

Big Help for Education Post Internship

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I've always done volunteering but never thought much of it. It was always boring and something I would drag myself to do. That's how I thought the Big Help Internship project would go. I thought I was just going to lecture a bunch of people I didn't even know about my life and then leave. But when I went, it was definitely way more than lecturing a bunch of kids. It was the most fun I'd had in a long time and I learned a lot too.

When I first got into the school I was pretty nervous even though I thought it was going to go badly. I was nervous about talking to 80 kids in a different language than mine. But when I went in, I was greeted with faces of excitement and anticipation which was all I needed to get over the nervousness. The first hour of my introduction was difficult because of the language barrier but still very eye opening. It was interesting comparing my life to the students', finding similarities and differences, and learning more about each other's' culture. I also found similarities between the class and my 9th grade class back in America. I found the class clown who always goofed up or made a joke and the smart Alec whose hand always shot up first and also the teacher's pet who

made sure to compliment me. It made me realize that even though we live in two different countries and have two different lives we are still the very much the same.

After the introduction I was excited to show the kids my activities. My first activity was teaching the students Tae Kwon Do and self-defense. I thought teaching self-defense would be an important skill to learn as you grow up so you can protect yourself when you are in harm. The kids took direction really well and I was impressed at how well they caught on. I saw girls and boys showing their stronger side with no fear. And it amazed me how much their confidence was boosted from only doing a few simple punches.

The second day at the school I introduced myself to another class of students which was equally terrifying but also equally fun and interesting. The activity I planned was a Pictionary game but instead of drawing, we would use clay to shape and mold the word. Then the other group members from the team would guess the word. I choose this game because one thing I noticed is that Indian schools don't give a lot of creative leeway for the student to think of different ideas in their own way. It was fun to see the students bring out their creative side to think about different ways to mold something for their friends to understand.

Saying good bye to the students was sad because I know I wouldn't see them again even though I had an amazing time. I shared a special bond with each and every kid and it felt special that we all learned a little something about each other. I felt

accomplished knowing that I might have inspired these kids to maybe do something great or help another person in their life. I was extremely happy that I went along with the internship and that I didn't back out at the last second. My eyes were opened to the fact that not all volunteering is monotonous and sometimes it might just inspire someone to do great things or become a great person. And on my way out of the school I realized how much I meant to these kids when these 3 girls came up to be and thanked me again for coming and told me I should come again next year. I would do this every year if I had the time with no regrets because no matter what, helping other people is the best way to enjoy yourself.







