Visitor Checklist
Avani Children’s Home, Women and Child’s Rights Campaign (WCRC)

Vaccinations
You will be expected to be current on all of your vaccinations including the seven listed below. Bring a certified immunization record or receipt copy with you as proof at the immigration counter. You may or may not be requested for this.

Routine Shots  Recommended if you are not up-to-date with routine shots, such as measles/mumps/rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine, etc.

H1N1, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Japanese Encephalitis If available, Malaria, Rabies, and Typhoid  Recommended for all unvaccinated people traveling to or working in South Asia, especially if visiting smaller cities, villages, or rural areas where exposure might occur through food or water.

Items to Bring
Comfortable Hiking Boots  You will be expected to remove them often as you enter certain places such as personal residences and temples. Most flooring surfaces and stairs are polished marble and can be very slippery with no handrails. Good, non-slip rubber soles are advisable. Waterproof footwear is recommended during the monsoon rainy season from June - October.

Most roads and paths are dirt with very few paved sidewalks. You can wear sandals. However, expect your feet to be very dusty and dirty by the end of the day.

Thick Socks  You will be expected to remove your shoes when entering the homes of the rural villagers. Most of these homes have hard dirt floors. Thick, dark colored socks are recommended as light colors tend to get dirty quicker.

Long Pants, Slacks or Blue Jeans  Most places we visit throughout the day will be dusty and dirty. Shorts not recommended and are not considered appropriate for women. Expect them to get dirty in the course of a day of riding public transportation. Wash and wear clothing is recommended. Clothes will need to be washed in the basin at the place you are lodging at. Hotels offer laundry services.

Shirts and Blouses  Women’s clothing should not have a plunging neckline or reveal the shoulders or upper arms. They are not considered appropriate for women. Light, pastel, solid colored clothing vs. bright colors with logos, graphics or prints are recommended.

Wash and wear clothing is recommended. Clothes will need to be washed in the basin at the place you are lodging at. Only hotels offer laundry services.
Hat with large Brim  It is sunny and hot from October - June and hot from February - June.

Sunglasses  A good quality pair with UV protection is recommended. It is sunny from October - June.

Electric Outlet Converter  If you are bringing devices requiring electricity, bring a good quality, EU (European Union) compatible conversion unit.

Compact Flashlight  Invest in a small, good quality flashlight and bring 2 sets of spare batteries. The Kolhapur district usually provides only 8-10 of electricity per day.

Bug Repellant  Mosquitoes are prevalent at sunset. Ants are common but most do not bite. Bug repellant sprays and creams are useful.

Toilet Paper  The public toilets are very unsanitary. They are very few western style sitting toilets and they do not provide toilet paper.

Hand Sanitizer  Quick drying alcohol based products work best. 10 - 12 ounce size.

Laundry Detergent  A Woolite type laundry detergent is recommended for hand washing clothes in the basin where you are lodged. Bring only as much as you think you will need.

Things You Should Know

Pack Light  It will be much easier for you to travel within the country if you pack light. A comfortable back pack and medium sized carry-on bag should be sufficient. The back pack or a small day pack will be useful when we travel to visit the projects. Luggage with wheels will be of little help in Kolhapur as most ground surfaces are dirt.

Most toiletries and certain snack foods can be purchased inexpensively in town.

Limited Internet and WiFi Access  Access to the internet in the rural areas is limited and WiFi is nonexistent except at the Avani Children’s Home campus.

Drink Only Bottled Water  Typhoid is very common in India and is primarily spread through unclean water. Only drink water from sealed bottles that you have purchased or have been provided by AVANI.

Precautions  At the new property and construction site, when moving a rock, always use your foot. Good quality hiking boots and long pants recommended at all times. Always watch where you are walking and pay attention to your surroundings.
Dietary Considerations

**Vegetarian and Non-Vegetarian Foods** In Kolhapur, **Breakfast** is normally served at 9:00 AM, **Lunch** is taken at 2:00 PM, and **Dinner** is taken at 9:00 PM

Local Customs

**Water** As we visit homes in the rural countryside, it is customary that they will offer you a glass of water in a metal cup. You must pleasantly decline as the water has not been purified to the standards necessary to prevent you from getting Typhoid. Always carry a bottle of water to show them that you already have water.

**Tea** Called Chaha in India is usually safe to drink as it is served very hot. Indian tea contains ginger, cardamon, and buffalo milk, which is very rich in cream content.

At the Mumbai Airport

**Immigration** Upon arriving at the airport in Mumbai, you will be asked for the address at which you will be staying during your visit to India. You can use the following address:

AVANI Samajik Sanstha, Jeevba Nana Jadhav Park, Plot No. 544 R, 545, Radhanagari Road
Kolhapur 416012, Maharashtra, India
Office Phone: 02312325002        Anuradha: +91 98-81-320946

**Indian Tourist Visa** Since you will be arriving at the Pune, India airport, you will not be able to apply for an Indian Tourist Visa at the airport. However, this type of Visa is only good for 30 days and will not allow you the additional time you require to stay in the country.

You are required to apply online at Cox & Kings Global Services. They are the official agency commissioned by the government of India. Their website address is: [www.in.ckgs.us](http://www.in.ckgs.us)

You should be able to apply for a 10 year, multiple-entry visa. The costs (as of August, 2015) were around $100 plus processing, shipping and handling.

Please visit their website and you may contact Scott Kafora at scott@teysha.net if you run into any difficulty.

Arriving in Kolhapur

**Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO)** Upon arriving in Kolhapur, you may be required to register with the Indian Bureau of Immigration within 14 days of arriving in India. We will let you know if this will apply to you after you arrive.

You will need to bring with you several xerox copies of all of your travels documents (passport, Indian tourist visa, copy of air travel flight details in and out of country, (5) sets of 2”x2” passport photos).