

Volunteering with Genesis

in India/JRP



Erasmus+

INFO

VOLUNTEERING

ADVENTURE

Hi, I am Ilona.

It was one of the foggy days when I received an e-mail and there was written: „Do you want to become a volunteer in JRP-India?“

And guess what. I really wanted, so much. Without any hesitation I started to fill questionnaire and dreaming about India was slowly turning into true.

First Genesis voice I heard was speaking with me by phone to arrange **face to face meeting**. In that interview I met Aneta and Patrik for the first time.

Aneta's voice informed me, in the end of **selection process**, that I am the **chosen one** to go to India.

Time for adventure was here!



Let me introduce little Indian princess called Puja. I will tell you one short story about how we met each other.

Hi, this is NGO Genesis.



By taking part in these projects, the participants of Genesis projects **improve their competencies** (such as leadership, team building, communication skills, etc.) which will be useful for their throughout their future lives.

Be open to new. It makes you grow.

See more <http://genesisngo.com/>

Sending greetings from project called Pachamama, whose objectives were methods of supporting self-development among youth by using non-formal education tools. 😊
You can meet huge sort of people coming from different parts of world but it is not an obstacle for having fun, of course.



Before I went to India on behalf of Genesis, they had needed to **train me properly**. So that's why I was travelling, with Aneta and Patric by my side, to special training. **Where? Direction was settled to Bali!**

Training in Bali

Fun but work too

Bali. Full of sun, sand, ocean, sufring, but lot of work for us, too. **They had to make us volunteers.** Seven young people needed this lesson. RED Onion project covered 4 European and 4 Asian countries. Who were our teachers? Our trainers. **You will definitely have training before you'll be sent to start with volunteering.**

Maybe, in the beginning, all the games, activities, evaluations and feedbacks seem to be like obstacle to have fun outside of training hall, but believe me, **all those things you will learn in training are like a treasure during your volunteering.**



Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Portugal, Indonesia, India, Vietnam and Thailand on the last day of training saying good bye in beautiful beach.

Do you need an evidence? Watch this. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-0911PmuyU>

This video was created by Fany, Indonesian volunteer from NGO Dejavato. Therima kasih, thanks a lot.



EVS – European Volunteering Service

Volunteering

EVS is programme ran by European Comission, which provides young people to travel and get experience, especially in some of the Europe countries. It is all supported by sending and hosting organization.

How does it work?

EVS describes cooperation between sending anf hosting NGO, which make a deal to run project together, to work on same goals. And who is the employee of the? It's you, suprisingly.

Sending NGO can approach you directly or you will have to google a bit to find free position. A The scale of projects is really rich so it is almost imposible not to find anything intereting for you.

Despite that fact, Choose it carefully. **You can do EVS just for a year at maximum and just once during your life.** But I guess, it is still worth to do that, isn't it?

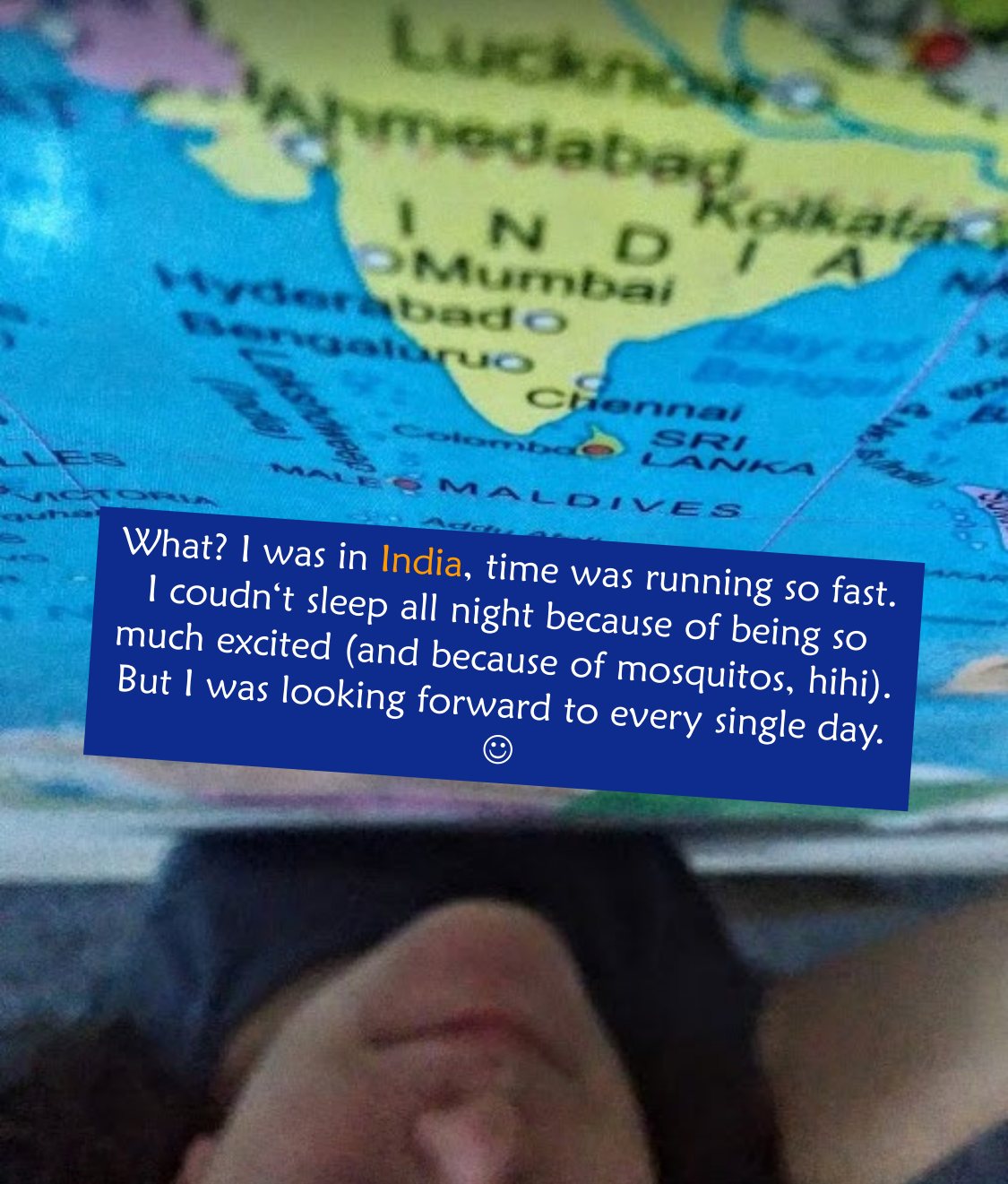
See more https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering/evs-organisation_en

Suddenly, I was volunteer!

I landed on the airport in Bhubaneswar. I met hotness, huge humidity and mosquitos. After some days rain joined our group and this four was my company till the end of my stay but amazing.

But it's a small price for meeting your future working place and people there, who will be your colleagues. Fastly, right on the second day, I was introduced to my new colleagues, who became my friends as well as **job description of volunteer in JRP-India.**

That time I was a JRP member. And JRP was my second home.



What? I was in **India**, time was running so fast. I couldn't sleep all night because of being so much excited (and because of mosquitos, hihi). But I was looking forward to every single day. 😊

Beekeeping and honey processing. JRP trains villagers to take care about bees and produce honey so they can earn money to fight with their poverty.



Old age home. Unfortunately, old people are often neglected by their families in India. So JRP provides a safe stay for them there.



Toilet construction. Non-hygienic environment causes a lot of death in India. Building toilets means giving safe hygienic equipment to villagers and improve their life condition.

Who is JRP?



JRP was not even my hosting NGO, but also a family. Manu, our director, seemed to be like my dad and Madhu, his wife, like a mother of mine. Moreover, I had sibling too. My elder brother was Pradeep, coordinator of volunteering, and my sister was Lauri, former volunteer and now a mentor for us. So easy to work in this atmosphere. And what we were working on?

Besides my daily projects JRP introduced me its all activities so I had that pleasure to try everything a bit. 😊

See more <https://www.jrpsai.org/>

Me and my class after GK lesson.



And when you don't know what to do? Time for selfie!

Hello, Didi or Mam?

Didi is the name, which I was carrying in two slum schools, two public schools and one tutorial.

It's not that easy to teach, despite you teach just basics of math, English or GK. At the beginning I thought it's a challenge to teach in non-formal way, but after all I couldn't even imagine not to use it. Naturally, it's more funny to **teach by playng**. So we danced a lot, drew and painted lot of pictures, competed in quizzes, sang and did sports.

From teacher to lecturer

The goal of MHM was, by the way, tell girls that despite periods the can do whatever they want. They have that right.



Girls were amazing. I took a while for them to be brave to speak about periods loudly, but it happened. Mission completed.

I really want to do something in India so I joined **MHM (Menstrual Hygiene Management)** project.

I was giving advise how to **manage menstruation** in order to be proud and without shame and in the same time avoid health risks.

My audience increased from one small class to big hall, so I tried to have a **speech in front of hundreds girls** and I loved that – it was meaningful. For them, but for me too. I learnt a lot about Indian culture.



English on daily basis, both written and spoken from – negotiating, appointments, presentations, reports, social media and dozens of e-mails- You will be a master of communication and patience same time.



From a lecturer to officer

Not only MHM was connected with that cursed word, paper work. I needed to realize that **field work can't be done without office work.**

Communication about MHM with our partners as well as **organizing other related projects** or **helping with writing proposals, editing documents** etc. were such a valuable experience for me.

And when I found some free time in office, I helped JRP and created new promotional materials or preparing new official documentation. So, **do not forget laptop!**

One week surrounded by students from Swiss international high school. Young people want to help but sometimes, they just don't know how 😊



My task was to prepare programme in slums as well as activities for our visitors.

From office to the world, again

The circle of my tasks was almost at the end when I was organizing and planning my activities but JRP activities too.

I was cooperating on Personal Development Week for foreign students, planning trainings for local volunteers and teachers, for other Erasmus+ projects and then I was able to run my own crowdfunding project.

That was the best thing for me in India. It is not enough to have good ideas once you are not ready to turn them into reality.

My own project



As I told you, the biggest experience for me was to try my own project. You will assume responsibility. Believe me or not, in every single place there is something to improve – not only in India. So why you would not help?

More about #100let1ceskaskola you can find here https://www.instagram.com/ilona_in_india/

You are outside the comfort zone –
discover what is there!



Adventure



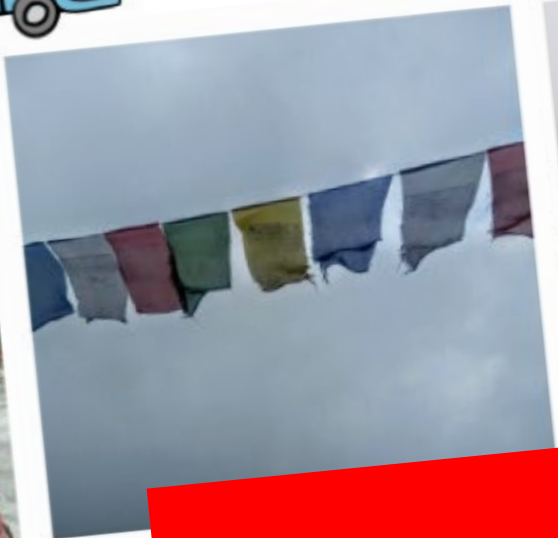
Nevertheless, volunteering is not just work, work, work. Don't worry, they thought about **your free time**. And it will be necessary to have it.

All my free time I dedicated to discovering India. Travelling was, is and will be my passion so I started to explore India to meet amazing people, see breathtaking places and get to know India closer.





