

Teaching Kids In India: An Art

Rohan Pujare
9th Grade
St. Johns School
Neradmet, Hyderabad.
Principal: Ms. Rebecca. G

Date: August 11-13th 2016

When I went to India in August 2016, I never thought I would have such a fulfilling experience doing something I had never imagined doing. Teaching. Students. It was something I had no experience in, something I never pictured myself doing. Yet even though it was a completely foreign thing for me, I can still say I enjoyed it and profited from the experience.

On the plane to India, I didn't really know we were going to be doing anything there. I thought we were just going to do the usual: meet my relatives, be around them for a couple weeks and go home. We arrived on a Sunday, and it was the usual welcoming to India. Meeting relatives at the airport and then going to my grandparents' apartment. Everything was normal, and I didn't think anything different would happen. On Tuesday, my mother told me to come with her and my sister somewhere, so I just tagged along, not knowing what to expect. We went to a school called St. John's School. I just sat and watched as my sister and mother talked to the principal about teaching the kids English and conducting Spelling Bee Competition. They made plans for lessons the next week, while I just sat there and listened. After, my mother told me I had to help my sister out, so I assisted in running the workshop, teaching and explaining the rules and spellings.

When we arrived there the next week, August 11th, it was extremely awkward at first. Most of the kids stared at us, and the principal immediately greeted us. After a while, the lesson started. My sister and I stood at the front, where a whiteboard was set up. My sister did most of the talking, while I helped out here and there with the main lesson. I mostly helped out kids who didn't understand what was going on, and there were a lot. I usually just went to the back and explained to the back few rows what she was talking about. It went on like this on day 1 and day 2, teaching them about Greek stems and Word origins. On day 3, August 13th we conducted the spelling bee. First, we hosted a written practice session, where everyone was involved. My sister told people the word, and I went around telling everyone who couldn't hear what the word was. This was just for practice, to sharpen them up. We then sorted them out by grade, and gave them an oral spelling bee. We also gave them another written test, this time one that actually counted towards the placement. My job was mostly the same for these events, to help out kids who didn't understand what was going on. In the end, we handed out 5 awards to the top 5 kids from each grade. We conducted this for grades 6-9.

Overall, it was an immensely fulfilling experience. I learned so much from just talking to these kids, and I hoped I taught them something too. I really enjoyed the experience, and one day hope to carry out something similar again.



Students in a Class



Award Ceremony





