

Abstract:

One remarkable aspect of a volunteer culture is that the positive relationship between a volunteer and his/her host organization can catalyze tremendous positive change, in both the organization and the volunteer. However, India can be a place where international volunteers and host organizations can find it quite difficult to relate to one another, for reasons other than language. This book is intended to assist the international volunteer in preparing for his/her period of service with a host organization in India. Based on discussions and experience with over thirty international volunteers and over fifty organizations, extensive research on the voluntary sector in India, and examination of various volunteer programs and resources, this handbook is designed as a tool to prepare the international volunteer for some of the challenges of serving in India. What we hope to provide here is some philosophical insight into and practical information for maximizing your volunteer experience in India.