RAKSHAK FOUNDATION
Citizen participation in public policy reforms

NEWSLETTER

Issue: 1 January 2015







Rakshak Foundation : Vision and Mission

"True happiness, we are told, consists in getting out of one's self; but the point is not only to get out - you must stay out; and to stay out you must have some absorbing errand."

Henry James' immortal words, succinctly put together, throw light on the elementary reason behind the existence of Rakshak Foundation – to motivate human beings towards working tirelessly for the creation of a better society that shall enrich their own lives in myriad ways. Since its auspicious inception in 2006, Rakshak has relentlessly pursued its goal of engendering a wave of human sensitization which can help create mass awareness about problems that India, and Indians in particular, are facing in the world. Juxtaposed with this ambitious goal is also Rakshak's intention to usher in awareness about economic, social and cultural aspects of the lives of NRIs on a global scale. Apart from such specific goals and objectives, Rakshak has been actively contributing towards a broader and long term goal of ridding India from the clutches of violence, ignorance and corruption – thereby sowing the seeds of a better India for the near future.

Kindling the fire of selfless service in passionate individuals

Rakshak has taken upon itself the task to work towards the creation of a society that can ably ideate and form opinions on issues concerning it. Rakshak Foundation intends to put together like-minded individuals on a firm footing to better channel their positive energies towards the holistic development of every facet of the Indian society. All that you need in order to join the Rakshak's path-breaking campaigns is the fiery zeal to apply yourself in making the society a better place to live in. Rakshak Foundation shall fruitfully amalgamate your passion and attitude with the vast repertoire of bright minds that have volunteered to dedicate a part of their lives for the wholesome improvement of the society. You just need to 'start' – and our programmes can launch you from thereon. Be it an issue dealing with public policy or social changes that you wish to materialize – you are welcome to express your views and contribute actively in a whole range of utilitarian activities that Rakshak encourages people to participate in. Then on, you are free to lead and inspire others or be a dedicated follower – the choice is all yours to make.

Every person can make a difference

At the heart of Rakshak's many tools and methods to create a better society, lies the belief that every individual can make a difference and create positive impact on the lives of those around them. And it is this belief that is present at the core of all those who actively participate in propelling our society towards glorious horizons of economic, cultural and social prosperity. We, at Rakshak Foundation, are tirelessly involved in making people realize how strongly the actions of a single human being can affect others, thereby underscoring the inherent strength to make a difference with which every person is gifted. This individual power, however, is subject to the ability of the person to inculcate within him the very same changes that he wants to impinge upon his surroundings. It is only after one has learned to positively nurture his own soul that he can usher in an air of refreshing change in the society around him. Rakshak's efforts are primarily directed at stimulating individual minds to follow this path of growth, thereby generating within them the undying motivation to metamorphose their surroundings with their pioneering actions. You, too, can be a part of our brigade – all that it entails is a nominal amount of your time, spent on a regular basis on diverse activities such as teaching the illiterate, helping in cleaning the surroundings or spreading awareness about pressing social issues among those who lack the means to know about these complex issues. As mentioned before, this is a two-way process – you can see yourself undergoing robust spiritual and moral growth en route accomplishing these tasks.

Grow from inside and you shall be able to teach others the art of growth.

Change yourself and you shall be able to change the society.

Editor's Note



Sachin Bansal

Greetings from Rakshak Foundation!

Rakshak Foundation believes that "true source of rights is duty" and "the highest measure of democracy is neither the 'extent of freedom' nor the 'extent of equality' but rather the highest measure of participation". We are driven by our mission to have a "responsible, informed citizenry to strengthen the democratic process and citizen participation in governance." We began with the understanding that citizens across the nation must realize their responsibility about various prevailing social issues and related government policies. People through their proactive participation and research may increase the efficiency and efficacy of the system.

We take pride in working for the achievement of the aforesaid participation through the Summer Internship Programme, rigorous researched opinions on parliamentary bills and organizing debates and seminars. Through our internship program we move ahead with involving the young bright minds of the nation. We introduce them to the basics of citizen participation in governance and the framing of public policy. Both these are crucial in current social scenario and participative democracy. The wide range of topics assigned to the interns reflects the multi dimensional challenges faced by society, government and common people of India.

