

Will Matson

Executive Summary

The Grameen Bank fights poverty in rural Bangladesh by offering small micro-credit loans to people who otherwise do not have access to financial institutions. The model is now emulated in countries across the globe. The Grameen Bank and Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the founder, were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for their role in improving the lives of millions. My summer internship with such an amazing organization was a tremendous learning experience and an exciting adventure.

Throughout the five-week duration of my internship with Grameen Bank I found myself being assigned new and interesting tasks each week. During the first week my supervisor gave me large quantities of literature about the organization (annual reports, brochures, statements from the Chairman, etc.). My initial assignments were to read them, analyze them, and present him with my thoughts and questions on their content. I then spent a large portion of my time in the village of Ullaparra, where I assisted in disbursing loans to borrowers and collecting repayment installments. I visited borrowers' homes and discussed with them, through my translator, their financial history, their current loan structure, and most importantly how Grameen bank and access to credit has improved their livelihood. I also performed clerical duties at headquarters, met with the heads of various departments of the Bank, and visited sister companies of Grameen Bank that combat poverty by alternate means, like providing access to clean water and electricity. A highlight of my internship was when I was met with Dr. Yunus and we discussed the role of business in solving society's problems.

I could not have dreamed of a better internship opportunity than the one I was fortunate enough to have with the Grameen Bank in Dhaka, Bangladesh. My internship coordinator and the entire staff were flexible and catered to my every need. It was amazing to work with an organization that has succeeded in combating poverty and helping people improve their livelihood.