

**Bighelp For Education**  
**Post Internship By: Sreenikitha Emani**  
**Date : August 18-19,2016**

Over the summer, I completed my Bighelp internship at Prathipadu High School. Mrs. Rama Devi is the Headmaster and Mr.Rathaiah is the Assistant Headmaster. My father, aunt, and uncle all studied at this school as my grandfather pursued his career in Prathipadu. My grandfather was a well-known and well-respected man in this town, and my uncle carried out his legacy by constructing new buildings for the institution. This school is located in a beautiful rural town and is surrounded by numerous fruit trees and fields. The school has around 400 students but my specific classroom was the tenth grade class, containing around 30 students. There are around 20 classrooms, but not all of them are able to afford benches for each student. It is an open campus, allowing students to enjoy their lunch in the fresh air outside unlike American schools. This school is privileged enough to provide their students free lunch, and they even have a digital classroom with a projector and a smartboard. Most of the students in this school are orphans or semi-orphans, so they really value the school and its education. The people in this town depend on farming as their staple occupation, which is why there are beautiful fields for miles and miles on end. Unfortunately, Prathipadu was experiencing a drought during this time, and the weather was unbearably hot. The fields were struggling to flourish and the ground was cracked. When it rained around two days later, the town was elated. This experience helped me understand how essential water is, and how privileged I am to live in Massachusetts where water is taken for granted.

The first two hours, I gave my introductory speech, which outlined my background and the societal, cultural, and educational differences between India and America. I covered topics such as school, different classes, lunch, currency, weather, extracurriculars, sports, holidays, government, and geography. Then an icebreaker was conducted. I had all the kids draw individual flags that represented who they were, and had them share their creativity with the class. I carried out two different workshops during my two days at the school. Day 1 was the Go Green initiative in which recycling was encouraged in order to save the planet from global warming and pollution. A small presentation was given on conserving energy, reducing pollution, reducing consumption and waste, and the benefits of recycling for about 30 minutes. Most of the kids bike or walk to school, so they were already taking a small step in the right direction. After giving the presentation, we decided to play a Jeopardy game. The game lasted around 1.5 hours. I prepared a Jeopardy poster ahead of time on the Go Green topic. The class got into groups of five and they tackled each question as a team. The game got competitive quickly, and the class was not afraid to speak out at all. We were all laughing and I was surprised at how quickly they retained the information when sometimes even I wasn't sure of the answers! After the game was finished, we tallied up the scores and the winners got extra chocolate and bragging rights for the rest of the days. Then, after quickly learning about photosynthesis, we planted a Chikoo tree outside and assigned schedules for the watering of the plant. At the end of the day, we all collected in the digital classroom to watch some videos on vegetable energy and other ways of conserving our environment. The kids really enjoyed the digital classroom because this was their first time using it! This school has had this smart board

for months. Unfortunately, the teachers were not able to receive the proper training yet to learn how to use the technology. So it was really fun for the entire school to see the classroom up and running.



On Day 2, we carried out science experiments. The first experiment was a follow up of the experiment we saw on YouTube the day before for about 1.5 hours. We tried lighting a light bulb using a lemon. It wasn't successful in all the trials, but the kids didn't mind because they knew this was all part of the scientific process, as they had completed science fair projects in the past as well. In addition, they were too excited about the next experiment! The next experiment was known as "Elephant Toothpaste," and it was a lesson on chemical reactions. Yeast was used as a catalyst to speed up the decomposition of hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen. This reaction propelled a tiny explosion where a foamy mixture shot up out of the water bottle like toothpaste does when you put pressure on the tube. The kids had lots of fun with the experiments, and they did the project over and over again with different amounts of the materials used to see the effects on the outcome, causing the experiment to take about 2 hours. Backpacks were donated to the top two rankers in each class. In addition we gave chocolates and small prizes to the children in my class as well. A small Chikoo tree was also planted in the school to promote the green initiative.



I learned many new things about the Indian culture. I really valued the collaborative environment of the school that I feel like many public schools in America lack. I also learned that their school does not run from 1st grade to 12th but rather to 10th. In 11th and 12th they enter intermediate in which they must declare their major. During intermediate, kids usually enter schools which also offer boarding, so they are away from home for long periods of time. In addition, they have school from Monday to Saturday, with Saturday being a half day. Another thing I noticed was that they sometimes have spontaneous holidays because of religious holidays or strikes taking place in the city. The only time we ever get a spontaneous holiday is because of snow days or natural disasters.

At the end of the program I felt very accomplished. This was something I didn't think I could do successfully. As a person who's more closed-off, it felt empowering to speak in front of a group of people. It was a little tough to manage the language gap, but in a way that was a good thing. In the future we will not always meet people who are fluent in English and it is important to be able to explain things so that everyone can understand. Big help was able to make this internship a possibility. This was an opportunity that I didn't even know existed, so I am especially happy to take up this chance. I think I inspired kids to have higher dreams, and opened up new doors to show that these dreams are actual possibilities. After hearing about how my dad actually went to this school, and is now so successful, they realized that success isn't an impossibility.

