

## Bighelp For Education

Post Internship By: Nandini Sivakumar

Date: July 11-12, 2016

My name is Nandini Sivakumar and I am in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. I went to Zilla Parishad High School which is located in Suryapet, Boduppall in Hyderabad for my summer internship program. It is both an English and Telugu medium school. I was assigned to teach 9<sup>th</sup> grade which has around 200 students. There are 8 teachers one for each subject (Math, Physics, Chemistry, Math, Social Science, English, and Telugu) though I only met the English teacher, Ms. Vijaya Lakshmi. There are 5 sections in 9<sup>th</sup>, I interacted with 9-E which had around 40 students. The school is arranged where there is a pretty big ground. If you walk further there are three blocks to the left, right and center. Senior secondary is located in the one in the center. The school only teaches until grade 10.

Zilla Parishad High School is located in Suryapet, Boduppall. There is a vegetable market located right outside. Because I went on a rainy day the weather was chilly and cold but the cold was not as evident in the classroom. Most of the student's parents work in agriculture industry or in government jobs. I came to the school because it is very close to my house. Suryapet is located in the Nalgonda District of Telangana. It has a historical recognition as the Gate way of Telangana. Suryapet experiences tropical dry and wet climate. The average temperature is 36 degrees Celsius though it can spike to a high 45 degrees in the summer. Summer is from March to June and winter is from December to January. In the monsoon season

from June to September, it receives the about 180mm of rainfall.

Two things I learnt was that one - this school follows state syllabus. That means that it is run by the Telangana government and gets all funds through them. The second thing I learnt was that there was a lot less population compared to the Indian school I go to which is a private CBSE school (governed by the central government in Delhi).

This youth internship program was an awesome experience. It was good to do something different for a change as we do not get to experience something like this often. I had a lot of fun mingling with the students and learnt a lot. It was a different experience, different from just donating things to the school but also interacting with the students. I was actually really surprised by their knowledge. They already knew a couple of topics I was teaching.

I started by knowing their names. Some of them were Sravani, Kumar, Nandita, Bhargav, Pradeep, Lingeshwari, Vaishnavi, etc.

Afterwards I explained a little bit about U.S and the environment for 2 hours. I told them about the seasons in the U.S, where it is located, the festivals celebrated there, showed them coins and told them about school system in U.S. I also told them a bit about my school. I asked them to suggest reasons why the environment needs saving. I told them a bit about global warming and CFC's (Chlorofluorocarbons). Then we discussed ways to reduce pollution, the 3R's, impact of global warming on animals and wildlife, etc. Almost all of the children walk to school and I appreciated them and told them

how they were already contributing to conservation. I stressed on the reduction of electricity and on recycling paper. In fact the day I went was the day most of Hyderabad schools were planting trees. So after my session they went to Nallakunta to plant trees and contribute to the movement.

The second day I started by reviewing what we learnt the previous day. Then I taught them all how to make newspaper bags. We all had a lot of fun for an hour. Afterwards I called a couple of people to talk for a minute in front of the class. This lasted for about half an hour. They spoke about how many family members they have, what is their ambition in life and what they like to do in their spare time. Then I concluded by reading a story which I wrote myself which took about 10 minutes. They all said they enjoyed the experience very much. On behalf of Bighelp, I donated 20 school bags to 20 children of senior secondary. I gave each student in my class 2 pencils and a biscuit packet.

The experience of teaching a class is amazing. Apart from being a student myself I got a chance to teach students of my age. I got to learn a lot of things about them. Teaching them helped improve my confidence to speak in front of people. The class was very interactive and responded very well so it didn't feel like I was teaching, more like I was just discussing with a bunch of kids. Only difference was I was standing in the front of the class. I had a lot of fun and it was a very unique experience. Bighelp played a key role in all of this. Without it I wouldn't have had the chance to do something so different, memorable and fun. In fact the principal of the school even invited me to give motivational talks to grades 9 and 10 on my own, without

representing Bighelp. So it is a very good project that nobody will regret after they start. All the months of my hard work totally paid off and it was totally worth it.

Most importantly the students enjoyed it very much. Opportunities like this do not come every day. They felt even more comfortable talking with someone their own age. We shared knowledge and I taught them how to speak in front of people. Though they were very shy at first slowly they got the hang of it. In the busy schedule the teachers often do not have time to do activities that indirectly help the child build confidence. So I think it was a very different experience for them as well. They even wanted another session soon which shows how enthusiastic they were.

I would like to thank Bighelp again for giving me this amazing opportunity and I recommend it to all children interested. I would like to thank my mom and Ms. Vijaya Lakshmi for helping me carry out the activities and the principal of the school for encouraging such activities. I would like to thank my mentor, Mythili ma'am who guided me in all the preparation before the internship. She helped me so much and was very understanding. And I would also like to thank my class for cooperating with me and listening attentively. Thank you everyone.







