

Environmental and rural solutions (ERS) what a great environment a person can be at. It is a great place to interact with different kind of people who work together to achieve a common goal. As a Human Resource (HR) intern it was not easy to adapt, because everything was new to me. I didn't know so much in Environmental/field work however if you are ambitious and willing to learn it helps you to grow in your career. I remember the first time I joined ERS, all I knew was the theory of Human resource management but now I had to do it practically which was all new to me. I am always amused when I look at my qualification and compare the work that I am doing at ERS because I never thought that an HR administrator could find himself doing environmental work. It is very interesting to work for an organization that gives you different kinds of exposures and skill. As much as I get a lot of experience in my Human resource management training, I also learn a lot about the environment.

Being part of the first rand foundation (FRF) program taught me that sometimes you do not need special qualifications or to be highly educated in order to do certain work. If you take a look at the FRF interns, some of them only had matric certificates and some did not have any but look at what they have achieved so far. The training and experience that they got from ERS has turned their future around.

Sometimes at work we face different kind of challenges but because of love, you give it all the best that you can in order to make a difference. I remember the day we had to do home visits to collect data on how the interns were spending their stipends. While we were collecting the data, I received a call instructing me to inform one of our interns that her brother had passed away. It was really not easy for me, but I told myself that I have to be strong and breakdown the news to her. At that moment, I realized that sometimes at work you have to go beyond the boundaries and put all the necessary efforts to support your colleagues.

I was inspired by the love and dedication that Zuko Fekesi gave the interns when he was interacting with them. It is never easy to work with young people because sometimes you have to be strict about work and you have to understand them. It would be a great opportunity to have another 40 interns because this program is a breakthrough to success for the youth especially in rural communities because they do not get these kind of opportunities to change their lives.

I would like to wish Environmental and rural solutions a continued success, the love and patience we get from our leaders is awesome. I have learned so much in their leadership skills and I am grateful for the support that my colleagues have given me.