

# Bighelp for Education Post-Internship Report

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For my Youth Internship with the Bighelp organization I went to the Bandarpally Model School in Bandarpally, Warangal district, Telangana, India. Bandarpally is a small village in the Warangal district. There are around 600 students that go to Bandarpally model school, with grades 1 to 10, and students are taught in either English or Telugu medium. The school is a two story building with 13 classrooms on the first floor and 12 classrooms on the second floor. The school was built in a square shape, where the classrooms are on the edge of the square, while on the inside they have a small field, which they also use as a mess hall. There are around 600 students that go to Bandarpally model school. The school is co-ed, however boys and girls are separated into different classrooms. Each classroom had around 30 students. The school looked okay from the outside, but on the inside the classrooms were a bit dirty and crowded.

On the first day of my internship I had planned to give my introduction and then teach the kids about how to play the game of soccer. I went into the 10th grade boys classroom ready to give an intro that was supposed to last an hour, but instead lasted 15 minutes. I was very nervous in those fifteen minutes and felt very awkward standing up and talking to all these people that I was just meeting for the first time. I stumbled over my introduction and did not even cover half the things I wanted to talk about. Instead I thought if we all went outside and played a bit, it might help break the tension. The first thing I did was have a 10 minute scrimmage to

assess their skill level. It turns out that for most of these kids this was their first time playing soccer. So they did what a lot of first time players do; they ran blindly at the ball and kicked it. It was honestly very funny to watch. It reminded me of my first time playing soccer, just chasing the ball. After the scrimmage I got them all together and explained the game of soccer. I told them about the rules, passing, defending, and how to shoot the ball. It took some time, but I think they understood the game pretty well. After I explained everything to them, we played another scrimmage for half an hour, and the kids picked up the game really well. They were having a lot of fun. We even got one of the teachers to join the game. It was altogether very fun, and helped break the ice between me and the students. After the scrimmage, while on a water break, I asked the kids about India and their schooling. They told me that after this grade they would go to a new school for 11th and 12th grade. They also told me that 11th and 12th grade in India is called Inter. They also asked me all about America and how it was. They asked me whether I still watch Indian movies, and have I ever had Indian food. By the time we finished talking, there was no more time left to play. We said our goodbyes, and then left.

The second day of my internship dealt with both the boys and the girls, and this time it was about public speaking. I first called in all the girls. I gave a short introduction to the girls about who I am, and why I am here. I then taught them about public speaking; tips, applications later on in life, and why it was important. After my speech, I gave them 10 minutes to prepare a 2 minute speech on why they should be prime minister of India. At first the girls were very shy about going up and talking in front of their peers. It took nearly five minutes to convince the first one to come up. Overall the girls had great speeches with a lot of content, however their body language and eye contact were not that good. The class teacher and I then chose which girls we thought were the top 3, and gave them prizes. I answered some questions of the girls about America, and showed them all an American one dollar bill. We sent back the girls to their classroom, and called up the boys. I gave the same speech about public speaking and had them do the same speaking activity. Their boys speech lacked content, but their body language and flow was very relaxed. We again picked out the top 2, and I continued answering questions from the students. I also showed them an American dollar bill. I told them what they could improve on in their speeches, and I think they really learned from it. Afterwards we went down to where the principal was, collected the bags, and handed them out. Unfortunately, we had to leave right afterwards, which concluded my time at the school.

I was able to learn a lot from this internship. The students were able to teach me about the school system in India and the way it works. Here in America when we get a final grade from a class it is a culmination of a lot of things; quizzes, tests, homework, classwork, etc. In India your entire grade depends on your tests. Another difference is in applying to colleges. In America they look at everything from your SAT scores to your extracurricular activities. In India you write an entrance exam, and depending on how well you did in that test, you get accepted or rejected. Another difference between America and India is the respect they give their teachers. They call their teachers 'sir' or 'madam', while I call my teachers 'mr' or 'mrs'. I've even had teachers who are fine with calling me by their first name. They seem to be a lot more respectful of their teachers in India and they seem a lot more disciplined. They seem like they

never have behavior problems in India, where as in America behavior problems are very common. One of the few things we had in common was the classes we were taking. We both were taking biology, chemistry, and calculus. I found that some students often had questions about things you would assume to be common knowledge in the US. For example, they asked me what language do people in America speak. I found it so odd that they did not know that Americans speak English. Then I realized that people speak multiple languages in India, so they might assume the same about America. They also thought that all Americans ate only pizza, sandwiches, and burgers. Everything they knew about America was based on stereotypes.

My internship was really a lot of fun. I was able to make some great new friends, who taught me a lot about friendship. They barely even knew who I was, but they quickly made me their friend. They really helped me feel more comfortable and helped make the internship a success. They even gave a small belt which is supposed to be a friendship band. This action really touched me, that they considered me a friend so quickly. Luckily I will still be able to communicate with them over Facebook. I really enjoyed my internship and am thankful to the Bighelp Organization for this opportunity. I never would have been able to do this without Chand Uncle and Mythili Aunty's help. They listened to me and were able to give pointers and tips on what I could do better. I also want to thank my parents for supporting me on this journey of giving. They were the ones who pushed me to do this, and I'm so glad that they did. Even my sister was able to help me prepare my workshop material, so thanks to her as well. Lastly I want to thank the teachers, the headmaster, and the kids at the school. I came to the school to give, but it feels like they were the ones who gave to me. I could not ask for a better school to do this internship. So thank you to them and everyone aforementioned.

## Pictures