Kila Dalijoda – through the jungle on the bike
Exploring tribal village, where no Czech was before. Tribals and their life. Elephants and butterflies



Darjeeling
Buddhist temples, fog and wind, tea and waiting for Himalaya.



Delhi – Rajasthan - Punjab

20 days on travel through ten milion city, desert ad lakes just to be so close to Pakistani border – alone with my backpack.



Delhi. People, people, people.



Jaipur, pink city in desert.



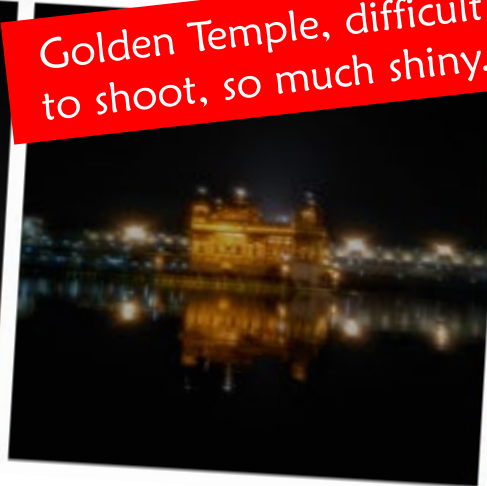
Breakfast in Udaipur.



One nigh under the stars, in the heart of desert.



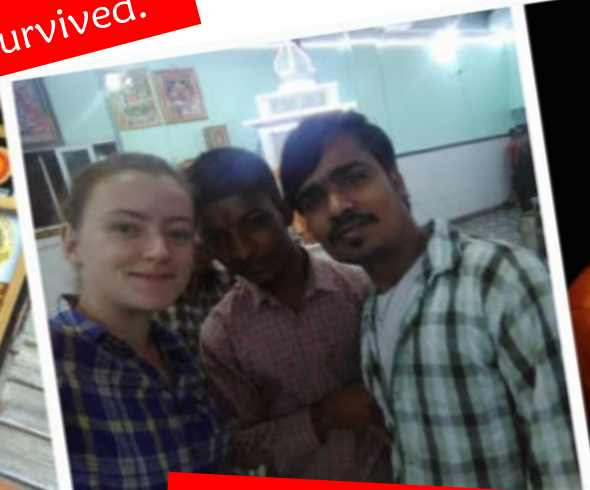
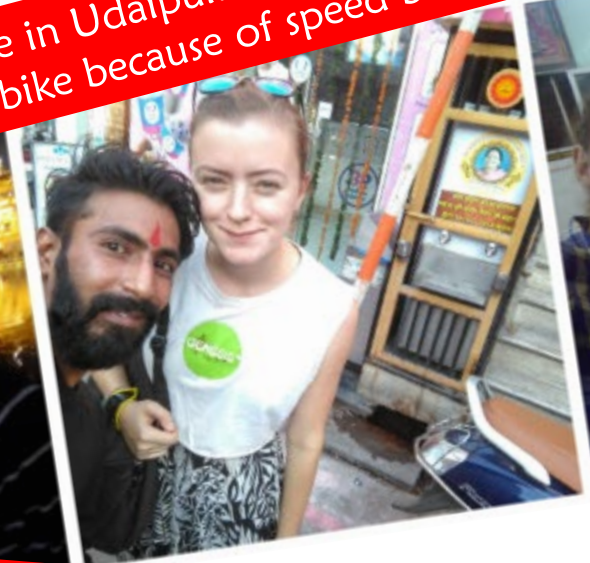
Golden Temple, difficult to shoot, so much shiny.



