

GRANTEE EXPERIENCE REPORT

Indo-German Centre for Sustainability (IGCS)
IGCS Research Exchange, Grant Period 2024

experience report

Geethanjali R V



Experience Report, IGCS Research Exchange Grants, Funding Period 2024

IGCS Grantee

Geethanjali R V

Home Institute

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai

Home Supervisor

Dr. Christoph Woiwode

Host Institute

Department of Development Studies, University of Passau, Passau

Host Supervisor

Dr. Martina Padmanabhan

Research Topic

Analysing the ecological interventions in the Thamirabharani river using a political ecology discourse analysis

Focus Area

Water Management

Starting/End date of the student exchange period

15/05/2024 – 30/07/2024

A promotional poster for IGCS grants. It features a smiling woman with long dark hair, wearing a yellow long-sleeved shirt and a backpack, standing against a dark red background with a white mandala pattern behind her. The text on the poster reads: 'IGCS INDO-GERMAN Centre for SUSTAINABILITY', 'Grants For Students and Researchers', 'Conduct Research on sustainability topics in India or Germany', 'APPLICATION OPEN', and 'Floating deadline for the year 2024'. At the bottom, it says 'For more information: <https://www.igcs-chennai.org/grants/>'. The footer contains logos for funding partners: DAAD, Department of Science and Technology, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, RWTH Aachen University, CIAU (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology), and TU9 (German Association of Universities of Technology).

As part of the IGCS scholarship grantees have agreed to provide an experience report to help IGCS evaluate their program. This experience report consists of two parts:

Part I: Written Testimonial

As a person who has grown up seeing the Thamirabharani river, I had always been deeply affected by the pollution and the issues that the river has undergone in the recent few years. Therefore, this project was a way for me to put my knowledge about sustainability and political ecology into use into something I was really passionate about. This project was taken up as a part of the Global River Cities Network, under the guidance of Prof. Martina Padmanabhan. I then applied for this scholarship, and after an elaborate application process, I was notified that I had indeed received the scholarship to continue the research in Germany through the summer. While planning my stay there, my major expectations were to create meaningful conversations and to gather as much knowledge as possible. And of course, I wanted to see a little bit of Europe too! Since my research will also culminate into my Master Thesis, I was really focused on working with my peers to understand my research questions and come up with a research proposal with the help of the professors and her PhD students there. And it is safe to say that I received the guidance that I had expected and everyone went beyond their way to make me feel comfortable and integrate me into their team. I especially will not forget the 'Research Lab' that the research team had hosted for me, which involved me bringing my ideas and the progress that I had done to a common forum where everyone gave constructive criticism for my research and also provided valuable advice from their years long of experience.

One of my main learnings through my time there was understanding how to approach a research problem. My professor and my peers taught me how to effectively narrow down research to align with my objectives and how to effectively conduct a literature review, two issues I was struggling to cope up with.

I am positive that the learnings and the friendships I have made will stay with me forever and help me as I move forward with my career. Two months living in another country has also personally made me more confident and proactive than before.

To all those who are planning on applying to the programme, this is your sign to do it! You will only truly understand how it is to learn and grow with a diverse bunch of people once you experience it. And as cliché as it might sound, it will be an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Part II: Digital Media

Share your experience in digital media- maybe photographs, illustration, or graphics. Share them in the space below.



