastructure (non-recoverable) of about €40,000 or Rs 20 lakhs is required.

Impact: FIN is still on it. Before trying for funds we want to ensure that ‘maintenance skills’ are developed and a team is created. But, nobody is coming forward. The huge challenge is to change the ‘social identities’ and ‘social image’ associated with this work.

Others who have helped us...



Toilet beauty contest judges of 2009.
Observation: The toilets constructed in Kameshwaram by NGOs are not sustainable and must be repaired.

French group in 2011.
Observation: There is no human resource management structure. So identify a set of projects and have one person responsible for each one.



Sebastien Gaumont who painted and created the FIN office in May 2011
Observation: The neighbours and the Panchayat need to be educated more, for it is a challenge to keep the office premises clean.

We are sure of one thing.
Volunteer Internships are going to result in useful, colourful and
creative work!



Thank You!
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