

swades ki khoj 2010

Investing in the youth for an inclusive India Information for Applicants

Eligibility

Anyone between the ages of 21 and 28, with a graduate degree or a diploma (in case of a diploma then at least two years of work experience after 12th standard). Individuals who are likely to have examinations between July 2010 and June 2011 are not eligible. Leave will not be granted to take examinations during the year.

Process of Applying

An application form needs to be filled. The form is available at <http://chirag.org> or can be requested for by writing to youth@chirag.org or info@chirag.org. The filled in application form including a **one-page statement of purpose** have to be received by Chirag by the 15th of May 2010.

Process of Selection

Chirag will select a maximum of 30 youth from the applications. By the 10th of June, all candidates - those accepted as well those who cannot be accepted this year will receive intimation by email or post.

The information pertaining to selected candidates, based on their thematic preference, academic background, work experience and statement of purpose, will be matched with the interests and requirements of host organisations. Information about the organisation that will host each youth will be intimated to them by the 20th of June.

A committee of senior staff at Chirag will screen the applications and select the candidates.

The Programme in Brief

A two-week foundation course will be held at Chirag, in Nainital District of Uttarakhand, in early July for the selected youth. The foundation course seeks to provide an orientation about life in rural India. The course will commence with an exploration of issues and tools to understand and analyse life in villages. The course will include sessions on primary education, community health care, the relationship between natural resources, humans and livestock, agriculture, community forestry, animal husbandry, off-farm rural livelihoods, water, the not-for-profit sector, governance and Panchayati Raj. The course will be interspersed with visits to villages, including night-stays in homes.

The selected youth will then join their host organisations and will be located there for the next 11 months.

The participants will be provided with a modest stipend to cover their costs of food and to meet other basic necessities. A monthly stipend of Rs 4000 per month will be paid to the participants. The travel costs incurred by the youth after they reach Chirag for the foundation course will be supported through the duration of the year. In other words, the cost of travel from Chirag to the host-organisation and back for the year-end briefing and travel while at the host-organisation will be covered. The host organisation will provide modest accommodation.

In June 2011, the programme participants will meet again at Chirag in Nainital District for a workshop to share experiences before the programme closes. Each participant will

receive a joint certificate from Chirag and their respective host organisation upon successful completion of the year long programme.

Host Organisations in 2009

- *Action Research and Training for Health (ARTH)* is an organisation set up by a group of professionals in 1997 in Rajasthan to contribute to the improvement of health status among underprivileged communities in India. www.arth.in
- *Ajeevika Bureau* is an organisation based out of Udaipur, Rajasthan that seeks to provide labourers who migrate, with improved skills and a host of services to support their social security. <http://www.ajeevika.org/>
- *Bodh Shiksha Samiti*, Rajasthan is committed to improving the quality of education through interventions in curriculum, training and materials. <http://www.bodh.org/>
- *Eklavya*, Madhya Pradesh. Based out of Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Eklavya develops and field tests innovative educational programmes and trains people to implement these programmes. For over two decades Eklavya has sought to relate the content and pedagogy of education to social change and the all-round development of the learner. <http://eklavya.in>
- *Sahjeevan*, Gujarat. Based out of Bhuj in Gujarat, Sahjeevan was formed by the Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan to address the issues articulated by rural women. These included drought, migration, water and fodder shortage, agriculture and animal husbandry. Sahjeevan thus has a strong gender perspective on its various programs, in particular those related to natural resource management.
- *Samaj Pragati Sahyog*, Madhya Pradesh. SPS is a non-political, non-religious grass-roots people's organisation committed to evolving an alternate path of development in India based on the principles of peoples empowerment, equity and sustainability. Their work is primarily centred around watershed development, but includes activities pertaining to sustainable agriculture, forestry, women's empowerment and low-cost housing. <http://samprag.org/>
- *Seva Mandir*, Rajasthan. Seva Mandir is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working in Udaipur and Rajsamand districts of southern Rajasthan. Livelihood development, improving access to health and education, and strengthening village level institutions are the objectives of programs run by Seva Mandir. <http://www.sevamandir.org/>
- *Sri Bhuvaneshwari Mahila Ashram*, Uttarakhand. SBMA is one of Uttarakhand's largest development organisations with diverse activities in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand with a focus on women and children. <http://www.sbmahimalaya.org/>
- *Chirag*, Uttarakhand, Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (Chirag) works with rural communities in the Kumaun region. Chirag's programmes are being carried out in over 220 villages. Its range of activities includes agriculture, animal husbandry, education, natural resource management, community health care and knowledge and skill development of adolescents. <http://chirag.org>

Chirag will undertake the process of matching the interests of the youth with the need and interest of the host organisations.

Miscellaneous Information

- Undertaking this programme simultaneously with other academic pursuits, a full-time course or a correspondence programme will not be possible.
- In special circumstances, leave may be granted at the discretion of the host organisation and Chirag during the course of the year.
- A one-year full-time commitment is required. There are no shorter-duration options of the programme available.
- The nature of work will depend on the thematic interest of the youth and the tasks given by the host organisation. It will involve significant interaction with rural communities.
- The experience is designed to provide urban youth with an exposure and an opportunity understand a rural area and to help make a difference in partnership with a rural development organisation.
- A completed application is no guarantee of selection.
- The selection will be made based on the application form. However, telephonic interviews and in some cases interviews may be scheduled as well.
- If there are many candidates with similar preferences (first) with regard to thematic areas, the subsequent preferences may be taken into account during selection and allocation of a host organisation.
- The most crucial element of the application form is the statement of purpose.

For any other information, please write to youth@chirag.org or info@chirag.org or call during office hours at the following numbers:

Chirag: 9412085732 or 05942-285738