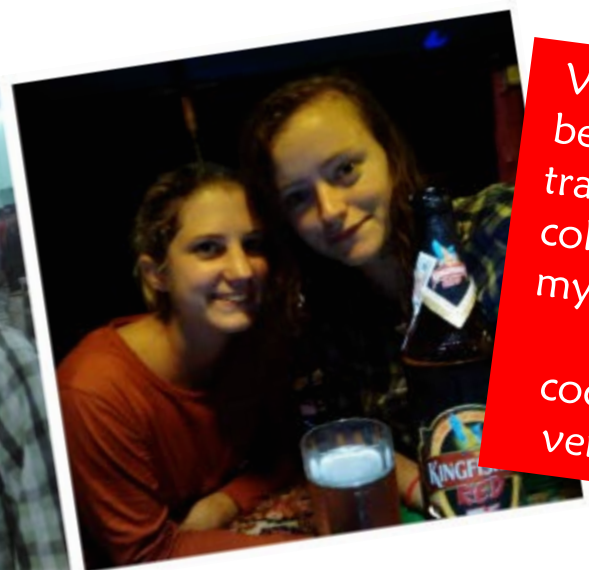
My guide in Udaipur. I was scared to sit with him on bike because of speed but I survived.



Amritsar. We are trying to take a picture bearing in mind colour of our skin, haha.



Bikaner and my amazing visit&volunteering in local hospital.



Viola was the best friend for travelling. Her cold logic and my hot blood were cooperating very good.



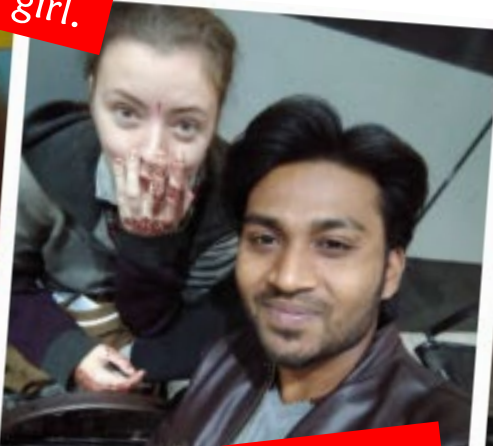
Those who crossed my way. . .

Travelling through India alone was quit a challenge. But India couldn't let me be alone – not for long time. By my choice or not, I met so much people and I spent some time with them. With passengers, travellers ad other volunteers. I can't say I regret, not at all. **They** introduced me their point of view to India and it was better to read travel guide.

..to help me go home safely.

But lot of adventure you can face even in your place, town or village, it depends – with right people, your friends. They will show you place where you live in totally new perspective closer to „our generation“. So then you will find out they like to watch Game of Thrones, listen Beyonce or wear jeans and oversized. **We are not that different as it seems because of our skin.** 😊

Chandini came one day and told me I did not look like an Indian girl.



Kamini and Sanjukta, our teachers in slum but my friends as well.



Ajeeja and Sital, volunteers of JRP. Thanks to them, office was full of smiling.

Suraj was my closest friend – and driver..

