

## ***My NSF APNA Experience***

Ritiga Ravichandran

Orlando, FL

Hears the real question.... Where do I even start?

The experience that I had gone through teaching at the Sukkampatti Secondary School in Salem, Tamil Nadu, India was a once in a lifetime, motivational and inspiring opportunity for me to be part of ; those three days spent at the school with the students was definitely the highlight on my trip to India!

When I was initially given the opportunity to teach and conduct a Spelling Bee workshop during my summer trip to India, I was uncertain of what to expect from the students, and how would I be able to teach these kids English, when I wasn't able to speak in Tamil as well as they were, and would I be able to communicate with them effectively.

But it was nothing like ever imagined it to be. From Day 1, was astonishing to see all the students very attentive and eager to learn English, and would never divert their attention elsewhere. After telling them that at the end of Day 3 that they would have a competition of the words from what they learned and for the top 5 students, prizes would be awarded, they soon became extremely competitive with one another and studied the words diligently. They would always ask questions about pronunciation and definitions, and told me they were really interested in learning these words, which encouraged me even more to teach them as much as I could during my time.

They also were able to understand me well, which really surprised me, and told me jokingly that in exchange for me teaching them English, they would help me improve my Tamil. ☺

As the days sped by as fast as a clock on fire, they immensely improved on both their pronunciation, vocabulary, and last but not least, spelling, as they all started to become in competition mode. When I finished with my lesson, they would convince me to teach them newer and harder words, and I was able to help them learn a bunch of more challenging words, that they were able to grasp very quickly. Before we knew it, it was the last day of the workshop and I awarded the gifts to the students who had won and give participation certificates for all of the students for their hard work.

The moment I heard chants from the students saying "You're leaving already akka!" and "Please teach us a couple more words!" I wish I could've just stayed with them and become their teacher! ☺ But this made me very contented and beaming with pride, that I was able to educate these young students for such a vital cause. Hearing this from my students proved that I created a great awareness for the school, and will definitely bring change to other schools around the state as well.

This experience is definitely one of the best cherishing moments I'll always remember, and I definitely plan to visit them next time I travel to India! I would like to gratefully thank Mr.Venkat Gade, for educating me about the importance and value of this program and how it benefits students in India, as well as providing me with the materials and information needed to successfully conduct this workshop. Also would like to appreciate the Sukkampatti Secondary School, and the principal for letting me intervene in the middle of a school year and teach English spelling and vocab for the 7<sup>th</sup> standard class.

My aunt, who is currently teaching at the school helped me organize and plan the schedule for the class as well as any fun activities that were done for the student's enjoyment. Of course, last but not least, my parents had put in a plethora of hard work and dedication into helping me prepare to do my best with the students and gave me a great opportunity to carry out this workshop during my trip there this summer.



# Spelling Vocabulary workshop conducted for Salem Govt school kids

## A volunteer service by US youth Ambassador Ritiga

Salem, July 21:  
 Ritiga Ravichandran, represents NSF (North South Foundation www.northsouth.org) as a Youth Ambassador, conducted a 3 day workshop for the Spelling and Vocabulary Bee at Govt. HSS in Sukkampatti, Salem.

The primary mission of NSF is to develop human resources by giving scholarships to brilliant but needy students in India entering colleges, regardless of religion, gender, caste or creed.

During the workshop, the students felt a sense of encouragement and developed more interest for learning English. Towards the end, the spelling



bee competition was conducted. Participation Certificates and prizes were distributed by the school Headmaster V.

Arulprasad and this was co-ordinated by Amudha teacher. Ritiga is currently studying 10th grade in Dr.Phillips High school

in Orlando, FL, USA and actively participates in volunteering, community service as well as leads charity events.

## Biotique launches kids care products

Chennai, July 21: Shampoo and a soothing pH balance. It nourishes,

It is the plane flies land below. off are suddenly they hear the loud speak and gentle captain speaks over what we States of America to close scenes below graphic and chief flight : any question

"Mrs De shouted the as she rush "Here are see your tears. Did you not to look you saw people below for him