The feedback received from interns show that they end up with a much better understanding of governance and get better informed about their responsibilities and rights as citizens. This gives us motivation to move ahead with greater zeal and passion to achieve aforesaid goals.

Sachin Bansal

Rakshak Foundation

Youth Outreach

Rakshak Sponsored the NLUIMUNC'14

National Law University International Model United Nations Conference. This conference was held from 29th-31st August, 2014. Simulating nine committees and had around 500 participants. The NLUIMUNC was held in 2012, which is often credited as the first such conference in the city of Lucknow.

The conference attracted participants from all across the nation and also a few of the global fraternity. The flagship conference had a very major impact yet it faltered on certain attributes of execution. Rakshak Foundation sponsored the second edition to boost up the confidence of young generation in such an initiative and motivate them understand and think about complex international issues. This edition focused on eliminating glitches and strives for near perfect execution. It attempts to bring in reforms in the field of Model United Nations Conferences and create a different approach. It addresses prevalent issues in the trend of education through the leadership initiative which in its inception tries to bridge the space between skill recognition and real time application.

The issues that were taken up in the conference were Cyber warefare, Social and Economic Agenda, Nuclear weapons, Crime prevention and Justice, Trade and Commerce and Human Rights.

Rakshak Foundation associated with Antaragni Leadership Initiative, IIT Kanpur 2014

The ALI focused on selecting potential students having the farsighted leadership approach towards the policy process. The process of selecting winners was divided into four rounds:

In the first round the applications were filled by candidates on website. In the second round shortlisted candidates by Antaragni team were taken through quick rounds of questions. Then 12 candidates were selected for the third round. The third round comprised of Group discussion and questions. There were two groups one with 5 candidates and other with 7 candidates. The GD begun with brief introduction and individual questioning. Then the topics "Smart cities in India" was alloted to group one (5 candidates) and "Ensuring women safety in India" to group two (7 candidates). Cross questioning was done by panel comprising of judges from Rakshak foundation. The fourth round began with 11 participants and a parliamentary bill was shared with them. The candidates presented their suggestions on it. On the basis of which four candidate were selected as winners. The winner were given opportunity to be a part of summer internship programme 2015.

MENTOR COLUMN

A Laudable Initiative

M.K.Kaw, IAS (retd.), Former Secretary HRD and Civil Aviation, Govt. of India, currently Vice-President, IC Centre for Governance, New Delhi



The IC Centre for Governance is an enterprise of the Initiatives for Change (formerly known internationally as Moral Rearmament Army) and is currently spearheading the national movement for inculcating ethics in public governance functionaries, institutions and systems through lectures, seminars, training programmes, publications, journals, newsletters etc.

The Rakshak Foundation is an initiative of the alumni of IITs and other premier institutions now based in the US, which inter alia selects young alumni of IITs, IIMs and other leading educational institutions in India with a view to diversifying their exposure to economic, social, political and related aspects of life in India.

This year, the foundation approached Shri Prabhat Kumar, former Cabinet Secretary and Governor of Jharkhand and President, IC Centre for Governance with the request that members of the Core Group may be asked whether they could find time to act as mentors to these alumni,select a suitable subject and then guide the research between 15th May and 15th July, 2014. Many of us expressed our cheerful willingness to act as mentors to these bright youngsters.

The entire operation proceeded flawlessly. The project was completed according to schedule and the research reports were presented to the foundation in time.

To take my own example, I suggested that someone could look at the functioning of Resident Welfare Associations in Delhi, with a view to analysing whether and to what extent these RWAs could be strengthened so as to act as effective instruments of improved urban governance. I was fortunate in having Aditya Jha, a student of Madras Institute of Mathematical Sciences, who took keen interest in exploring this theme. He looked at the literature on the subject, spoke to some RWA functionaries,studied the legislation drafted by the Aam Aadmi Party and took an opinion poll of some citizens of Delhi.

He came to the conclusion that the AAP legislation could provide a reasonable basis for a new pattern of urban governance in Delhi, in which the RWAs could be involved both as consultants in municipal affairs and implementing agencies of development works.

I also responded to the Foundation's request for taking a class of all the eighty interns and speaking on a topic of my choice. I chose a pet obsession and spoke for about one hour on "Science and spirituality: the growing convergence." A lively discussion followed and continued for more than 45 minutes. A report on this guest lecture was carried on the Facebook page of the Foundation and it received an incredible 38 comments from the participants. This confirmed my broad hypothesis that modern youth are avidly interested in spiritual matters and we must slake their thirst.

I found this effort on the part of Rakshak Foundation as worthy of consideration and support. Such inter-organisational initiatives ought to be promoted on a continuing basis.

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Snippets of Summer Research Program 2014

Rakshak Summer Research Program 2014 "Better a leader of Fabianism than a chorus man in Parliament" Rakshaks at the Parliament House.



MENTOR COLUMN

Messages



Sunil Kumar
Member, IC Centre for Governance, Member, Managing Committee, Ramakrishna Mission, New Delhi. Formerly GM, The PEC of India & Founder Trustee & Professor, SriSim (a PGDBM Institute, Vasant Vihar

Finding and walking the road less traveled

Dear Interns

This is the time to reflect: Where am I going? I have so many wants and so many paths to choose from. Of course I want to be rich and successful; I want to be healthy, happy and wise. I want freedom to do what I want to do, and so on. Every moment two basic choices present themselves to us. If we have not learnt to delay gratification and have not developed self-restraint, we are willy-nilly driven towards immediate pleasure-happiness, and therefore, miss the goal of meaningful-happiness.

You have chosen wisely, to experience working with mentors, not bosses, and for public good. You know that while business of man is pursuit of happiness, happiness is not just pleasure seeking. Happiness is an effect, won through sacrifice and pain; it is an effect of living a meaningful life, of being good, not just feeling good.

We look forward to interactions with you to know and walk the path, in and through our daily work and living



Shri Subodh C Agrawal
Commissioner, Punjab Right to Service Commission

I have had the pleasure of being associated with the Summer Research Program of the Rakshak Foundation since the summer of 2013 when we had the first intern with us. This year again an intern from the Foundation worked with us on a project.

I head a newly created organization that aims to improve service delivery and accountability in Government. It is a bold step forward and something quite new. We have no past experience to guide us in this endeavor and we are evolving our systems and methods as we proceed. Young interns of the Foundation have brought an outsider's perspective and a vigorous fresh approach to our effort. They have studied the systems of service delivery and given us useful insights. While doing so they have also gained hands-on experience of dealing with real-life situations. This has thus been a mutually rewarding experience and I look forward to renewing it next summer. My best wishes to the Foundation. You are doing a very good job. Keep it up.



Shri Brij K Taimni, IAS
(Retd.- Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution, GOI)

A Valuable thought on Good Governance:

In Ramayana, there is a reference to the dialogues with Bharat at Chitrakut, where Lord Rama put up certain questions to Bharat, who was administering the kingdom of Ayodhaya during the 'Vanvas' f Lord Rama. These questions give an 'idea' of concept of 'Good Governance'. These questions were:

1. Are you following the three rules of Trivigya, namely, the rule of Artha and Kama shall be subject to Dharma?
2. Do you abjure the following failings of King's anger, Neglect of Kingly duties, Procrastination, Shunning the wise, Sloth, Thralldom of the five senses?
3. Are you avoiding eight evils born out of anger?
4. Are the forests well preserved?
5. Is the income sufficiently more than expenditure?
6. Do you ministers decide IMPARTIALLY between the rich and poor?
7. Are the thieves caught red handed, being punished without fail?
8. I hope no innocent person is being punished?
9. I hope that agriculture does not depend on rain but they are well irrigated?
10. I hope that you are paying wages to officers and servants of the state in time and they are not delayed?
11. I hope that you are fully protecting the city of Ayodhaya?
12. I hope there is supply of water to the residents of Ayodhaya?

