

Big Help for Education Post Internship Report

By: Shivani Merchia

Date: August 10-11, 2016

My name is Shivani Merchia and I participated as a youth intern for the Big Help for education foundation this past summer in Panchkula India. The school that I volunteered was Rally Middle School in the Rally Village, Sector 12a, Panchkula, Haryana, India. There are a total of 70 students in grade 8, six teachers in the entire school, two administrative staff, and one principal. Each sixth, seventh, and eighth grade has two classes which creates a total of about 210 students in the whole school.

Rally is located in sector 12A of Panchkula. Panchkula is a small city located in Haryana; where the district consists of the cities Chandigarh, Panchkula, Mohali, and Zirakpur. Panchkula is well recognized for its natural beauty, many wonderful gardens, and various temples. Some of these sites consist of the Cactus garden, Pinjore Gardens, and the Mansa Devi Temple. Another benefit to the city is its proximity to Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab and Haryana. Chandigarh is a globally known city for its architecture, urban design, and is known as India's wealthiest town. Chandigarh has about 15 medium sized industries and because of its proximity to Delhi it attracts countless IT businesses. Some of its cultural and social attractions are Sukhna Lake, Rock garden, and Rose garden. These sites play an important part in the city's tourism and economy. Chandigarh is additionally home to numerous educational institutions ranging from private to public schools and universities like Punjab University, PGIMER, Carmel Convent School, and many other acclaimed schools.

My maternal grandparents have both lived in the Panchkula, Chandigarh district for 21+ years in sector 12B. Though none of my grandparents actually attended Rally Middle School my grandfather has been volunteering his time for a few years now where he donates supplies to the children. Because he sees what his grandchildren have and the opportunities they are available to my grandfather believes that he should try and give some of the same opportunities to the underprivileged children in his community.

During my experience and time with the children I was able to learn and observe many of the differences and similarities between Indian and American schools as well as the culture. For example on my second day of the program I attended their morning assembly where the entire school gathered in the center courtyard and participated in daily routines such as reciting the national anthem,

morning exercises and giving a speech where they explicitly stated that girls should have the same liberty for an education as boys. This really stuck out at me because the Indian culture is known for not having much gender equality. In the classroom I also noticed that all of the children were wearing uniforms. I knew that this was common in India but I did not understand how these students and their parents could afford uniforms. I later learned from the principal that the school provided them with all of their books, uniforms, and an additional stipend where the girls received more than the boys. These small factors added to the charming and caring environment of the school.

During the two day internship I had an amazing time interacting, teaching, and simply spending time with these kids. On the first day of the internship I introduced myself with an introductory speech of about an hour so that I could get to know the children and become comfortable with them. We interactively discussed the many aspects of American life and how they compare to that of India. Initially we talked about the differences between the culture of our schools, such as the transportation, lunches, uniforms, and the different types of clothing that we wear throughout the seasons. We also discussed extracurriculars, the different seasons, Indian and American holidays and how they celebrate them in India and how I celebrate them in America; also I gave them a little bit of insight into US history and how this ties into the holidays, the different time zones in the country, currency (dollars and rupees), as well as famous sights/ activities that you can do in Boston and around America. I had brought several photos that went along with my speech and depicted the American lifestyle. When I got to a new topic I would pass around the pictures and ask the children questions about what they thought or how it would relate in India. After this I transitioned into my second activity of the day — Environmental awareness. In the short amount of time that I had left I was successfully able to give these eighth graders a cohesive explanation on environmental awareness, global climate change, greenhouse gases, recycling, etc... and what they can do to help. After teaching them about how to go green I conducted a small experiment with the children. First, I set aside two jars, one with the lid on and one without a lid; I put a thermometer in each and set them aside in the sunlight for about 10 min. The jar with the lid became hotter and represented global warming, whereas the open jar displays the ideal environmental conditions on Earth. While we were waiting for the jars to heat up, I led a verbal quiz on what we had just learned on environmental awareness. On the second day of the internship we attended the school assembly to hand out the 75 backpacks provided by Big Help, and gave a quick thank you

speech to Rally Middle School before returning to our classrooms and activities. With my class I first gave a brief introduction to reestablish myself and then proceeded to complete the activities for this day. I started out by showing the kids different examples of origami, and then explaining what the significance of this art was and where it came from. They were all very intrigued, excited, and asked many questions. I taught them how to create a paper box, frog, and ball. The origami took up about half an hour. Next, using the blackboard that they had in the front of the classroom, I conducted a small art class and demonstrated how to draw Mickey Mouse. This took up the majority of the time since the kids were taking their time sketching and coloring the drawing of Mickey Mouse. The final thing I had planned for today was to plant trees. I previously bought the plants and brought them to the school with me, so it would tie back into the subject of environmental awareness, and all that I had taught the kids the day before.

