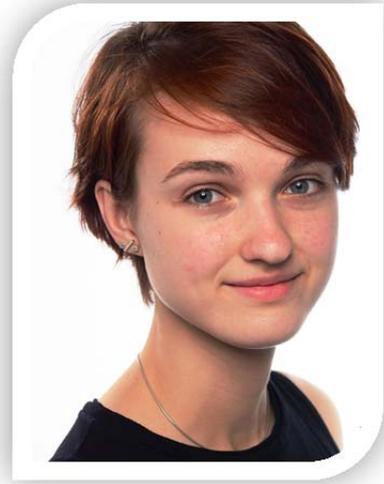


**Name: Antonia Kleinschmidt (via Volunta)**  
**Country: Germany**  
**Volunteering period: August 2016 – July 2017**



### **Final Impression, July 2017**

I have spent one year at Sambhali and had a very memorable time, in which I learned quite a lot about India, the work of NGO's, and the people in this country.

I have worked in three different projects throughout the year. I did the "No Bad Touch"-Workshop with Vimlesh, one of the Indian staff members, worked in the Sheerni Girls Home for 12 months, and also worked in the Laadli Girls Home for two months. In addition to that, I was volunteer coordinator and wrote the Newsletter for six months.

The Workshop was a lot of fun, although it got a little bit repetitive after a few months. Working with Vimlesh is an amazing experience, since she is an incredible woman. The workshop spreads awareness about sexual abuse and is held in different schools in Jodhpur. Knowing how important this work is, motivated me quite a lot to continue doing it.

The work in the Girls Homes was definitely one of my favorite things about my time here. I developed a very strong bond with the girls and would love to come and visit them in the future. They always made me smile and gave my time here a lot of purpose.

Working as volunteer coordinator was not always easy, but I am very glad I did it. I got to know a lot of different people and definitely improved my organization and communication skills.

I definitely enjoyed working at Sambhali and getting to know the amazing girls and women who are part of this organization.

Of course, there were misunderstandings, disagreements and differences that had to be overcome to achieve an atmosphere that everybody felt comfortable working in. But to be confronted with situations like that only taught me more about communicating and cooperating within an organization. Eventually, all problems can be talked about with Govind or another staff member and it will be tried to find a solution. Sometimes this is a longer process, so one needs to be patient and have a lot of persistence.

Living at the Durag Niwas Guesthouse with all the other volunteers and the family of Govind was very nice. The atmosphere was always very friendly and welcoming. The food was good, but it definitely took some adjustments from my side. Sometimes it got a little bit boring, but in these cases the cook and Mukta were very open to suggestions and always tried to find improvements. It took me some getting used to sharing my private space with another person and living so close to my workplace, but it is manageable and also has many advantages.

I learned so much during my time at Sambhali. About India, Sambhali, the women and children I was working with and from the other volunteers. Living together with so many different people really opens up your mind and makes the whole experience even more fun. In the evening you can meet the others on the roof, talk, listen to music and have a drink or go out for dinner and enjoy the view of the fort at night. One of my favorite things were our short weekend trips to nearby cities in Rajasthan. I had many opportunities to discover more of India and get away from work every now and then. These short trips brought me very close to my fellow volunteers and were all unique experiences.

I want to thank Govind, Mukta, their friends and family and all of Sambhali for giving me the opportunity to spend one year as a part of their community, looking out for me and teaching me so much. It really was an amazing year.