

# **Big Help for Education**

## **Post Internship By: Ashish Babu Narne**

### **Date: July 7-8, 2016**

**My name is Ashish Babu Narne, I am from the USA and I have completed a summer internship 2016 program. The name of the school I interned on behalf of Summer BigHelp Internship Program was ITC Badrachalam Public School. It is an English medium school. Here are some facts about the school:**

- Number of students: 1,210**
- Number of teachers: 58**
- Number of classrooms: 39**

**The school is located in Sarapaka, Badrachalam which is located in the state of Telangana. Sarapaka is 1 kilometer away from Badrachalam and has very little traffic so it takes 5 minutes. The village is known for the Sri Rama temple and ITC Badrachalam Paperboard factory. I went to the temple along with my family and there were a lot of people there doing prayers. The main source of living is employment from ITC Badrachalam Paperboards, poultry, livestock and farming. It is very hot there during summer and there are so many mosquitoes. My grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins from my father's side live there, that is how I am connected with Sarapaka village.**

**Some of the differences that I noticed between USA and Indian schooling include are, students stay in one classroom**

while teachers rotate for each class. Students eat in their own classroom and there is no separate school lunch room or cafeteria. Also the students have a school uniform, and they are required to wear it to the school. They have a cricket field outside and they play cricket every day. In USA, the school system includes Elementary, Middle and High School, but the school that I visited has one school facility to teach from Preschool to tenth grade. In India, the eleventh and twelfth grades are considered as Junior college. And they have early morning prayers which promote India. They call class in India whereas we call grades in USA. I observed that the children were very curious; they asked lots of questions. Mostly informational questions and I explained them how it works. Also the students stood up when someone entered the room and they also stood up when they were talking. They were very polite, respectful, and friendly. One of the funniest events that I encountered is that the class was continuously disturbed by monkeys peeking through the windows and trying to get in.

I completed an intense preparation program in the USA which consisted of preparing the script, practicing it, buying supplies for BigHelp.

On the first day I was introduced by the principal to Mrs. Sujatha who was the student coordinator. She took me to the class and introduced me to the students. My class was started with introductions, and then I explained about USA life style and education system. We compared the USA with India and I taught the students about solar power. I started my presentation at 9 am and it ended at 12pm on this day. They had so many questions about things such as currency,

school bus, food, etc. They were so interested about the USA and they talked a lot about India. I talked about Bala Vihar at Chinmayya Mission and the prayers that I learned. We talked about the holidays in USA. They had lot of questions about Halloween and its significance. They also asked lot of questions about Christmas and significance of Santa Clause during Christmas time. I shared with the class about how I celebrate Indian festivals like Diwali in USA. I also learned about Indian festivals that I am not familiar with. We talked about currencies of both the countries and conversion value between US Dollar and Indian Rupee. They asked lot of questions on the currency conversion. I had to use my math skills to provide them answers. We also did a group project where the students brainstormed ideas on how to use solar power. The concluding project from day one was testing solar power with a solar rover. This was probably the most amazing part of the program for the students. They were so interested and curious. We were going to demonstrate it under the sun, but it was raining so we put it under a 100 watts lightbulb to prove the concept.

On the second day, I taught the students about environmental awareness. The kids in India are very smart and they do understand what 3Rs mean. We talked a lot about 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). We also talked about the significance of trees to keep healthy environment. We did an art project competition and they found it very fun. They had to draw a healthy environment and write their favorite quote associated with healthy environment. I was impressed with one of the student's quote. He wrote: "Environment is not a gift from our previous generations; it is a loan from our next generations". The top six students got first place medals. I picked three of them based on their art work and rest of the three students based on their quotes. Finally we planted twenty plants around the school. Apart of the school helpers some helpers from my uncle's farm came

to support us. After the lunch break we went back to the school and I distributed backpacks to the class toppers. On the second day I started at 9:15 am and ended at 1:35 pm.

Some of the things that I donated to the school include Solar Rover, backpacks, toys, and pens. Some of the enthusiastic student's names I remember include Ashish, Aditya, and Manasa.

I felt very satisfied at the end of the program and the effect was that I educated the kids. Bighelp trained me very well by guiding me through all the planning.

I would like to thank my parents for supporting me with the whole process during my preparations in USA and also during my presentation in India. I also like to thank my sister for distributing the gifts when they had a question and when they had the right answer to my question. I would also like to thank the principle, at ITC Bhadrachalam Public School, Mr. Prabhakar Reddy for giving me the opportunity to do my presentation at their busy schedule and also for arranging the backpack presentation. I also like to thank class room teachers for stopping the class and allowing me to be there to give the presentation. And a very special thanks to the students for listening to me, being my friends, teaching me about Indian culture, and for participating. That gave me a lot of motivation and excitement to go to school the next day. That enthusiasm made me go deeper into the presentation and the final result is a very successful presentation.

I would like to thank Padma aunty for preparing, directing, and encouraging me throughout the preparation

for the internship program. She taught me to be confident. I would also like to thank Mythili aunty for guiding and preparing me well for the internship program.

I am attaching some of the pictures from my Internship experience below:











