

## SRDS Internship Testimonial

Adelaide Pope, 2022 Intern

My three months at SRDS greatly enhanced my perspectives of rural, community-based development in a way that classroom study simply could not.

Some of my main responsibilities included writing and designing the organisation's annual report, compiling grant proposals, and helping with project documentation (through regular site visits to a number of nearby cities and villages – which was certainly a highlight!!). No two days at work were ever the same, and I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn from the relatively small team's diverse skill set and complex undertakings. Overall, my work schedule was very flexible, and my team was very generous in helping me to work around some of my other commitments (e.g., online class, online volunteering etc.).

I was initially drawn to SRDS for their micro-finance work and was afforded many tailored opportunities to consult with different stakeholders, conduct interviews and review internal processes to enhance my understanding of the field. With this support I was able to write a very in-depth research paper, and even present some of my findings to students and academics at a local university.

Logistically, the SRDS team was invaluable once again, helping me with my accommodation, providing visa guidance, and giving day-to-day assistance whenever it was needed. This internship was my first time in India, and I definitely know it will not be my last!

This time provided me with an unparalleled academic, cultural and professional experience, and I am so grateful for the SRDS team in welcoming me so generously.

Adelaide is a final-year Bachelor of Commerce (Economics) student at the University of Melbourne, completing her New Colombo Plan Scholarship program in 2022/23.

