2019-20
AIF WILLIAM J. CLINTON FELLOWSHIP FOR SERVICE IN INDIA
Over the past 10 months, a batch of 19 young leaders from the U.S. and India served on the ground with communities across India to support social development. This event series celebrates this unprecedented COVID-19 program year and showcases their stories of resilience, hope, and change.
OUR LANDS ARE SINGING: A FRAMEWORK FOR ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE CRISIS
Donald Swen at Alaap in Champawat, Uttarakhand

“How can we begin to create a world where humans live in harmony with nature?” Using the four pillar model and the five capital model, Donald works to understand the interdependencies in rural areas and shift the paradigm towards regenerative-based economies.

DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD: THE POTENTIAL OF THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE MODEL
Anjali Balakrishna at Frontier Markets in Jaipur, Rajasthan

Social Enterprise Models are tough to create successfully. From her experience, Anjali believes that using the three ‘P’s’ of Perspective, Partnership, and Promise, businesses can create true customer centricity and a diverse, enabling ecosystem that will lead to achieving a triple bottom line.

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING: THE KEY TO DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE
Jane Hammaker at Yuwa in Ranchi, Jharkhand

“Relationships are the core of successful programming.” For Jessie, community meetings and her own girls’ education campaign were driven by the engaging and passionate relationships filled with singing and dancing that brought the everyone together to start making change. For Jane, she realized that good data at its core is just conversation and relationships with other human beings, and that her most important findings came from building a safe environment to chat through her organization’s focus on knowing each girl, their story, and their family.

WORKING WITH DIVERSE COMMUNITIES
June 23, 2020

EXPERIENCING THE DEATH OF A CROCODILE
Naomi Tsai at Madras Crocodile Bank Trust in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu

From the death of MCBT’s most loved crocodile to the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Naomi experienced a unique journey capturing the spirit of animals for social media, spreading educational information, and supporting the zoo in a tumultuous time where (the lack of) in-person ticket sales account for 80% of revenue.

IS IT BAD BLOOD? THE STATE OF MENSTRUATION AND SEXUAL HEALTH IN INDIA
Srisruthi Ramesh at Satya Special School in Karuvadikuppam, Puducherry

Is it bad blood? Focusing on the beliefs, actions, and behaviors of mothers with disabled daughters relating to menstruation, Sri examined the disconnect between thoughts and actions regarding conversations about periods. Finding the proper delivery system to encourage women to have these conversations and posing questions and challenging thoughts will allow change to blossom.

REIMAGINING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AT THE LOCAL LEVEL
Ayushi Parashar at Jagori Rural Charitable Trust in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

Tenzin Tsagong at the Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

Community-led justice systems, such as the Nari Adalats (women’s courts) witnessed by Ayushi, help bring justice to areas that are typically missed from the justice system. These courts provide benefits both to poor and illiterate women as well as through uplift typically marginalized voices. A few towns over but in a completely different context, Tenzin helped craft an initiative to connect Tibetan women with resources to deal with gender-based issues in the context of feeling excluded from the Indian justice system and in light of the tenuous political, economic, and social state Tibetans currently face.

VIDEO AS PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY IN NONPROFITS

Arya Diwase at Dream a Dream in Bangalore, Karnataka

Arya, through videography, helped facilitate broader systemic change during her service. Shifting the paradigm of the purpose of filmmaking, Arya showcased how her work not only can be used for promotional materials, but also to strengthen relationships and build trust and compassion with organizational partners and stakeholders.

ART AND SOUL: BEYOND THE BRUSH AND THE DISABILITY

Ismael Byers at Youth4Jobs in Hyderabad, Telangana

Ismael shared stories about inspiring artists with disabilities he worked with. From Niral, whose award-winning art helped bring him confidence, to Mohammad, who ended his well-paying career to become an artist, to Srilekha, a mouth-painting artist who helped emphasize that art is more than just art, it is the stories behind the brush that matter.

USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENABLE ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AMONG PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Anant Tibrewal at Enable India in Bangalore, Karnataka

Pallavi Deshpande at Vision-Aid in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Is proof of citizenship all you need to truly be a citizen of the society you inhabit? Not everyone can access all spaces, but through apps like Avaz and TalkBack those with disabilities regain their freedom and rejoin previously inaccessible spaces by using another medium to enable communication. While technology can be enabling and empowering towards inclusion, Pallavi and Anant stressed that there is plenty of work to be done towards dismantling biases and exclusion.

