

# **Bighelp Internship**

**By: Anisha R. Macharla**

On June 19 and 20 I did my Bighelp Internship Program at ZPHS(Zilla Parishat High School). Haricharan Garu is the headmaster of this great, friendly and welcoming school. My father and aunt learned at this school and were toppers. If you go to the school now and go to the leader boards or the highest scorers their names will appear on the wall. My father was the topper in 10th class. The school is located in Ankapoor, a small village in Armour mandal in Nizamabad district.

## **Day 1**

The first day was fantastic and could have been much better if I wasn't very nervous. At first, I began with a small class of 18 students and after the kids introduced themselves, 8<sup>th</sup> grade class was merged with it. In the 8th grade class I started the introduction from the beginning and the kids in the 8th grade class introduced themselves also. Now I was interacting with a class of 36 energetic and active students. The kids answered my questions enthusiastically and this let me learn a lot of stuff such as they were always given food at school. Right when my speech ended the bell rang. After a few seconds, the bell rang again. When I asked the kids what the bell was for, they told me that it was for their break time so I let the kids go but they didn't want to go and wanted me to continue with the class. After some convincing, the kids went out for their break. Throughout the speech they taught and explained a lot about the lifestyle in the village. Even the teacher taught me stuff. For example, she told me that most of the kids go to another school called

Bhargavi school and there is a shortage of teachers in the school and that they are planning to get some teachers. Last time I went to India, I thought that everyone threw their trash outside but after going to that school I realized that wasn't true. There was no trash thrown around in that area. The school had planted multiple trees outside. When I went outside a kid had explained to me how they planted the trees and took care of them. They also told me that they were expecting more trees and showed me some holes in which they would plant the trees. Kids from 6th, 9th and 10th grade asked me some questions and the common question from all three grades was, "Will you come to our class and talk with us?" The only reason I wasn't interacting with the sixth graders was because the headmaster believed that they too young, may not understand some or most of the things and they would behave childishly or/and not pay attention. Once the kids came back into the classroom they asked multiple questions. One question that was asked was "What is the significance about America?", this question was asked by a very energetic 7th-grade boy, Anji, who spoke a lot when he was sitting down but when he asked to stand up, he messed up. He got a prize in almost everything we did. I told the class that trash was one significance and trash was not thrown anywhere you wanted, it had to be thrown in a trash can or you could pay the fine. The other significance was that people from many countries lived in America. After the question session, we started making Ganesha out of clay. The kids were happy and started working. Many kids asked me how their Ganesha looked like after each step. I knew that at the end when we had to give prizes, that I possibly couldn't pick a kid. One of the kids made a Ganesha and gave him a gadha and said that this was Baahubali 2. The kids worked hard and we knew that they may not be able to finish their Ganesha and asked them if it was ok that they missed part of their lunches,

they happily said ok. Afterward, after we gave out the prizes they all left and asked if I would be there after lunch. I said no and told them that I would be there the next day.

## **Day 2**

When I entered the next day the kids stood up and said, "Good Morning Madam." I felt sad that they said that to me because I was a kid also learning in school and the respect that I was getting was just very great. This also taught me that they did this everyday and to every teacher that entered the class to teach. The kids made me a special surprise which had many small flowers and then assembled them to make a small clay bathkama. There were roughly 10 more kids in the class and they gave me a little introduction on themselves. Then I gave them all name tags and asked them to write their names and put it on their t-shirts. I explained the rules and how to play the game Jackpot to the kids. Then I made some kids come to the front to demonstrate the game. The demonstration went on for several minutes. Some of the girls didn't understand the game so I had them play over and over again until they understood the game. The happiness in their faces when they played the game made me feel very happy. Half way through, the other kids came out for their break. Many of the boys started playing with the other boys, but the girls came to talk to me. Souji a very competitive girl who won when she played slapjack with her group came and asked me to come play with them and pulled me away from the girls. Another kid insisted on not playing played catch with the frisbee with a girl who had some special needs. After I kept score for two games, I went to them and cheered them on. The girl with special needs had so much fun when the other girl missed. After all the scoring was done, we went into the class and I gave prizes to the top scorers in each group. When I told the kids that I would give the frisbees to their

headmaster and if they wanted to, they could play with them they were very happy. Then we went to the stage so I could distribute the bags but I was surprised when the sarpanch and a mptc(Mandal Praja Parishad Territorial Constituencies) member came to the bag distribution. A teacher spoke to the gathering and said that Bighelp now sponsored their school and said they requested a computer and a printer. I felt really bad because they seemed such basic things.. The teacher explained how it may be a small thing for me but it really was a big thing for them and this made me realise how much it could help them and improve their standards. Afterward, I went back to the class and gave pencils to the kids who didn't get anything. Lots of kids wanted me to stay to have lunch. Going to that school made me a lot of friends. I will never forget those kids and the two happy days that I spent with them.