I would like to thank my parents for supporting me. I would like to thank my mom especially for dealing with me. She helped me along each step of the way, even when I really wanted to give up. She helped me write the speech, and gave me creative ideas to connect with the kids. I would also like to thank my dad for finding this opportunity for me, and for really

setting up everything. I appreciate his support throughout the summer. I would also like to thank my uncle, for being an amazing human being. He helped rebuild this school, contributing to his origins. He continues to make his community a better place everyday, and serves as a true inspiration to young people like me. I would like to thank my sister, for laughing at me every time I said my speech out loud. I would like to thank Bighelp for their support and for this opportunity. Not many kids can say that they have taught a school in India. This is a great initiative and it has inspired me to start my own volunteering club at my very own school. I would like to thank Mythili Aunty and Lalitha Aunty for really supporting me along the way. Without their support, this wouldn't have been possible. I really have to thank them for acknowledging my busy schedule and for giving me constructive criticism. But most importantly, I need to thank the students, the school, and the headmaster. I thank them for their cooperation and for letting me come in. I learned so much from them and I hope they learned a lot from me as well.



Local News Paper Coverages:

Day1: Eenadu

**పర్యావరణ సమతుల్యతను కాపాడాలి**

**గ్రామీణ ప్రతిపాడు, న్యూస్టుడే:** విద్యార్థులు పర్యావరణ సమతుల్యతను కాపాడాల్సిన బాధ్యత ప్రతి ఒక్కరిపై ఉందని బిగ్ హెల్త్ సంస్థ ప్రతినిధి ఈమని శ్రీనికేత పేర్కొన్నారు. ఆమెరికాకు చెందిన బిగ్ హెల్త్ సంస్థ ప్రతినిధులు ప్రతిపాడు ఉన్నత పాఠశాలలో ఆధునిక విద్యావ్యవస్థ, తీవ్రశైలి, స్టాఫ్ కలిగే హాని, పర్యావరణం, విద్యుత్తు ఆదా వంటి



**మాట్లాడుతున్న సంస్థ ప్రతినిధి ఈమని శ్రీనికేత**

అంశాలపై 10వ తరగతి విద్యార్థులకు రెండు రోజుల పాటు నిర్వహించే అవగాహన కార్యక్రమాన్ని శుక్రవారం ప్రారంభించారు. ఈ పాఠశాల పూర్వ విద్యార్థులు ఈమని నరసింహారెడ్డి, ఈమని శ్రీనివాసరెడ్డి, బాపతు సుబ్బారెడ్డి, పాఠశాల విశ్రాంత ప్రధానోపాధ్యాయులు రాధాస్వామిరెడ్డిల ఆధ్వర్యంలో ఈ కార్యక్రమం జరిగింది. పాఠశాల ప్రధానోపాధ్యాయుని రమాదేవి ఆధ్యక్షతన జరిగిన కార్యక్రమంలో విద్యార్థులకు క్విజ్ పోటీలు నిర్వహించారు. పాఠశాల ఉపాధ్యాయులు రత్తయ్య, పలువురు ఉపాధ్యాయులు, విద్యార్థులు పాల్గొన్నారు.

Day1 Andhra Jyothi



మాట్లాడుతున్న బిగ్ హెల్త్ ప్రతినిధి శ్రీనిఖిత

## పర్యావరణ పరిరక్షణ అందరి బాధ్యత

ప్రతిపాడు: పర్యావరణ పరిరక్షణ అందరి బాధ్యత అని బిగ్ హెల్త్ సంస్థ ప్రతినిధి శ్రీనిఖిత అన్నారు. స్థానిక జిల్లా పరిషత్ పాఠశాల విద్యార్థులకు సంస్థ ప్రతినిధి శుక్రవారం అవగాహనా కార్యక్రమం నిర్వహించారు. పూర్వ విద్యార్థుల సహకారంతో ఈ శిక్షణ నిర్వహించారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా విద్యార్థులకు కంప్యూటర్ శిక్షణ ఇచ్చారు. విద్య మానవ జీవనశైలి, విద్యుత్ ప్రయోజనాలను, పాలిథిన్ ఉత్పత్తుల వినయోగం వలన ఆనర్థాల గురించి వివరించారు. ఈ కార్యక్రమంలో పూర్వ విద్యార్థులు శ్రీనివాసరెడ్డి, సుబ్బారెడ్డి, రాధాస్వామిరెడ్డి నరహారెడ్డి, హెచ్ఎం.రమాదేవి ఉపాధ్యాయులు, నరసింహుల సాధునాథులు

### Day2: Sakshi News Paper Coverage

**ప్రతిపాడు (పెదనందిపాడు):** గత ఏడాది పరీక్షా ఫలితాల్లో ఉత్తమ ప్రతిభ కనబరిచిన విద్యార్థులకు బిగ్ హెల్త్ ఆర్గనైజేషన్ ఆధ్వర్యంలో శనివారం బ్యాగులు పంపిణీ చేశారు. ప్రతిపాడు జిల్లా పరిషత్ ఉన్నత పాఠశాలలో గత ఏడాది జరిగిన వార్షికపరీక్షల్లో ఆరు నుంచి పదో తరగతి వరకు ప్రథమ, ద్వితీయ స్థానాలు సాధించిన విద్యార్థులు 32 మందికి బిగ్ హెల్త్ ఆర్గనైజేషన్ వారు బ్యాగులు పంపిణీ చేశారు. ఈ సందర్భంగా సంస్థ ప్రతినిధి శ్రీనిఖిత విద్యార్థులకు సైన్స్ అంశాలపై అవగాహన కల్పించారు. కార్యక్రమంలో పూర్వ విద్యార్థులు నరసింహారెడ్డి, శ్రీనివాసరెడ్డి, సాంబిరెడ్డి, రిట్టెర్ హెచ్ఎం రాధాస్వామి రెడ్డి, హెచ్ఎం రమాదేవి, ఉపాధ్యాయులు పాల్గొన్నారు.