VOICES FROM RURAL, SEMI-URBAN, AND URBAN INDIA

June 25, 2020

LIFE OF A TRIBAL

Sahana Afreen at Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society in Gopalpur, Odisha

In an impressive bilingual presentation, Sahana, who worked with an Adivasi community in Odisha, shed light on the everyday struggle that tribal communities in India face. Tackling challenges to preserve their culture and language, to the constant discrimination, to a lack of awareness for government policies, Sahana chronicled how her host organization helped teach women from the Kondh tribe agricultural skills to save their lands and livelihoods.

BEST PRACTICES ACROSS THE CSR LIFECYCLE

Dominique DuTremble at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs in Gurugram, Haryana

Dominique walked through her CSR best practices findings, from the beginning stages of policy development, to project development, to monitoring and evaluating the program’s performance. Within evaluation, Dominique conducted an impact assessment of tribal self-help group microloan borrowers, conducting community meetings and interviews in order to determine what policies work and what policies do not.

REFLECTING BACK ON THE FELLOWSHIP JOURNEY THROUGH STORYTELLING

THROUGH THE SEEN AND UNSEEN: WE FALL, WE RISE

Aishwarya Maheshwari at KHAMIR in Bhuj, Gujarat

Mantasha Khaleel at SAFA in Hyderabad, Telangana

"And that day, 19 fellows merged as one
Confused yet willing. To take a new turn
Full of curiosity and spark…

"You don't need to see the entire path, to
take the first step.
You can take it with fear and doubt,
You can take it with hope and trust
Because the best journeys travelled
are not planned from start to end",
A voice I could hear inside me
And inside every fellow's heart

We arrived from different geographies,
ethnicities and belief systems,
With an aim, congruent and constant..
Empathise and respect
To Serve... with compassion
Unlearn and listen
To Learn... with curiosity,
Patience, passion and commitment
To Lead... with humility"

June 26, 2020


ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG THE TIBETAN DIASPORA

Chenam Barshee at the Central Tibetan Administration in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

How do you invest in communities that won't stay long enough to reap the benefits? Chenam and his colleagues explored the Tibetan entrepreneurial landscape in Tibetan towns and villages across India.

LET'S CHAAT: STORIES OF FELLOWSHIP

Ismael Byers at Youth4Jobs in Hyderabad, Telangana

McKenna Parker at Medha in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

This year’s cohort comes from a variety of backgrounds and were placed into a mix of organizations all over India. Recognizing the power and appeal of human nature stories in the audio format, Ismael and McKenna devised and created a podcast gathering tales from the Fellowship life and journey, with a focus on five themes: breaking, innovation, heat, lost & found, and movement.
2019-2020 FELLOWSHIP COHORT PLACEMENTS AND AIF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
2019-20 FELLOWSHIP COHORT CLOSING SEMINAR

July 1, 2020
This year, 19 AIF Clinton Fellows served with 18 local AIF partner organizations in 14 states. They supported projects ranging from training rural women entrepreneurs in distributing clean energy products in Rajasthan, to supporting a startup in combating climate change through reforestation in Uttarakhand. Virtual for the first time, the July 1st closing seminar was the culmination of their ten months of service and served as a meaningful space for exchange and celebration.

**CLOSING SEMINAR**

**Welcome Remarks**
AIF Staff, RIST Staff

**Keynote**
Dr. Ayres and Ambassador Wisner

**2019-20 Fellows**
Fellow Representatives, Publications, and Founder's Speech

**Graduation & Cocktail Reception**
Ceremony, Virtual Poster Session, and Celebratory Meet-and-Greet
The AIF team opened the closing seminar and graduation ceremony for the 20th cohort of the AIF Clinton Fellowship program with an acknowledgement of the amazing feats of resilience, compassion, and commitment to service that this year’s Fellows gave in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emphasizing the importance of the Fellowship program, the longest running program in AIF’s history, the AIF team discussed how the Fellows and the Fellowship program itself embody the core values of AIF.

“Today is the culmination of an extraordinary program with extraordinary Fellows who went through extraordinary times to achieve extraordinary results.”