This is even germane today in its entirety. Based on the 'Values' enshrined in our ancient Literature, Good Governance would mean:

(a) Making Administration RESPONSIVE;
(b) Making Administration CITIZEN-FRIENDLY;
(c) Making Administration TRANSPARENT;
(d) Making Administration ETHICAL; and
(e) Making Public -Services EXCELLENT.

When in doubt or in dilemma, please listen to your Inner-Voice.

MENTOR COLUMN

Delivering The Value for Public Money: How The Modi Government Can Help

by Prof. Anand P. Gupta

(A former Professor of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, is Director, Economic Management Institute, New Delhi, and Member, Core Group, IC Centre for Governance, New Delhi.)



Public expenditure is a major source of corruption. A good part of the public money is simply looted. And those who have their eyes on this looting manage to influence how the public money is allocated for the various schemes, and what the composition of the allocation for a scheme is – how much money is allocated, for example, for wages and salaries and how much for procurement of goods? And once the money has been allocated, they see to it that a good part of the money allocated for a scheme is looted. There is a strong reason to believe that the proportion of public money that is looted varies directly with the relative share of procurement in the total allocation for a scheme. That is, the higher the relative share of procurement in total allocation, the higher is the proportion that is likely to be looted. A message seems to have gone around that public money is nobody's money and therefore it is meant to be looted. This must change. Distortions in the allocation of public money, its looting and its gross misutilisation are deep-rooted structural issues. It's not going to be easy to address these issues, but the job is doable. It will necessitate action on several fronts.

To begin with, the Modi Government must merge the Results Framework Document System (under which a ministry looks at its achievements, compares them with the targets and determines a composite score) and the Outcome Budget System, into a new system which may be called Restructured Outcome Budget System. It makes no sense for a ministry to prepare an Outcome Budget as also a Results Framework Document. The Ministry of Power, for example, regularly prepares an Outcome Budget and a Results Framework Document. One can look at its 227-page Outcome Budget for 2013-14 and at its 23-page Results Framework Document for 2013-14. But one must also look at the mess the country's power sector is in! Indeed, the situation is so bad that the Ministry recently (October 5, 2012) had to say this: "The deteriorating health of Discoms is affecting their ability to procure incremental power, commissioning of new generation capacity and the debt servicing of power producers. This may derail the capacity addition programme and could lead to a situation of stranded capacity on the one hand and dissatisfied consumers on the other." Today, about two years after the Ministry said this, the country is already faced with that situation -- "the situation of stranded capacity on the one hand and dissatisfied consumers on the other."

Secondly, the Modi Government will have to change the culture of measuring performance in terms of the amount of money spent against the budgeted allocations, to one of measuring performance in terms of the delivery of the outcomes that people in India are concerned with. The Outcome Budget System was supposed to change this culture but it has failed. Changing the culture along the above lines has far-reaching implications. The new culture may turn out to be a much more different and challenging ballgame than what many in the Modi Government may think. Indeed, it will require a change of mindset that has a lot to do with accountability as it is currently practiced. The wide-ranging changes that the move to the delivery of intended outcomes involves will need to be supported by a concerted effort to win the government employees over to the new arrangement and to make sure they fully understand the new ballgame and their responsibilities within it. This suggests that the Modi Government must launch a major training programme for its officials to equip them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required for preparing meaningful Outcome Budgets,







MENTOR COLUMN

and put in place appropriate incentives to motivate them to achieve the intended outcomes.

According to Maharaj Krishen Kaw, a highly respected IAS (retired) official and a former Secretary, Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, "Today, corruption has become the number one issue in governance. Thus ethical aspects are likely to dominate all discussions on how the civil services function. We must declare zero tolerance for corrupt practices. Recruitment procedures need to be modified so as to ensure that young people with the right mindset join the services. There should be frequent exposure to training programmes which embed an ethical streak in the psyche of all officers. There should be quinquennial reviews of performance and integrity, and if adverse reports are recorded there should be ruthless weeding out of corrupt officers. The present system in which promotions are almost automatic needs to be reviewed. Only the best should reach the top....The recent cases of Ashok Khemka and Durga Shakti Nagpal provide pointers to the direction in which we have to move....the civil services should have a vision that colours all their actions, an all-encompassing vision that imbues their attitudes to life, country and people, and converts them into leaders with the passions of service, transparency and selflessness."

Thirdly, the Modi Government must prioritise the outcomes that the people in India are concerned with and launch the new system by focussing on, say, the top five outcomes. Let the Government involve all the stakeholders while developing the mechanism for identifying and prioritising the outcomes the people in India are concerned with. The Modi Government will need to carefully look at the earlier government's various ongoing schemes and identify those which may deliver the prioritised outcomes. In case the Modi Government feels that none of the ongoing schemes will deliver the prioritised outcomes, let it design the appropriate schemes. The system may be scaled-up to cover the remaining outcomes as the Modi Government gains experience.

Fourthly, rather than asking all ministries to prepare Outcome Budgets, as is the practice now, it would be much better to ask only the ministries responsible for delivering the prioritised outcomes to prepare them. And the Ministry of Finance's Department of Expenditure will have to go much beyond than simply issuing the guidelines for preparing Outcome Budgets. You cannot just issue the guidelines and assume that those responsible for preparing and implementing the Outcome Budgets will behave the way you expect them to behave. Things don't happen that way. The Department, with inputs from the relevant sources, should prepare a sample Outcome Budget and put in place the requisite structure of incentives to influence the behaviour of the concerned people so that they not only prepare sensible Outcome Budgets, but also implement them the way they should be implemented.

Finally, the Modi Government will need to describe the theories of change for the schemes that it decides to implement for delivering the prioritised outcomes, articulating the links between these schemes and their intended outcomes, as also the assumptions underlying these theories. Once this is done, the person responsible for monitoring a given scheme will need to (a) check whether money is available according to the requirements of that scheme, (b) check whether money has been spent as it was supposed to be spent, (c) identify the missing/weak links in the causal chain of the scheme in question -- these missing/weak links may differ from one scheme to another, and from one place to another, and (d) report her/his findings to the scheme manager without any waste of time.

The scheme manager will be expected to take appropriate and timely action(s). In case the scheme is not producing the intended outcomes because, say, the scheme beneficiaries are not behaving the way they were expected to, the scheme manager will investigate the reasons for this and take the requisite corrective action(s). Take, for example, a scheme that focuses on building toilets with a view to achieve the intended outcome of ending open defecation. In case the intended beneficiaries of this scheme do not use the toilets as toilets and instead use them as storage spaces, the scheme manager will investigate the reasons for this and develop appropriate mechanisms for changing their behaviour.

To conclude, the idea is to make the Outcome Budget work. Making the Outcome Budget work is a governance issue and as Prabhat Kumar, a highly respected IAS (retired) official and a former Cabinet Secretary to the Government of India, says "ethics is the key to effective governance." Also needed is the obsession with the delivery of the outcomes the people in India are concerned with. We have examples of people who believe in ethics and who have the obsession with outcomes. Of course, Ashok Khemka and Durga Shakti Nagpal are well-known examples. K N Kumar is another example. But in order for the Outcome Budget to work the way it should, we need many such people. Sadly, we don't have them. Indeed, we have a huge deficit of ethics in governance and a huge deficit of obsession with outcomes and reducing these deficits are far tougher challenges than reducing the public sector deficit and the current account deficit.

With many members of the civil society anguished at the massive loot of public money, with the growing media pressure to set things right, with the demand for ethics in governance growing and with the demand for the delivery of outcomes growing, one can see a movement for making the Outcome Budget work. But is this movement sustainable? Is it strong enough?

