

Sanjeev Ranganathan

I volunteered with [Asha for Education](#) (AfE) in various capacities from 1999-2013. Asha is a 501(c)3 registered group that works on catalyzing socio-economic change through education of underprivileged children in India.

At AfE most of my involvement was on project coordination, fundraising and team building roles. I have been working with resource people, teachers and children since my move to India in 2007.

At a chapter level, I have been involved with building volunteer groups in New York, Austin and Bangalore towards awareness and fundraising activities. I have also been involved in learning about the efforts of different NGOs in India – visiting, documenting and learning from them. Over time I have developed relationships with a dozen organizations to be engaged in dialogue with them about how to best address the needs of the children/communities involved.

I also worked on building Asha as an organization through focus groups that work across the chapters of Asha including coordinating the annual fundraiser Work-An-Hour and Asha's fellowship program. Asha is an organization composed mostly of graduate students and working professionals who volunteer their time. Given that most individuals are peers there is minimal hierarchy and significant debate. Working with the group has been a wonderful experience in open, democratic decision making that helps the group take ownership of an initiative and work actively towards it.

I have worked to provide exposure to project partners, teachers and individuals involved in development work as part of the Learning Network and The (Alternative Education) Network. I also organized the Asha-fellows conferences where individuals (receiving fellowship from Asha) who work in various development fields learn about each others work. I have also been working with resource people to organize workshops at NGOs on teaching aids, educational philosophy and hands on learning.

In 2011, I volunteered for 9 months at Sittlingi a tribal village in Dharmapuri with kids who had dropped out from schooling on hands on electronics, math, logical thinking, puzzles, games and computer (programming using Scratch, simulations of electronic circuits).

In 2013 I moved to Auroville and have been working with Udavi School and Isai Ambalam Schools. In Jan 2015, I founded Aura Auro Design, a company where I worked with (Electrical) Engineering graduates could learn, grow and work on electronics while putting aside 3 hrs a day to work with children. This has resulted in the creation of a very special place, STEM Land (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics Land) at Udavi School where children explore mathematics through materials, programming, projects and much, much more.

The various positions I have volunteered in Asha are:

Chapter Project Coordinator ([New York](#) '01-'04, [Austin](#) '05-'06, [Bangalore](#) '08-'13);
Asha-wide coordination - Secretary ('00), [Work-an-Hour](#) coordinator ('05) &
[Fellowship coordinator](#) ('07-'08).

Marathon Program Coordinator ([Austin](#) '05, [Bangalore](#) '07);

SAC (Support a child) coordinator – Seva Chakkara ('00-'02) and Timbaktu Collective ('11-current)