

CASI Student Programs in India

CORD - Sidhbari



Rural Development

The CASI-CORD partnership offers a competitive volunteer internship to current Penn students who are eager to take a hands-on approach to key issues in rural development. An internship with CORD will enable students to meaningfully contribute to rural development efforts through program-specific initiatives. CORD-Sidhbari has touched the lives of over 55,000 beneficiaries directly, and over 275,000, indirectly, in over 500 villages through its comprehensive integrated rural development program. The program is demand-driven, truly participatory, and holistic, including self-help groups, community-based livelihoods, advocacy, local self-governance, health, disability, natural resource management, children's education, and adult literacy. CORD's mission is to facilitate integrated and sustainable development in rural India through the self-empowerment process. The internship can be tailored to Penn students' interests but students with an interest in health, economics, environmental studies, policy, and business are encouraged to apply.

Internship Details

- 10 week internship from May 16, 2016 - July 25, 2016
- CASI will provide up to three (3) Penn students approximately \$4,000 each to cover travel to and within India, affordable housing, and living expenses
- Funds are made possible through the support of Penn's Office of the Vice Provost for Global Initiatives and in conjunction with Penn Abroad and Penn's International Internship Program (IIP)

Potential CASI Projects

- Conduct research on village nutrition, sanitation, and health programs
- Develop marketing strategies to improve the sale of vegetables and cash crops.
- Conduct research and write case studies on CORD's women's self-help groups, local self-government initiatives, adolescent girls programs and more.

Accommodation and Food

Penn students will stay at CORD Training Centre, Sidhbari, where CORD Ashram rules are expected to be observed. Meals are served at CORD Training Centre and are simple, wholesome vegetarian meals. Both boiled and filtered water is available and recommended. Bottled water can also be bought at local shops.



