

The Issue at Hand

The website slaveryfootprint.org estimates through a series of simple questions how many slaves the user has exploited. Based on the food I eat, the clothes I wear, the electronics I use ... my number is 41. That means just by going about my daily life, I have been responsible for taking advantage of someone I will never meet. The slavery epidemic has stolen the freedom of millions of children, men and women, and the worst part is, it is fueled by people who are unaware of the part they play.

Slavery is a worldwide problem, but India has one of the most prevalent slavery populations in the world. Depending on the website, the slavery population of India can range from 8 million to 18 million. Through my research into this subject, I realized slavery has become so integrated into our lives, it cannot go away unless people become more aware, and I would like to understand it deeper myself.

It made me feel hopeless when I first realized I was an enabler. I was shocked when I saw how heavily incorporated slavery is in my life based on the estimates of slaveryfootprint.org. In a sense, contributing to the slavery industry seems inevitable at this point. However, I would like to try to raise awareness through a project surrounding my major: Multiplatform Journalism.

Journalism is a powerful tool for exposure and change. For example, The New York Times' series "The iEconomy" explains about the harsh working conditions of Apple employees in China. Additionally, The Los Angeles Times made sexual assault in Boy Scouts of America public knowledge. Similarly, the Boston Globe's Spotlight team catalyzed the exposure of sexual assault in the Catholic Church.

I believe journalism in its purest form is knowledgeable advocacy for the underrepresented. I came to Bowling Green State University to develop the skills I need to master this form of journalism. As part of this development, I want to uncover the social injustices happening in my childhood home, India. Through the generosity of the Givens Memorial Fellowship, I hope to work on a Multiplatform Journalism project in multiple cities throughout India during break and Winter Session 2020.

My Connection to India

I spent 10 years of my life in New Delhi, India from ages 3 to 13. During these formative years, I was aware of the number of needy people on New Delhi's densely populated streets; however, I was not aware of the slavery's huge presence in the country. I would feel compassion toward the blind man who begged for money on the corner of my childhood street and would give him a handful of rupees whenever I had money. Now I have learned how extreme the slavery epidemic is in India, and I realize it's quite likely he wasn't asking for rupees on his own accord. He could have been blinded by exploiters, who were looking to make money off a disability. His situation is the same for many of the hundreds of beggars I would see in New Delhi every day.

During my transition to college, I decided to go into journalism because of my time in India. While the country has so much beauty and culture for its people and explorers to experience, the

poverty and suffering so many Indians endure is impossible for me to ignore. I hope to use journalism as a medium to help people, starting with the disadvantaged people of India.

Through the generosity of Givens Memorial Scholarship, I could develop a new perspective on my childhood home. Not one of pure nostalgia, but a more critical perspective — a more complete perspective. I was only a child during my time there. As an adult and with the journalistic skills I've developed, I feel I could do much more to help. But first, I need to understand the social injustices in India more deeply.

My development into the person I am today started in New Delhi, and I am anxious to see how much the city has changed and how much I have changed since living there. I intend to use the Givens Memorial Scholarship for personal growth — in other words, I want to find my purpose in life. I believe the search begins with supporting the disadvantaged people of India by learning more about their situations.

My Project

At BGSU I have practiced writing, photography, video shooting and editing, audio editing, graphic and website design within the confines of university classes and organizations. Now, I would like to develop a more abstract concept with an independent project — my own personal growth. The slavery epidemic is so vast and overwhelming, I would like to better understand it by being on the ground in one of the biggest slavery hotspots in the world. Additionally, I would coordinate with multiple profit and non-profit organizations that aid the disadvantaged people of India. The project would be 38 days long and take place during Winter Session 2020.

The first organization I would like to learn from is located in New Delhi, India, called Dynamic Training Services — an English school located in an impoverished Muslim neighborhood. The English language is associated with education in New Delhi; so, learning it increases a person's chances of getting a job. A second organization is Global Avenue Ministries, which helps victims of sex trafficking develop practical skills. Global Avenue Ministries is an umbrella organization of sorts, and supports smaller organizations in Kolkata, New Delhi and Nepal. I would work with the smaller organizations in New Delhi and Kolkata. Another organization similar to Global Avenue Ministries is Simaid, which provides many short-term and long-term opportunities for both journalists and volunteers.

A final organization is CRY (Child Rights & You), which helps with a range of issues from child labor and trafficking to malnutrition. I have already inquired about being a virtual volunteer for this organization and am waiting to hear back from them. When I go to India in the winter, I would travel to CRY's location in Mumbai for in-person volunteering to better understand the victims of slavery.

Itinerary

| City | Dates |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| New Delhi (Dynamic) | Dec. 16-29 |
| Mumbai (CRY) | Dec. 29-Jan. 5 |
| Kolkata (Global Avenue Ministries) | Jan. 5-12 |
| New Delhi (Global Avenue Ministries) | Jan. 12-22 |

I hope to create a more complete image for myself of many people in India's unfortunate living conditions. I would be incredibly grateful and honored to receive the Givens Memorial Scholarship. The generosity of the donors would let me complete a journey to find my role in journalism, which could lead to a career in advocacy for the disadvantaged.

Budget

Equipment

Fujifilm EF-42 Flash - \$159

Fujifilm Rechargeable Lithium-Ion Battery NP-W126S (3) - \$195

Audio-Technica ATR2100-USB Cardioid Dynamic USB/XLR Microphone (for Podcasts) - \$67

SD cards (3) - \$66

External hard drive - \$110

Adobe Creative Cloud (for video and photo editing / design elements) - \$240

Transportation

Round trip flight from Cleveland to New Delhi - \$2,250

One-way flight from New Delhi to Mumbai - \$130

One-way flight from Mumbai to Kolkata - \$130

One-way flight from Kolkata to New Delhi - \$150

On-ground transportation costs (metro, taxi, Uber, etc.) - \$200

Other Travel Costs

5 to 10-year Tourist Visa - \$300

Traveler's insurance - \$400

Health insurance - \$200

Meals

3 meals per day / \$10 per meal / 38 days - \$1,140

Housing (Airbnb)

New Delhi - \$700

Mumbai - \$300

Kolkata - \$300

Cultural Integration

Clothing costs - \$200

Miscellaneous costs

Vaccinations, emergency funds, phone service, etc. - \$260

TOTAL - \$7497