All together I had a wonderful time meeting and interacting one on one with the kids and teaching them about me and learning about them. It was an incredible experience and I am so glad that I had the opportunity to participate in something so remarkable. Before actually participating in the exchange part of the program I did not know how the children would react, if they would answer my questions or be interested in what I was going to be teaching them about at all; but as soon as I entered the room the kids unanimously said “good morning Didi” and I instantly felt comfortable and extremely happy that I could be here with all of these children. They were all very receptive and excited about every small little thing that I talked to them about. I was also very pleased with the level of participation from the children. They asked many questions and were genuinely interested in having conversations. I also realized that these kids valued education in a way that I did not, they did not see it as a right but a privilege that they were able to come to school everyday and earn an education that their parents most likely did not. It was a truly enlightening experience that really opened my eyes and gave me joy that simply my presence and stories about my life could make such an impact in someone else’s life.

In addition to handing out the backpacks, we also gave the children pencils, erasers, markers, and little notebooks. Also, since the school had no real blackboards or a functional toilet, my family decided to buy new chalkboards for the classrooms and fix their toilets. These additional services made the children as well as the teachers even more grateful and happy.

I am extremely grateful to the principal, teachers, and all students of Rally Middle School for lending me their time and giving me the opportunity to make a

difference in our lives. Both of my parents and grandparents who were greatly helpful in every single step of the way, by donating so much of their time, resources, and money to make this a real possibility. Thanks for taking out the time to buying me all of the supplies, and supporting me. Also I would especially like to acknowledge my mentors Anita Bachina and Rekha Gundimeda for volunteering many months of their time to helping me prepare for the Big Help internship. Without their guidance, knowledge, and consultations the workshop would not have been half as enlightening, and successful.







विर कल

धर्म जामरण
योग। जानकारी
रू होगा जिसमें

घान एवं सीनियर
नीजवानों को
र बात करते हुए
में सहायता
वह आने वाले
ह मयकड़,
त सिंह मौजूद थे।

निरंकारी
आज रक्तदान
पहर तक चलेगा।
व निरंकारी
मार्ज व मोहाली
में एक
के प्रति
1. बीएस चीमा
। संत निरंकारी
दूर देशों में भी

ताम

हुई बारिश के
से बाईपास पर
लने वाले ट्रैफिक
पुच पर ट्रैफिक
नों की कतारें
के हालात यह
में लगी रही,
कों के साथ साथ
। वाहन चालक

छात्रों को मदद के लिए बनाया प्रोजेक्ट

पंचकूला। अक्सर कुछ लोग सात समंदर पार जाकर अपने वतन और अपनों को भूल जाते हैं। लेकिन कुछ ऐसे भी होते हैं जिनको इतनी दूर जाने के बाद भी अपने वतन और यहां रहने वाले लोगों की चिंता होती है। इसके लिए ऐसे लोग समय समय पर अपने यहां के लोगों की मदद के लिए आगे आते हैं। ऐसा ही कुछ शहर के दो छात्रों ने किया।

प्रोजेक्ट के तहत की बच्चों की मदद
: अमेरिका से आई इन दोनों छात्रों ने यहां एक सरकारी स्कूल के बच्चों की

मदद के लिए आगे हाथ बढ़ाया। यूएसए के बोस्टन के नार्थ इस्टर्न की रहने वाली शिवानी मिर्चिया और प्रिया मिर्चिया को अपने स्कूल की एक संस्था की ओर से एक प्रोजेक्ट मिला था। इस प्रोजेक्ट के तहत इन दोनों बच्चियों को किसी गांव के स्कूल में जाकर अपनी संस्था बिग हेल्प के तहत स्कूल में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों की मदद करनी थी। इन्होंने दो दिन अपने इस प्रोजेक्ट के तहत अपने देश लौट कर सेक्टर-12ए स्थित रैली गांव के सरकारी स्कूल को चुना।



सेक्टर-12 स्थित रैली गांव में स्कूली बच्चों से साथ एनआरआई छात्रों।

भाजपाइयों ने जताई

आज समाज नेटवर्क

मनीमाजरा। वार्ड नंबर-26 में पार्श्व की टिकट के दावा रखने के लिए आयोजित हुई बैठक में न बुलाए जाने पर कई भाजपाइयों में जबरदस्त रोष पाया जा रहा है।

सूत्रों के मुताबिक कुछ दिन पहले वार्ड नंबर-26 के टिकट का दावा रखने के लिए एक बैठक

आयोजन किया गया था। जिसमें भाजपा की ओर से टिकट के दावेदारों की सूची लेने के लिए तैनात की गई प्रभारी को टिकट के दावा करने वाले दावेदारों को बुलाया गया था। लेकिन वार्ड नंबर-26 के भाजपा के वरिष्ठ नेता सुलेख चंद जैन ने आरोप लगाते बताया कि उन्हें बैठक की जानकारी ही नहीं दी गई। इसी प्रकार पूर्व पार्श्व सुनीता