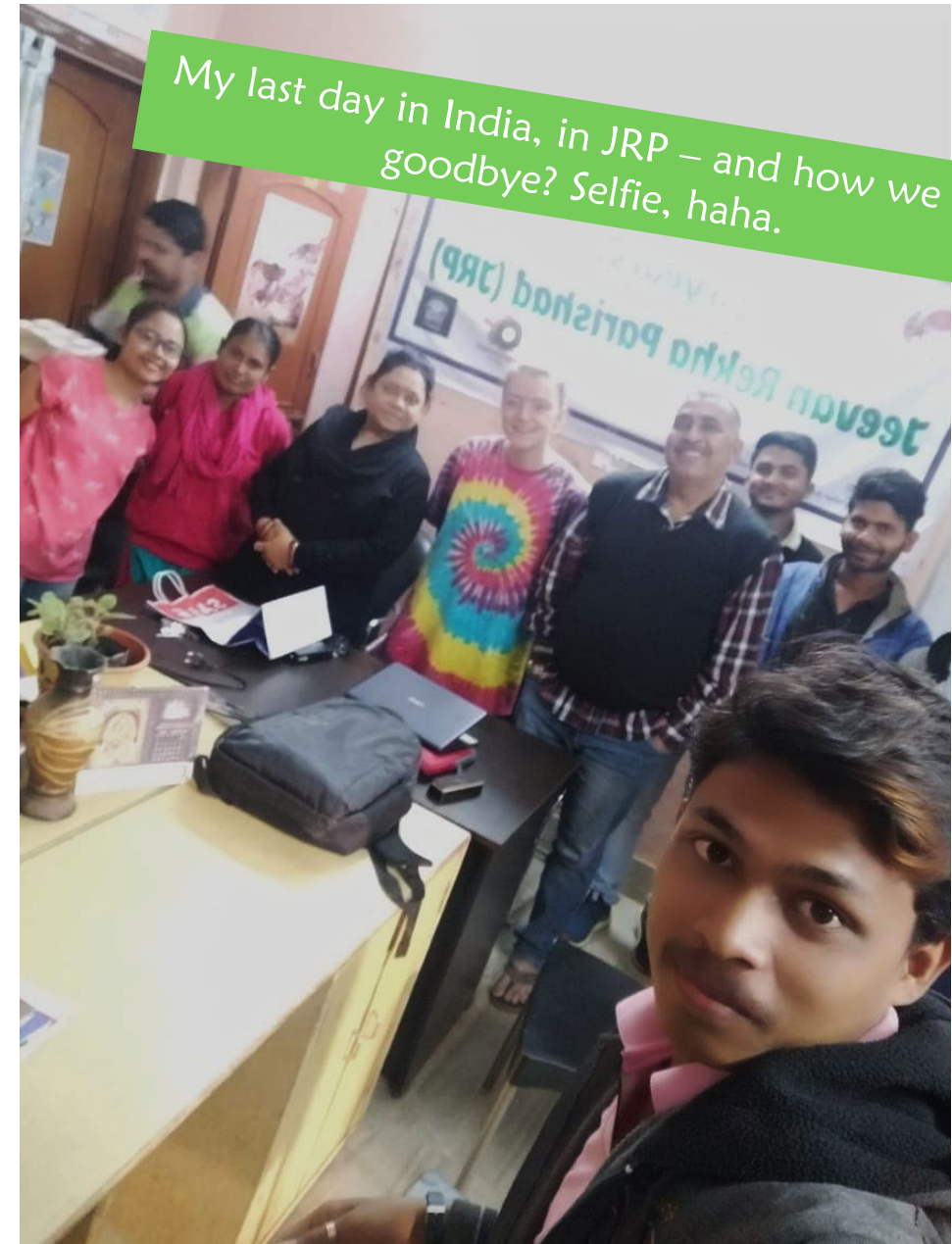
Without night life it is not EVS, hihi.

Time is running so fast.

And my last day was here. I finished my tasks, it was quite easy, but say goodbye to kids, it was hard for me. I cried, honestly. But it is not surprise once you are so close to place you were living 6 months. You will see.

I had to say huge thank you to my hosting NGO, my friends, kids and colleagues who all made my stay amazing.


But in Czech Republic, there was Genesis waiting for me and I was looking forward to pay them all the help they gave me back. So I was ready to express my gratitude.



What to do back at home?

Re-integration and its shock. Oh, I thought it is not my case, I survived and truly enjoyed India what can be more challenging than that stay, but you know, it will come. Don't be afraid, it is something very normal. Perhaps, you will face troubles to understand your homeland and its people, you will feel homesick, you will have so much free time..

..but you need to know and realize, **the best you can do for you now is to provide all you have learnt in hosting country in your present life now.** You will be so full of skills, knowledge, experience! 😊 Share it.



We met each other after half a year. In the café, where everything began – and begins again. I worked in India, now I will work for Genesis.

I will help with planning new projects, I will meet new people and visit new places.

Work for Genesis

It's not clear enough?

Don't hesitate and try
volunteering.

Huge life experience

New friends

Exploring different cultures

Adventure



I hope we will see each other. I will see my kids
but you too. 😊

Find us here:

