



Paropkaar Programme Application pack

Thank you for showing interest in the Asian Foundation for Philanthropy's (AFP) Paropkaar Programme (International Volunteering Programme).

This pack contains the following information to pursue your volunteering experience with AFP:

- Information about AFP and the Paropkaar Programme
- A summary of what AFP offers
- Information about the recruitment process

Also enclosed are:

- An application form
- An equalities monitoring form

If at any stage of your application you need more information or would like to speak to us, please do contact us. Our details are:

Asian Foundation for Philanthropy
Development House
56-64 Leonard Street
London
EC2A 4LT

TEL: + 44 (0)207 065 0790

EMAIL: info@affp.org.uk

Bala Thakrar Director	Leena Vadher Project Manager
t: 0207 065 0791 e: bala.thakrar@affp.org.uk	t: 0207 065 0797 e: leena.vadher@affp.org.uk

There is also more information available on our website www.affp.org.uk

What is AFP?

AFP is a UK based registered charity which was established in November 2004. AFP was established to link British Asians with exciting, innovative social change initiatives in Asia.

AFP's 3 Programmes:

- Paropkaar Programme (International volunteering) – enables British Asians to share their skills and experience with charities in India.
- Jagruti Programme (Development awareness) - to raise awareness about International development amongst the British Asian community so we can become better global citizens.
- Daan Programme (Donating) – opportunity to donate to charities that been carefully selected and where donation is monitored.

PAROPKAAR PROGRAMME- 'VOLUNTEERING TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'

AFP offers volunteering placements in India. Known as the 'Paropkaar' programme, AFP works to cater for the needs of the British Asian Community providing a structured opportunity for individuals to share skills with grassroots organisations in India and experience exciting new challenges. It contributes to the development of the community, organisation and the volunteer.

AFP focuses its work depending on the needs of the project and range from two weeks to several months. Our priority areas for development are Education, Health, Disability and Income Generation. Placements are based both in rural villages and urban areas.

Paropkaar is open to Asian Diaspora over the age of 18. Previous volunteers have included students, recent graduates, experienced professionals and retired people. We organise placements which are best suited based on your skills, experience, interests and availability.

AFP uses the following working definition which looks at the features of Diaspora group:

- **Territorial Links:** must have current or distant origins in a South Asian country.
- **Personal Link:** They must have emotional, family or financial links (remittances) with their country of heritage.

What support does AFP provide?

From the moment you decide that you want to volunteer through Paropkaar, you will be supported to ensure your experience is a fulfilling one. We provide guidance before you leave for India, whilst you are there and also when you return home. Our experience shows that in this way both you and your host organisation benefit fully.

The following outlines the support that we provide:

PRE-DEPARTURE

Pre-departure training

A one day training session will provide an overview of:

- India today and India's history
- Current development issues such as those that you may be tackling during your placement
- Your health and how to cope if you do fall ill
- Your safety and security
- Communicating within India and staying in touch with us in the UK

Volunteers are also given the opportunity to raise any concerns regarding their placement and stay in India.

Volunteer Guidebook

The volunteer guidebook has been specifically designed to prepare volunteers to plan and organise their trip.

Placement advice

AFP believes that volunteers should maximize the use of their skills and be able to gain further skills and experience within their placement. In order to achieve this, AFP provides training and advice about identifying opportunities for developing a placement, introducing new ideas and solving problems.

Opportunity to meet return volunteers

We have a community of returned volunteers who you can share your concerns with, can answer your questions as well as inform you of the great experience of volunteering in India.

Financial contribution towards your placement

AFP contributes to the costs of your international flights and visa, local flights (where needed) as well as providing a daily allowance towards food and accommodation cost.

Once you have been successful in the interview process, you are asked to make a contribution of £450 to secure your volunteer place. As we are a charity, we also encourage and support you to fundraise.

Parental contact

AFP staff is always on hand to speak with family to answer their questions and provide them reassurance about their concerns.

IN INDIA

Two day In-Country Training

The training days provide volunteers with an understanding about the issues of living and working in India as a British Asian.

Volunteer Network

AFP aim to send groups of volunteers on placement together. This means that during your time in India you will benefit from the support and advice of fellow volunteers.

In country support

You will receive support and encouragement from both our staff in India and the host organisations to ensure that your placement runs smoothly. AFP will take care of arranging internal travel, where necessary, and will find adequate and suitable accommodation.

ON RETURN

The Paropkaar Programme provides sustainable opportunities to use and share knowledge, skills and understanding. A key element of this is to continue volunteers learning when they return to the UK.

On Return session

A session organised by AFP as soon as possible after volunteers return is an opportunity for volunteers to share their stories, experiences and also learn about ways in which they can inspire social change and be better citizens!

AFP will help return volunteers to develop the skills and knowledge achieved from the placements to stretch the thinking of people in the UK.

Staying involved

We will also encourage volunteers to stay involved in the work of AFP through fundraising and campaigning towards our charities and causes. For those who wish to work within the Development Sector either in the UK or abroad we can also provide advice and details of opportunities and also provide a reference based on your time as a volunteer.

How to apply?

Placements are allocated based on the skills applicants have to offer. We are currently looking for applicants with a wide variety of skills and experience.

As well as assessing applicants skills set, AFP assesses volunteers in the following four areas:

Commitment: A genuine commitment to volunteering in India, as well as a contribution to social change in the UK. Also to provide useful feedback that will help enhance AFP's work in India in the future.

Attitude: Relevant skills and experience, a positive attitude towards volunteering in India and the ability to work well in a team.

Approach: A culturally sensitive, flexible and non-judgmental approach to working and living in India.

Communication: An ability to communicate with a diverse range of people to have positive impact

Stage 1 is to complete and return the application and equalities monitoring form. The application form is used to inform us about your qualifications, experiences and personal circumstances.

Based on this we will assess:

- Whether a local charity can utilise the skills you have to offer
- Your readiness to live and work in India

What happens after I send the application form?

You will be informed about the outcome of your application form. If your application form is successful you will be contacted for an interview.



The Paropkaar Programme is supported by