Research on Parliamentary Bills and Depositions

Rakshak Foundations has been productively contributing with well researched suggestions and propositions on the Bills in consideration. The recent memorandums sent by Rakshak to the respective Standing Committees are:

- 17/01/2014 - Planning Commission –'Draft Regulatory Reform Bill 2013'
- 24/01/2014 - Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion –'FDI in eCommerce'
- 13/10/2014 - Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare - 'The Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014'
- 02/11/2014 - Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment –'The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014'
- 02/11/2014 - Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development –'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Bill, 2014'
- 19/11/2014 - Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development –'Mid-day Meal Scheme'
- 19/12/2014 - Standing Committee on Railways –'Railway (Amendment) Bill, 2014'
- 19/12/2014 - Standing Committee on Human Resource Development –'The Functioning of Indira Gandhi National Open University"
- 28/12/2014 - Chairperson of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development –'The Functioning of Delhi University'
- 28/12/2014 - Standing Committee on Rural Development –'The Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2013'
- 30/12/2014 - Committee on Petitions –'Petition praying to put check on Cyber Pornography by amending I.T. Act, 2000'

Rakshak has been invited by various Parliamentary Standing Committees many a times over the last few years based on the contents of the memorandums submitted by us on those bills. The most recent deposition was on 02/12/2014 before the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on 'The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2014'.

Request to Update your Contact Information

We wish that this e-Newsletter would serve as a bridge between all of our interns, mentors, stakeholders and the Rakshak Foundation. Please feel free to share it with your friends and other interns / mentors who may not have received this issue due to a change in their e-mail address.

We would like to keep your contact information updated with your help. The link below will open a brief form to update your Contact Information. Please take a couple of minutes to complete it if your designation, city of residence or e-mail has changed or if you would like to receive the Newsletter at a different e-mail address. Feel free to update the information about other intern / mentor who may not have received this e-Newsletter. Link to Contact Information Update Form is: http://www.rakshakfoundation.org/update-contact-information/







Our Distinguished Speakers



Guest Lecture on 'Science and Spirituality' by Shri M. K. Kaw, IAS



Guest Lecture on 'Management of Mind towards Dimension of Work and Life' by Shri Sunil Kumar



Guest Lecture on 'Case of Maha Kumbh Mela held at Allahabad in 2013' by Shri Devesh Chaturvedi, IAS



Guest Lecture on '40 Years of Experience as a Civil Servant' by Shri S.K. Mishra, IAS (Retd.)



Guest Lecture by Shri P V Rama Sastry, IG, NIA on "Police Reforms in India- A Move towards People's police"



Interactive session on "From Governance to Public-Service" by Shri Brij Kishore Taimni, IAS (Retd.), M. P Cadre



Interactive session with Param Veer Chakra Awardee, Naib Subedar Yogendra Singh Yadav - "Bravery in Kargil War Revealed"



Prof. Milindo Chakrabarti interacting with interns

Our Distinguished Speakers



Process computerisation of paddy procurement and PDS in Chhattisgarh- Dr. Alok Shukla, Deputy Election Commissioner, ECI



Interactive Session by Dr. Nipun Vinayak, IAS, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat



Rakshak Interns presenting their work on RTI act



Criminal Justice System in the Country and Associated Reforms - By Shri K. L. Gupta, Former DGP, Uttar Pradesh



Anti-corruption architecture and its limitations - Shri Sudhir Kumar, Former Vigilance Commissioner, CVC, GOI.



Session on "Innovative Thinking in Government" - By Shri Sanjay Kothari, Secretary, DARPG



Interactive Session on "How to improve efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditures in India" - By Prof Anand P Gupta



An insightful workshop conducted by Ms. Anjali Bharadwaj on RTI and its various dimensions.

Intern Experience



"The best part about this internship was the kind of people one gets to interact with. Be it mentors, guest speakers, or fellow interns, you get to meet passionate people. The other thing which I loved about the internship was the level of opportunities one is provided with. My project was initially open ended and the foundation and my mentor gave enough space for me to direct it on my own terms. Also, as a part of one of my field visits, I got the brilliant experience of travelling alone to Raipur and interacting with several civil servants, other state government officials and members of the civil society. These new experiences, new relations developed with people over time and a passion to pursue policy research are the things that I am taking back with me from this internship."
Anita Shree Athiyaman *Rakshak Intern 2014, St. Stephen's College, New Delhi.*



