Before traveling to India, I did extensive research on the culture and society, ranging from women in Indian literature to recent development efforts concerning electricity and energy. I wanted to prepare myself as much as possible for this new country, one that had much different societal views. Since I had worked previously before in developing countries, I did have certain expectations but knew this would be a unique experience.

I divided my time at work at the Delhi office and at the factory located in Bahadurgarh, a slum almost two hours away from the city. At the factory, I assisted workers in daily activities such as creating the products, putting together artwork, and doing some office work. I occasionally visited the school that Conserve India runs and saw where profits from the company went. The products being created by the slum workers and sold were used to fund a small school for the slum children. It was the only educational resource in the area. While there, I worked with the president to stop efforts in segregating the school by religion. Indian society, although diverse, has many discriminatory factors, religion being one of them. It was touching to see the children of the workers at the factory and how enthusiastic they were about attending school.

In the slum itself were the units where the workers separated the plastic bags to make the products. During one of my trips, we invited a television crew to document their story. It was a great experience to see the increased interest in Delhi on upcycling, NGOs, and the green movement.

During my time in the Delhi office, I was in charge of planning and organizing an exhibition in December. The president and slum workers were planning on creating artwork and products to sell to fund the school. During my two month internship, I successfully found a
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sponsor to fund the exhibition and expanded it into a traveling show, including London and California. Expected funds for the school are $5,000+.