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Mr. Glick shared details about the necessity of organizations working together to achieve social and economic change in the tumultuous times we face today. Reflecting back on his life-changing experiences while serving in the U.S. Peace Corps, Mr. Glick emphasized the valuable gains that programs like the AIF Clinton Fellowship provide for not just the Fellows themselves, but for the communities they are placed into and the communities they return home to.

"Perspective, perspective, perspective... One can not begin to help without trying to view any situation from a number of different perspectives. It’s kind of like that saying about walking in another person’s shoes, but what an experience like the Peace Corps and the AIF Fellowship program gives, is the understanding that YOU, as the Volunteer or Fellow have the option of taking those shoes off, while many people lack that option. It’s about thoughtful consideration."

Paul Glick
Executive Director, Rural India Supporting Trust
Dr. Ayres shared how her experience studying abroad in India changed and shaped the course of her life. While discussing the amount of growth that both India and the U.S.-India relationship have had since their time as “estranged democracies,” Dr. Ayres pointed to surprising study abroad data that highlights how much more cultural exchange between the two deeply-connected allies is needed in the future. Following her keynote speech, Ambassador Wisner and Dr. Ayres joined together to discuss the answers to burning questions, such as: what are the challenges that these new Fellows are going to face in the future and how are they going to handle them? And, how will the U.S.-India relationship change in the presence of the upcoming 2020 U.S. presidential election?
"I think if we put it in the context of today’s world, India and the U.S. are both struggling with making sure our democracies thrive. We can overcome historical legacies, we can create opportunities for the future, and if our Fellows become that small group of committed people, then AIF has invested in the future of its mission. What can be more powerful?" - Lata Krishnan

Ms. Krishnan and Mr. Shah expanded on the importance of investing in the next generation of young leaders in order to create lasting social and economic change in the future. Tying their own experiences living, studying, and working across continents and cultures into the life-changing experiences that the Fellowship provides, Ms. Krishnan and Mr. Shah underscored the significance that serving for ten months will have both for the future careers of the Fellows as well as the impact they will have on the ground.
Two representatives from the 2019-20 Fellowship cohort offered closing remarks and shared passionate stories about what serving on the AIF Clinton Fellowship meant to them. The Fellowship journey was a time of evolution, self-growth, and confidence-building as Anant and Mantasha shared personal impact stories.


“Change can be beautiful and scary at the same time. You can be hurting and wondering what tomorrow will bring, but you can also be healing and happy. Sometimes it’s not best to question why you’re feeling this way, but instead experience all of the emotions that change may bring... Change is hard at first, messy in the middle, and gorgeous at the end.” -Mantasha Khaleel

FELLOW REPRESENTATIVES SPEAK
Launched on July 1st, AIF's first-ever podcast series is a collection of six exciting episodes detailing some of the most captivating stories from this past year's cohort: funny ones, heartfelt ones, and thought-provoking ones. The podcast series is produced, written, and edited by Ismael Byers and McKenna Parker.

Listen to the episodes on your podcast player:

PUBLICATIONS LAUNCH:
"PERIODS, PERIOD."

Released on July 16th. Focusing on fictional and factual stories around the issue of menstruation and women’s health, it offers a fresh and compelling perspective arising out of the 2019-20 Fellows’ projects.

The volume is edited by Srisruthi Ramesh, with contributions from Jane Hammaker, Pallavi Deshpande, Sahana Afreen, and Fellowship Alumna Janice D’souza. It shares stories of perseverance, education, and resilience.

Available at: http://bit.ly/aifpublication
Released on July 30th. Each year, AIF publishes a yearbook to document the journey of the AIF Clinton Fellows and AIF's partner organizations during the course of the Fellowship.

The yearbook is a collection of photos, stories, and achievements experienced while serving with communities across India.

Available at: http://bit.ly/aifpublication
Released on August 30th. This marks the third year of AIF publishing a volume that focuses on the cross-cultural partnerships in action through the AIF Clinton Fellowship program.

This year’s volume is edited by Jane Hammaker and Pallavi Deshpande, with contributions from Jessica Standifer, Anant Tibrewal, and Sahana Afreen, and Fellowship Alumnus Benson Neethipudi. This work provides both theoretical and practical approaches to identifying and responding to intersectionalities in social work.

