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Arpana Gajnoi Centre



ARPANA SERVICES
A Commitment to Care

Background of Arpana Trust

Arpana has been working with and for underserved rural communities in 150 hamlets of Mehla block of Chamba District, in Himachal Pradesh, India for over 3 decades.

In the first twenty years, Arpana reached out to provide health services to village folk in the rural areas from Dalhousie up to Chamba Town, with a focus on reproductive and child health. Over the last decade, since 2005, Arpana phased out its health outreach services, as the government health infrastructure has been established through NRHM. (National Rural Health Mission)

However, Arpana continues to conduct free specialty health camps for the less privileged, as very few patients from distant villages can access specialists, to treat chronic diseases.

Since 2000, Arpana has also engaged with rural women and farmers in the target area, to enable and empower them to build financial security through creating opportunities for livelihood. The self help principle has been used to great effect and micro credit groups have built solidarity and a platform for collective learning, collective action and growing economic security.

At present 120 self help groups of rural women, 24 farmers clubs and 3 youth clubs have been formed and are functioning effectively. About 1000 women and farmers have enhanced financial security, on account of a savings and credit resource and constant training with linkage to Government agencies.



ECO-TOURISM PROJECT

The eco-tourism project will be designed to revitalize local folk culture and crafts, and help protect and showcase the rich natural resources and educate visitors about the history and culture of the area. Local crafts will be contemporized and rejuvenated with inputs from students of design schools.

Participant groups will be linked to official agencies and support from Tourism Department of Himachal Pradesh (HP) and NAB-ARD, while the District Forestry Department and other related departments will be approached for inputs into building the program.

Young people from marginalized rural communities need growth related, rewarding and financially profitable income generation; self employment and livelihoods, while living in their own habitat and environment, showcasing their regions riches and acting as custodians of its natural resources and cultural treasures.

This ambitious goal will build skills and capacities in local residents so they have a sound base of information regarding natural resources, wildlife, cultural context and history of their area. Very important is to develop a sense of pride and commitment in conserving it and preventing its exploitation. Finally, to nurture hospitality as an attitude to support the program.

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

TIMING:

June 1st week to mid July, 2016.

LOCATION:

Arpana's center in Gajnoi, near Chamba, in Himachal Pradesh.

WORK REQUIREMENT:

Design the curriculum, in discussions with Arpana staff, working out what is feasible or relevant - basically, spoken English, related to the activities the guides will be engaged in, for instance:

- Hosting a trek, natural resources, wildlife,
- Hosting a historical walk in Chamba Town
- Introducing visitors to rural life and local farming methods
- Shopping
- Meeting artisans, crafts people, visiting the Museum
- Daily courtesies and decorum

There are 25 guides. A volunteer or a team of 2, will work with 6 to 8 to trainees in a session .

APPLICATION

APPLICATION: Education and work background, an explanation of how they could help, their areas of interest.

Arpana will arrange and pay for transportation to and back from the project site to Delhi. Volunteer will pay travel to India and donation of \$12/day for housing and food.

Submit:

- Resume with curriculum studied
- Letter of application describing skills applicable to training guides.
- Letter of reference from a professor or previous employer

Send to Aruna Dayal at **rural@arpana.org** and and Harishwar Dayal at **harishwar.dayal@gmail.com**.



Women's group greeting visitors in Gajnoi.