An opportunity to make a difference on a large scale through research. Weekly presentations improved my confidence & public speaking abilities. Guest lectures were very informative as I got new perspectives on various governance from eminent personalities. Sessions such as RTI workshop made me more aware as a citizen regarding my rights.
Abhishek Pidaparthi, *3rd Year, BTech, IIT Delhi*



It was a platform to explore policy making in detail. In everyday life we discuss politics and policies at a very superficial level and ignore the fact that it is essential to take into account the opinions of all the stakeholders. The program taught me to consider the broader picture while analyzing policies and make rational and feasible recommendations. Being a diverse forum comprising students from different backgrounds like law, engineering, economics and humanities, it helped in a great exchange of ideas and broadening of my vision. The guest lectures of eminent speakers gave a firsthand opportunity to hear from the best in the field what challenges they faced and how they overcame them with innovative solutions. Having a mentor from the IAS, gave me an opportunity to interact with a person with a vast sea of experience and intellect, hence enabling me to learn a lot in the process, personally as well as in the area of my research project.
AkashTyagi. *4th Year, BTech, IIT Roorkee*



"The program is enchanting and complete in itself. I liked the structure of the program. It is really well organized. It gave us ample time to research on our respective topics. The part of guest lectures was a very good aspect of the internship. It gave us the exposure and all the sessions were eye-opening, each bigger and greater than the other. The ice-breaking sessions, the fun trip and other such events brought us all closer and bonded us."
Anirudh A., *2nd yr B Tech IIT Delhi*



A really well designed research program. A mentor of really good repute who could guide me at every step in the research program. The program was based in Delhi which made it more worthwhile. As most interns were going to government offices for their field visits, basing it in Delhi made it easier.
Diana Evangeline, 4th Year, MA, IIT Madras



The program was quite enriching. The program involved extensive research policy. It involved number of field visits and we came to know how a govt. department works. It was quite an enlightening experience since we interacted with couple of bureaucrats as otherwise we couldn't have met without this program. The perception of govt. being not so agile was completely changed by observing the work culture of the organization we worked in.
Jainendra Chaudhary, *1st Year, MBA, IIM Lucknow*



A program that improved my skills to a large extent in just two months. The way the projects had been designed and the mentors allotted. Every skill like time management, data analyzing, logical thinking, presentation skills all are developed in a span of two months. Meeting senior IAS officers and having interactions about the real time issues is my favorite aspect of the internship program. Parliament trip, Fun trip and Aha moments were just awesome. No words to describe that. Provided a platform to interact with many young and genius minds from diversified backgrounds and provided me with lot of friends.
Jeevan Kishore Bora, 4th Year, BTech, IIT Kharagpur

Mentor Feedback



"Overall I enjoyed the experience. As I observed, the intern needed an occasional nudge to keep to timely submission/ interaction. While the ideas presented are good, the mode of presentation, such as coherence, structure etc need improvement. The intern is focused on completing the report as a requirement for the internship program, rather than aiming towards a conference/publishing etc. Also, it would help to know peer comments during their weekly/periodic presentations to augment the mentor's comments."

***Dr. Kalpana Gopalan**, IAS*



"An excellent opportunity for young minds to hone their knowledge and skills through interacting with the real world and its problems."

Shri Jyotiswaroop Pandey

D.G.P, Uttrakhand



"Wonderful. Is able to engage young students into meaningful activities."

Shri Ashish Gupta

I.P.S, U.P Cadre



"It is a good idea to involve the young persons in the affairs of the country and learn about the good governance."

Shri Kanhaiya Lal Gupta

D.G.P, U.P.



"It was indeed a great experience. I only hope that it would lead to improvement in governance in India."

Dr. Vivek Agnihotri

IAS (Retd.)



"Its a good experience, creates awareness among bright young minds about innovations and their importance in national progress. However, I feel the time is still a constraint, since doing publishable work would require more time. An idea may be to group two interns for one project."

Shri Anant Srivastava

Asst. Controller of Patents, Ministry of Commerce & Industry

The titles of the talks with summary of each talk by the Invited Speakers were published on our Facebook page. These can be accessed here at:
https://www.facebook.com/rakshakfoundation/notes

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