Available at: http://bit.ly/aifpublication
VIRTUAL POSTER SESSION

SAVING A SEAT FOR GIRLS’ EDUCATION

ENABLING AND EMPOWERING THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED THROUGH MULTIDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION INTERVENTION

A WORLD WITH MORE FORESTS

TIBETAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

MY JOURNEY SERVING, LEARNING, AND LEADING WITH YUWA

LIVELIHOOD AND TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

CREATING A NEW RURAL ECONOMY THROUGH TECH-ENABLED WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

ART AND SOUL: THE STORY AND HEART BEYOND THE BRUSH AND THE DISABILITY

PATHWAYS: MICROLOANS AND THEIR IMPACT ON TRIBAL WOMEN

WHY DO WE LOVE NATURE, EAT GMO, AND WEAR PLASTIC?

CREATING A NEW RURAL ECONOMY THROUGH TECH-ENABLED WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

A VISUALIZATION OF DREAMS

COMMUNICATE, WHAT ISN’T SAID OR HEARD!

THE HELPLINE PROJECT

BRIDGING THE EMPLOYMENT GAP

CROCODILE CONFLICT? NOT AT THIS WILDLIFE PARK

IS IT BAD BLOOD?

MY PROJECT

For the first phase of my project, I focused on digitizing our network of women. Designed a hosts of training materials and workshops for the women of Frontier Markets to take and share with rural women farmers. This was instrumental in helping women in the rural areas. Then, I went on to focus on communicating and execution plan, I revamped our website to showcase the new platform. I created a digital presence in all media for communicating our story and our communities to the key influencers. After that, the team worked on branding processes and introducing new business models implemented processes and customer journey, and built a structured hiring process so that Frontier Markets could hire top talent to execute its mission.

CREATING A NEW RURAL ECONOMY THROUGH TECH-ENABLED WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

ANJALI BALAKRISHNA

FRONTIER MARKETS LIVELIHOODS

BACKGROUND

When I joined Frontier Marketers, the organization was undergoing a major strategic transition. Lakhbir, the CEO, had a vision to create a platform that deployed networks of rural women entrepreneurs to sell clean energy products in their villages. My project was to work closely with the Frontier Team, Apreet Singh, and key members of their leadership to design and launch the systems, processes, and messages to navigate this transition.

DATA POINTS:

- 450 microloans distributed to rural women
- 24 RURAL WOMEN trained as tech trainers
- 50+ FUNDING proposals written and submitted
- In pilot phase
"I, on behalf of The American India Foundation and the entire AIF Clinton Fellowship team, extend a very hearty vote of thanks to all who made this first ever virtual seminar such a resounding success... With a group like yours, things become smooth without any doubt. We couldn’t have pulled this off without your support." -Amanpreet Kaur
Due to COVID-19, the American India Foundation held its first-ever virtual Cocktail Happy Hour, where attendees had the opportunity to meet new friends, celebrate with the Fellows, and engage with other guests.

Congratulations to the 2019-20 AIF Clinton Fellows!
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to say thank you to our invaluable partners who helped make this year's Fellowship program a great success.

Host Organizations
- Alaap People's Foundation
- Central Tibetan Administration
- Dream a Dream
- Enable India
- Frontier Markets
- Indian Institute for Corporate Affairs
- Jagori Rural Charitable Trust
- Kattaikkuttu Sangam
- Khamir
- Madras Crocodile Bank Trust
- Medha
- SAFAS
- Satya Special School
- TYCIA Foundation
- Vision-Aid
- Voluntary Integration for Education and Welfare of Society
- Youth4Jobs
- YUWA

Alumni Mentors
- Ananya Saha (Lead)
- Nishant Gokhale (Lead)
- Aayush Malik
- Abby TerHaar
- Cal Brackin
- Chris Carpenter
- Daniel Soucy
- Diana Chavez
- Fatima Salman
- Mahir Bhatt
- Marissa Harrington
- Nadeem Alam
- Niket Sagar
- Priya Chiray
- Rachel Aier
- Shivani Sharma

Facilitators, Coaches, and Counselor
- Anju Talukdar
- Ann Philipose
- Benjamin Bowling
- Chetan Mahajan
- Cindy Peace
- David Peace
- Deepak Sharma
- Ethan Ring
- Madhu Shukla
- Milan Moudgil
- Nikita Kataria
- Nilisha Mohapatra
- Sandeep Kumar Singh
- Vandita Dubey

Thank you again to all of our partners, and a special thanks to the Rural India Supporting Trust (RIST) for funding eight Fellows of this year's program.