CORD-Sidhbari

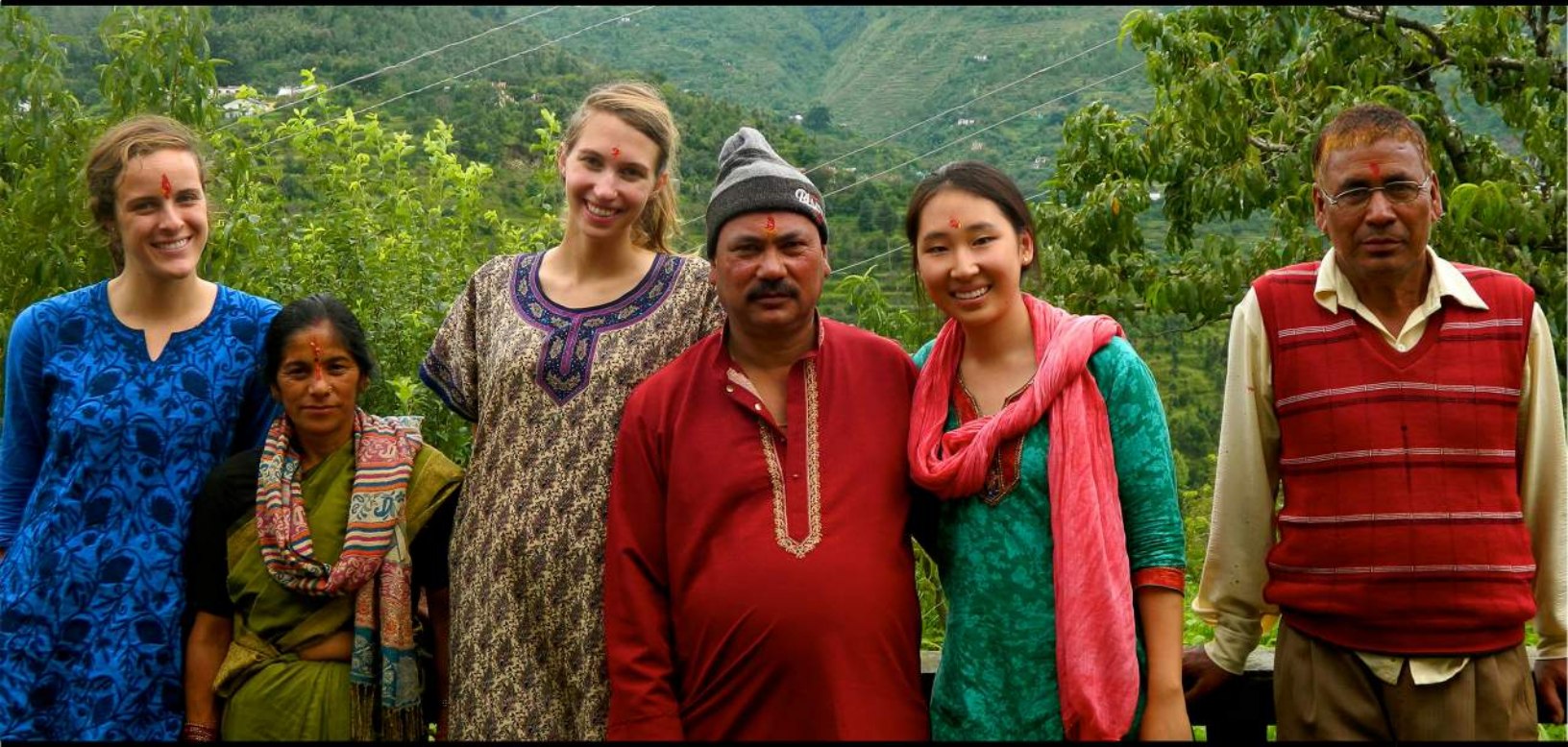
Chinmaya Mission is a spiritual, social, and educational organization with a global presence. The service wing of the mission operates under the acronym CORD – Chinmaya Organisation of Rural Development. In pursuance of the vision of its founder, Swami Chinmayananda, CORD has been actively serving citizens of rural India since 1985. CORD started by providing maternal and child healthcare to the surrounding communities, however, it soon became clear that poverty, illiteracy, environment, and poor infrastructure were adversely influencing the life and health of the people. CORD aims to facilitate sustainable and integrated development in rural India through self empowerment with a focus on providing services for children, disabled individuals, women, and elderly citizens.

For more information on CORD: <http://cord.org.in/>



Sidhbari, Himachal Pradesh

CORD is located in Sidhbari in the Kangra Valley of Himachal Pradesh, India at the foothills of the Dhauladhar ranges of the Himalayas. The town is located on the mountain range, towering up to a height of 4500 meters. It is a scenic village and home to numerous spiritual sites. Surrounded by picturesque hamlets, Sidhbari is a scenic town offering a beautiful view of the Kangra Valley and the snow capped Dhauladhar mountains. It is well known for the Chinmayan Ashram, called Tapovan by the location.



"If anything, being there re-emphasized to me the importance of family and the "simple things" in life, the former of which is an extremely important cultural value in India and the latter of which I gleaned from visiting families whose pleasures in life weren't materialistic in the slightest."

– Kurt Kohler, C'16, CASI-CORD Intern

CASI Resources and Application Details

- Join 2016 outreach list, send email to: casi-2016-student-programs-outreach+subscribe@googlegroups.com
- CASI Open House will be held on **December 9, 2015** from 2:00-4:30pm at CASI, 3600 Market Street, Suite 560
- Attend a "Chai Chat" and speak with one of our past students bit.ly/chaichats2016
- Applications open **December 1, 2015** and close on **January 25, 2016**
- Apply through IIP: <http://sa.oip.upenn.edu/iip>



CASI is an academic research center located within Penn's School of Arts & Sciences. Founded in 1992, CASI is recognized as a national resource and the first research institution in the US dedicated to the study of contemporary India. For questions on CASI Student Programs contact Aparna Wilder: apwilder@sas.upenn.edu