

Tonya Executive Summary
Center for Urban and Regional Excellency, Agra, India
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I worked as an intern with the Center for Urban and Regional Excellence (CURE) from September to mid-October under the guidance of Manish Kumar, the Director of CURE's office in Agra, India. CURE is currently conducting research for a Citywide Slum Upgrading Plan which is intended to provide Agra's government with a clear and quantified depiction of the needs of Agra's poorest neighborhoods. CURE surveys settlements, then groups them into wards for analysis, and then clusters these wards into zones for an even broader-stroked assessment. The findings of their work will be given to the Agra Municipal Corporation in the form of written reports.

My work for CURE divides into three two-week time periods. During my first two weeks at CURE, I was asked to read relevant material regarding the organization's activities, and then I was assigned to accompany the CURE teams as they conducted surveys in the field in order to understand the processes involved in data collection. During my third and fourth weeks at CURE, I was assigned to write a draft report for the set of ten settlements that compose Ward 17. During my fifth and sixth weeks at CURE, I conducted a photography project in five of Agra's slum-like settlements. I then incorporated these photographs and interview material into a photo book entitled *Inhabitants' Favorites: Portraits of Agra's Slum-like Settlements*.

I learned much during my work at CURE. First, I learned the importance of arranging my own internships. Second, I learned how a development organization in the developing world operates internally. Third, I was made aware of the frustrations of working in development in the developing world which include a lack of awareness regarding access to government resources, debatable data, and the divide between development research and development work, among others. I learned that to achieve in Agra, one must work extremely hard. Through my report writing at CURE, I also discovered the worth of private companies providing what is considered a public good, like electricity.

My time at CURE reinforced my desire to work in development, but also taught me that I am less interested in data collection than I am in implementation. It also reassured me of my need to attain further formal education before I can work at the level which I desire.