**2. Quarterly Report**

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Projekt: Sadhana Forest

After six month of volunteering in Sadhana Forest I am doing really well. I am satisfied with my work, my social live, my housing situation and my general situation. Currently I am especially happy and relaxed, because the high season, which is the most stressful time, is over and our community shrank back to a tiny family size of 40 people (in comparison to over a hundred people). Despite that I had my first week of holidays in the end of February. I went to Hampi to meet a friend I got to know in Sadhana in December. 6 days of relaxing, hiking, swimming and bouldering were good for my well being. I t was my first bigger and far travel in India and very exciting for me. I took for the first time in my life sleeper buses and trains and managed to arrive in Hampi and of cause also back in Sadhana Forest. I am now really happy to be back in my home and with my community family.

In the last three month the community was a lot bigger than in the first three month. We were up to 150 people for short periods, but the average size of a hundred people was still challenging. People come and go all the time and it was really hard for me to get to know people or even keep up on learning names. My working schedule in Children’s Land (I am working on the weekend and have my weekend on Monday and Tuesday) excludes me from some activities and allows me only to work with a few people, who are working in Children’s Land as well. However after some point I accepted I would not get to know everybody and that made it a lot easier. Of cause it is sad, but on the other side my time and energy is limited. I think it’s was the only healthy conclusion I could draw.

My work in Children’s Land itself changed also a lot. The Children’s Land Director Tara, the only other Longterm volunteer working in Children’s Land had to leave Sadhana for some weeks because of several appointments. After that she took over the some of the management responsibilities from the Sadhana Forest Director was on holidays. To put it in a nutshell, I managed Children’s Land for approximately 5 weeks. That meant more responsibility for me, which I was happy to carry. It motivated me a lot to develop new ideas and to implement them. For example I started to overhaul the former garden in Children’s Land; planted vegetable seeds, which are saplings by now, repaired some of the infrastructure, and introduced a different meeting structure and other things. I also focused more on the forest work with the kids and tried to practice more Tamil with the short term volunteers. Tara is back now and we will see in the next weeks, how much time she will be able to spend in Children’s Land and how much management work she will do. I am sure it will all work out well.

Beside my vegetable garden project in Children’s Land which main phase will start in the next weeks and is going to involve building raised flower beds and planting, as well as plant care, with the kids, we currently had the idea for another project. We had a dentist coming to Children’s Land, who checked on the children’s teeth for free. The result was, that the teeth are in really bad conditions and that there has to be a follow up treatment, checking and education. The dentist made us an offer to train me and Tara in doing basic checks and treatments. I will try to get money from the weltwärts funds or due to fundraising to have funds to buy the equipment. It would not only enable us a possibility to improve the health for our more than 100 kids, but also to offer basic and free teeth healthcare to the surrounding villages. This is really inspiring for me and makes me excited about the next two month.

My working schedule changed as well, because the number of groups we welcome increased. The number of groups increased from four groups to six and we are going to get another group. The thing is, that we welcome the new groups on the weekends as well, so that I have three sevas on Saturday and Sunday. This means that I am busy for 10 hours in the weekends, seven hours of work and 3 hours time to eat in-between the different sevas. This excludes me from a lot of weekend activities and bothers me at times. Especially because I can’t take off, as long as Tara is not back fulltime. For the next weekend and when Lissy, the other weltwärts girl, and I are going to travel in May she will be there though.

The next weekend my mum and her boyfriend are going to visit me in Sadhana. I have not seen her since I left and although I was not too excited about her visiting me in the beginning of my stay, I am now looking forward to it. I cannot wait to show her how I live now and to live with her in a way that embodies my values. I am hoping that she will be able to adapt and that she will understand me better after her stay.

 My relationships in Sadhana and Auroville are going good as well. Lissy and I are very close by now and she is one of the most important persons in my life. We spent a lot of time together although we have really different schedules. Luckily her schedule is more flexible than mine, so that she can adapt to my needs at times. I enjoy spending time with her and sharing everyday life like doing laundry, showering, eating or watching movies. She is a big help whenever I struggle with something, be it work or something personal. My relationships to some other Longterm volunteers have deepened as well and with the rest I get along. I have more contact to the other weltwärts volunteers in Auroville and I enjoy that. I meet one of them regularly and two or three others at times. It is good to have some people outside of Sadhana Forest, but I don’t have the feeling that I need that absolutely.

I still have the opinion that I have enough privacy and autonomy living in Sadhana. I love living outside and I love my hut! I am still pleasantly surprised about the few number of insects especially spiders, which I have to face. I only see them occasionally. My arachnophobia was my biggest concern when I came to Sadhana Forest! So that’s pretty relieving.

All in all it is going pretty good and I am inspired and excited for the future. I am already planning to do an internship in an ‘Unschooling’ school in Germany and I want to continue many of the good habits I developed in Sadhana. I also want to continue having vegetable garden and eating fresh and unprocessed veggies.

So far so good, 5 more month to go!