



6 Months Volunteering in Auroville

2nd Quarterly Report

Through the volunteering program of the German Ministry for Development called “weltwärts”, I received the opportunity to spend one year doing voluntary service at the Auroville Sports Resource Center. Following, I will report on the first 6 months volunteering in Auroville.

In August 2016 I arrived in Auroville, starting with an introduction week for orientation and acclimatization. We visited a lot of “weltwärts”-projects during this week and received knowledge about India’s and Auroville’s infrastructure, culture and history. I think it was really important to have a pre-coordinated week, because it put pressure from us and gave us the chance to get to know Auroville by little steps.

In September I started to work in the Auroville Sports Resource Center (AVSRC), a unit under SAIIER that is located at New Creation Sports Ground near Kulilapalayam. AVSRC is coordinating regular trainings, coaching camps, matches and tournaments. Strengthening the relationship between Auroville and its surrounding villages is another goal, which AVSRC tries to reach through a growing communication based on the bilateral interest in sports. In the first weeks I went around in Auroville and the bioregion visiting different sports grounds and courts and meeting people that are involved in Auroville’s sports efforts. This ongoing orientation in Auroville and the bioregion helped me a lot to be prepared for future tasks. Jothi, the executive member of AVSRC, was a big help for me, because he explained tasks to me easily and helped me to gather all necessary information for the next months.

I had a lot of different tasks in the beginning. I started a data-collection in the surrounding villages and therefore received help by a young Tamil. We went to 18 villages within a distance from 20 kilometer and asked questions regarding sport activities and clubs in the bioregion. Visiting the different villages and getting to know people within them was a great experience for me. I also started to assist with the Aikiyam School Sports, but in AVSRC's and my opinion Aikiyam had a lot of instructors, so I changed to Edayanchavadi Government Middle School and started to coordinate and carry out the sports program for about 20 children all by myself.

My main task during my first 6 months in AVSRC was the preparation-process for Auroville's 50th Birthday in 2018. AVSRC has a lot of plans regarding coaching camps, tournaments, ground reparation and other events that we want to accomplish leading up to Auroville's Anniversary. I was the main person for the project proposals and had highly different missions that required responsibility and self-initiative. I wrote the project proposals and maintained correspondence to the anchor-persons of the different activities. This task was quite difficult sometimes, but throughout the process I learned a lot of new skills and received positive feedback by many people.

I am very happy to serve as a volunteer in Auroville for various reasons. Auroville is a unique place and I met interesting people, acquired new skills and hope to do so in the future. AVSRC is a great unit with high potential and I am proud to be part of this team. My experiences in Auroville will last a lifetime and it forms my personality in a positive way for upcoming situations in my life.

Warm regards

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