

Field: Social Change, Rural Development
Name: Auroville Village Action Group (AVAG)
Location: Auroville, Pondicherry, India
Name of Position: Social Entrepreneurship Incubation Intern (2)

Brief Description of Organization:

The aim of Auroville Village Action Group is to spark positive social change that fosters the integration and development of civil society, democracy, and social advocacy, including the promotion of gender equity and caste equality. AVAG believes these elements to be the critical foundation for the construction of a sustainable and healthy Indian society.

AVAG works in partnership with approximately 3,500 women and 850 men organized into 254 self-help groups across 80 villages and Dalit hamlets surrounding Auroville. The organization encourages local communities to organize themselves in order to recognize that they can themselves make improvements in their lives, their children's education, and in their own villages. AVAG has helped to set up schools for children and young women and men. In including the participation of women and young people, AVAG's village groups have rebuilt schools, run evening classes for youth students, mended streets, repaired street taps, and helped to raise the standard of collective living in villages surrounding Auroville. AVAG's present focus is on promoting women's empowerment and microfinance.

Information Specific to the Internship:

Social Entrepreneurship Incubation Intern

Qualifications:

This internship is open to both undergraduate and graduate students interested in social change and innovation. An ideal candidate will demonstrate a high level of academic thinking and self-motivation and will possess excellent listening skills. In addition, the intern should possess a willingness to learn and share, be reliable and committed to seeing projects from start to finish, and demonstrate a service-oriented attitude.

Primary Responsibilities:

- To coordinate incubation work among mentors and local social enterprises.
- To engage in proposal writing.
- To conduct action research on innovative business model design.
- Development of the working space and participation in team building exercises.
- Planning and review.

The intern will learn about the latest trends in social entrepreneurship, market-driven rural development, co-creation and open source solutioneering, and business development in the Indian context.

Schedule:

Summer internship opportunity of up to 8 weeks in duration.

Stipend/Assistance:

AVAG is able to provide assistance in the housing search process as well as transportation support, cultural excursions, and other handholding as required by the intern. Contact AVAG directly to obtain more detailed information regarding compensation possibilities.

Additional Information:

The intern will be required to bring a laptop for work use, as AVAG is not able to provide a computer for this purpose.

To Apply:

Please contact Gijs Spoor (gijs@auroville.org.in) for detailed information regarding the application process. Logistical inquiries (for example, regarding living or travel arrangements) may also be directed to Gijs Spoor.

Website:

<http://www.villageaction.in>