**Internship testimonials**

Aadya Saxena

Masters CUPG, 2018-2020

Intern at Centre for Policy Research

Major learning was about the spectrum of *bastis* which can exist in the same city, and relate to the first question I was asked at the time of my initiation at CPR as an intern about comparing slums in Mumbai to those in Delhi and Hyderabad. During the course of my internship, I was able to make various observations which has led me to believe that even within the same city there can be a range of informality which may exist in terms of settlements, for instance in the case of Delhi, slums, bastis, shanties, unauthorised colonies, resettlement colonies and regularised colonies (settlements which have gained legal recognition from being previously designated informal through various means such as citizen action, political mobilization etc). Other tasks which added to this learning was when I was given the task of classifying approximately 34,000 neighbourhoods in Delhi into settlement types so that they could be mapped and analysed. This task enabled me to handle a large set of data and see what kinds of tools can be used to make sense of it.

Aishwarya

Masters CUPG, 2018-2020

Interned at Mike & Leo

The first four weeks were singularly devoted to design thinking which follows the principle of “build to think rather than think to build”. At the end of the training, we were asked to design syllabus for children of different age groups, as diverse as 5 to 14, to devise interactive, engaging learning tools. The next six months of training were spent across different camps in Hyderabad, delivering the training on different topics to the children who enrolled in those camps. The training included robot designing, movie making, digital game making, etc. The experience helped me understand what goes behind building effective learning systems and instill confidence in young learners.

Akash Baral

Masters CUPG, 2018-2020

Interned at Innovative Research Services (India) Pvt. Ltd., Delhi

The purpose of marketing research (MR) at the organisation was to provide management with relevant, accurate, reliable, valid, and up to date [market information](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Market_information). Competitive marketing environment and the ever-increasing costs attributed to poor decision making requires the marketing research to provide sound information. In IRS Pvt. Ltd., Market research is broader in scope and examines all aspects of a business environment. I learnt many useful statistical tools and I learnt how to work with collected data such as Census data, NSS data etc and summarised it in report writing.

Digith Mathew

Masters CUPG 2018-2020

Interned at Thanal, Trivandrum

I worked in the study named Plastic litter pattern study for areas under Trivandrum Corporation of the organization. This study concentrated on setting up a data frame for identifying the pattern of litter giving more importance to plastic litter for the area under Trivandrum Corporation by identifying the number of litter pieces in meter square and weight of litter pieces in meter square from different sites of the Corporation area. I learned about conducting comparative research studies, about the various stages of research, and how research can inform policy measures.

Shubham Kumar

Masters CUPG 2018-2020

Interned at TURN project, TISS

The site of my internship was the Transit Camp in Mankhurd. I was involved in gathering information about the living conditions in the area, about access to sanitation, drinking water, municipal intervention. People living in migrant camps face eviction and demolition threats from the BMC, and a part of the project is also engaged in filing a PIL that would protect the interests of those living here. Through my internship I learnt about various aspects of vulnerabilities in urban settlements, the nature of different kinds of informal settlements, how to conduct research in such vulnerable and precarious conditions. It helped me recognise gaps in policy and ground realities, and the complex mechanisms of urban governance.

Kishan Kumar Nag

Masters CUPG 2018-2020

Interned at National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi

I interned at IHUWASH, a collaborative initiative of the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Leading Edge and Ennovent. It is supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and aims to improve the performance of urban WASH programs within a collaborative framework. I was explored to the skills of making questionnaires to carry out surveys and prepare case studies. I was assigned with the task to carry out a site assessment survey for the construction of public toilet in sector-28 of Faridabad. With the help of my mentor I prepared a questionnaire for the site assessment survey and carried out the survey in sector-28 of Faridabad. After the completion of the survey I submitted a report of the site assessment in regards to the construction of Public toilet in the same site. During my internship I was also given the opportunity to attend some webinars, seminars, official meetings and have interaction with officials of other departments.

S. Prema Swarupa

Masters, CUPG 2014-2016

Interned at Kantar Public, Mumbai

I joined Kantar Public, Mumbai as an intern in March, 2019 and worked in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Branch, wherein I was involved in impact evaluation of various projects spread across the country. The first project I worked on was a CSR initiative by an organization ‘Educate Girls’. Their project was spread across several towns of Rajasthan and the employed several strategies and techniques to improve the Net Enrollment in those towns. Kantar provided research assistance to this project from baseline to endline. Thus, my tasks involved assisting in all the research that went behind getting the project up and running, such as choosing the blocks where the intervention, what kind of tools and techniques would suit best to the project along with the endline assessment and evaluation of the entire project as a whole.

Isha Fuletra

Masters, CUPG 2018-2020

Interned at J-PAL’s Groundwater Management Project, Gujarat

Possessing a preliminary knowledge of RCTs is mandatory for working at J-Pal, and I acquainted myself with the process over the course of the internship. I was engaged with initiating the intervention of information packages for farmers. Since this was at a nascent stage, I was required to read through ample literature related to each agriculture crop in the project villages, and also their water requirements and techniques. The task also gave me an opportunity to put my questionnaire making skills to use prior to conducting expert interviews with scientist at Krishi Vigyan Kendra and prominent agronomist in the state. Additionally, we were required to train surveyors with not only with the survey instrument, but also about the organisation policies such as that of sexual harassment, road safety, child safety, code of conduct and so on. The experience overall helped me understand various aspects of research, right from design, to execution, to planning, and organisation.

Aanandita Sikka

Masters CUPG, 2018-2020

joined CPR as an intern in March 2019 and in a span of a little over two and a half months, I was involved in different tasks under the project Urban Lab Observatory. I started with making shapefiles on QGIS and doing field visits. The process of making shapefiles and digitizing also meant that we came across certain discrepancies between details on Google maps and the coordinates of the one collected on field. In order to cross check those, we also went to the bastis again. Apart from these tasks, I was eventually also involved in the writing of conclusions for the basti profiles for Lal Gumbad and Jagdamba. In the final weeks of my internship, I was working on the literature of mapping as a process and making a brief process note for mapping on QGIS.