

Internship Report - Niharika Jacob



Introduction

Hi, I am Niharika Jacob, and I worked as an Intern at the India office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) for a period of eight weeks (03rd June 2022 to 29th July 2022). Although I had previously done an internship in New Delhi, two years ago, at Brookings institute, the involvement in an institute of this significance and scale was new to me. I have come to appreciate the knowledge I possessed and even gained new perspectives. During the course of this internship, my learning has taken birth from various sources and shaped itself into a multi-dimensional space.

Working at KAS India and key takeaways

The internship opened up the international system to me as a whole and as parts. It provided the expertise of specializing in a region (India) and at the same time, it gave me a global outlook on issues. The learning, un-learning, and re-learning of the country's foreign policy and the motives for the country to act in a particular way could be analyzed better from a foreign perspective. The rise of the right-wing populist regimes, the rise of China from a country specific perspective, to the global impact and changing world order, the trends in global recovery from the pandemic, and many such subjects are not merely a reflection of a particular issue but are interlinked with one another.

As a scholar of International Studies, the internship at KAS supplied me with discussions and viewpoints to understand and gather knowledge on these various dimensions stemming from international relations. The many events which were held by the institution (those that focused on the region with my interest and other regions as well) gave me an opportunity to learn how the world works as a web of interconnected activities.

During this internship, I learnt the method to scrutinize and question the happenings around me. The interplay of economics, sociology, politics and history in international arena became clearer to me. Through the discussions and the conferences at the institute, I understood that merely following a country's international affairs is not sufficient to gain area expertise. The trick lies in scrutinizing internal affairs in conjunction with seeking answers in history to the questions that emerge in the

present. I learnt how to attack the issue and the importance of interconnectedness (as opposed to isolationist method of study).

Conclusion

Although, the formal internship concluded on 29th July, my experience at KAS was enriching and exciting. There was always a task to do, an opportunity to make use of, a scholar to learn from, and a perspective to discover. The researchers at KAS were always welcoming, cooperative, and intellectual. It was a safe space for learning, and I am immensely aware of the growth I experienced at this institute.

My office colleagues and superior officers, offered not only their expertise and guidance but also opened the door for me to reach out and attain as much knowledge as possible. They guided me not merely in matters of IR and politics but, also helped me improve my writing, communication, and my thinking capacities.

