

Bighelp for Education Post Internship Report

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The school that I completed my summer 2017 internship was Mandala Prajaparichath Pradamika Patasala (M.P.P.P.) Elementary School in Nuzendla, Andhra Pradesh. In the entire school, there were eighty five students, about 15-20 students in each grade. The school offered education for first, second, third, fourth, and fifth grade students. To teach all of these students, there were 5 teachers, one for each grade, and the headmaster, Suresh Sir. The school building was small and only contained 3 classrooms (for grades 3, 4, and 5), an open hall (for grades 1 and 2), and an office area for Suresh Sir, the headmaster. I presented my speech and activities to the entire school because there was a very small amount of children in each grade.

Nuzendla is a very small rural village. This village only has a population of 5 thousand-6 thousand residents. I understood why the population was so small as I passed through the village. I noticed many lakes and other waterways along with miles and miles of farmland. All of this land was mostly used for harvesting rice. Most of the people who lived there were workers on these plantations/farms, taking care of animals and the fields. Also, I had noticed that many of the houses there were surrounded by many animals, which was probably because they depended on these cows, lambs, chickens etc. for food supply. The weather there was very sunny and hot on the day of my internship. I am connected to this school because of Suresh Sir/Suresh Tatayya. My grandfather/tataji and Suresh Tattayya have been very good friends for the past fifty years. They both grew up together in the same village as teenagers.

During my internship, I learned about Indian culture in a village and how their daily life is. My family live in big towns/cities in India so I was not very aware of the fact that residents in villages only live off of farming and the animals that they own. I had assumed that the people in Nuzendla would also do basic jobs

as my parents. Also, I thought that the school would be much bigger than it actually was. Since it was a public school, I thought that there would be at least 100 kids in each grade but there was only about 15. One of the teachers at this school told me that even though this was a public school where everything from the uniforms to lunch was free, most parents wanted their children to help out with daily house chores and didn't think school was that important.

A student at M.P.P.P. school that I remembered the most was Padma. She was a fifth grade student and the first ranking student of her grade. I remember how excited she was when I called her name to come up and get a school bag. She came up to me and told me that I gave her the best present, a simple school bag. I was surprised at how happy she was but I soon learned that she never had a school bag before. She also happily helped me plant the trees and she even stood by my car window for fifteen minutes until I left. After meeting Padma, it really hit me that a lot of these kids did not have much yet they were living their lives to the fullest and they were very content. She made me think about my life a lot because sometimes, I take many things for granted and I never think about other kids who do not have the same opportunities I have. The kids at this school came up to me and thanked me for coming and talking to them as well as giving them some gifts.

During the workshop, I first did my introduction speech which lasted about 1 hour. This was because after I slowly presented my speech in English, I tried to re-read it in Telugu with the help of my tataji so the students could understand better. On the day of my introduction, the headmaster called many important people there. The MEO (Mandal Education Officer), the retired headmaster, the headmaster of the high school in Nuzendla, and the school committee of parents chairman were all present. They all spent about an hour or two in total speaking with all the students and some parents that came to watch. Next, I spent more time talking about my activities and completing them. I talked about the importance of nature and how important it is to conserve it. I think the kids really enjoyed this the most because a lot of them said they love planting. I believe this is because most of their parents are farmers and work in the fields so they must like planting too. Also, I asked them questions about exercising and health. Some of them were excited to answer once they realised there were prizes involved. This took about 45 minutes. Then I talked about how important it is to stay clean and have good hygiene as

well as talking about exercising and yoga. The tree planting was very popular among the children. They were all fighting over who could plant with me because I could only pick some kids since there were only five trees and eighty of them. All of the kids excitedly dug holes in the ground to put the plants in and watered them. When I saw all the kids arguing over who could help, it made me think about how these kids are excited to just plant a tree while I could get a new expensive gift yet I would be semi-happy. Being with the kids really made me realise many things and the simplicity of life and how great it is. I hope I helped these kids have a good day. I learned from the teachers that a lot of kids had a bad living situation and me being there teaches them about new exciting things made them happy. Also, I hope they remember me and things I taught them about living a healthy life and nature's importance.

Items I donated to the school:

1. 20 pens for all the teachers
2. Extra toys for field games

Items I donated for the children:

1. Since there were only 40 school bags provided by Bighelp, my family bought 40 extra school bags so that children of the entire school has bags.
2. Writing increments
3. Play-Dough
4. Frizbees
5. 20 pencil cases for the grade toppers

At the end of the whole internship, I felt very proud of myself. I was very happy that I could talk to these underprivileged children. I hope that I was able to help their lives in any way and made them excited and happy. It was happy to teach them new things that could be useful later on in their lives. I am grateful that I was able to connect to these school kids through Bighelp. Thanks to Bighelp, I was able to learn more about my Indian culture and how my parents grew up and these children were also able to learn more about my lifestyle in U.S.

To start off, I would like to thank my parents. Without them I would not be able to go to the school in India. Also, they are the ones that suggested this internship for

me. I would really like to thank my mentor, Mythili aunty for helping me throughout the entire writing process and revising my speech and activities as well as giving great ideas to talk about. Also, I would like to thank Anitha aunty for listening to my finalized speech as well as Bighelp for giving me this opportunity.



