

Bighelp For Education Post Internship Report

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It was a great experience completing my internship at P.R.R. Zilla Parishad High School with about 300 students and 21 staff members. There are 10 classes in the school, two for each grade starting 6th to 10th grade.

The school is in a small village called Karavadi, about 10 km away from Ongole city. It is a 4-hour drive from Chennai. Karavadi is known for its many livestock. There are many buffalos and chicken tamed here, a source milk and eggs to the people that live there. Also, Karavadi is the place where bricks are manufactured for homes. The main source of living there is by farming. Many of the citizens are farmers and own some land where they either grow rice and vegetables, or own a barn where they raise buffalo's, chicken, and other livestock. It is very hot in Karavadi; the sun scorches the village for whole day; during the night, many animals wander on the roads, and insects swarm houses unless you have repellent. I am connected to this village because most of my relatives, such as my grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, live in this village. Also, my mother and both my grandmothers studied here.

There, school starts with nursery, which is basically preschool. Nursery to 5th grade is called elementary school, and 6th grade to 10 grade is called high school. 11th and 12 grade is called intermediate, and after completing intermediate school students can further go to college for graduation. The main language in the Karavadi is Telugu. Most of the books are in Telugu. There is an English-medium and Telugu-medium class for each grade. In Karavadi, the culture is very different. People travel in groups to go to places, and people mostly aren't in their own houses. They gather in one house and talk and eat there for hours. It is similar to a potluck, where there are up to 15 people in a house. Everybody work together to keep the house clean; it isn't just the house-owner who does the housework.

I met many different people during my 2-day workshop. I became friends with Sai, the class leader, and another student named Venkatesh. I met the headmaster of the school K. Venkateswara Babu, and different teachers, who helped me setting up my activities. The english teacher, Mr, N. Mohan Rao

helped translate and explain to the students some of the things I was saying. Mr. S. Venkateswarlu, the PE Teacher helped me take the students outside to play soccer.

During my workshop, I had covered 3 topics, each with an activity following it: volcanoes, origami, and soccer. On the 1st day, I had introduced myself to the students and discussed the differences of America to India for about 1 and a half hour. I brought pictures of the things I explained, and passed them around for everyone to see.

Then, I had started my volcano activity. I had explained about what volcanoes are and asked the students what volcanoes are and where most of them are found. When students were stumped on a question, I proceeded to answer myself, teaching the students on what they didn't know. Then, I went to the main activity and gave everybody the tools needed, including a volcano picture to reference with. I did the activity with them and explained each step as I did it. I am happy to say that almost everyone's experiment worked perfectly, only that some people didn't add enough food coloring and the foam came out white/yellow. After the experiment, I asked what exactly happened. The students weren't sure, but they knew that it was something with the baking soda and vinegar mixing. So I explained about the chemical reactions and how when a base and acid mix, they create an unstable compound, which splits into CO₂ and H₂O, causing the reaction. A salt is also created as a byproduct. This activity took about 1 hour. I then gave out prizes (their very own Play-Doh kit) to the best group and presented my conclusion speech. The entire day took around 3 hours.

I came back the next day when school started and after the morning prayers, I went to the classroom and gave my 5-minute intro speech. Then, I asked them about volcanoes again, and was pleased to see that the students answered the questions right. The chemistry teacher had taught the students about the baking soda and vinegar reaction, showing the actual formulas of the reaction. (NaHCO_3 [baking soda] + CH_3COOH [vinegar] \rightarrow CO_2 [carbon dioxide] + H_2O [water] + CH_3COONa [acetic salt]). This took about 15 minutes.

Then, I started talking about origami, and where it had originated. Most of the students didn't know what origami was, but had made paper airplanes before. I explained how origami originated from Japan, when paper was first made. The first origami was a paper swan, which I taught them how to make. After explaining what origami was and how it is used today, I started by making 3

different airplanes. The airplanes were fairly easy to create, and students completed them quickly. Some students already knew how to make the easiest airplane. Then, I taught them how to make the swan, which was a bit more difficult. Some students had troubles with some of the foldings, but were successful on creating the final product. I also taught them the ninja star, which students had some difficulties, but still managed to create. Many of the students were very keen to learn how to make a sheet of paper into various objects. The students that had finished making their origami structure helped other students that were struggling or came up to me to learn how to make more difficult origami things. The origami activity took about 2 hours. Then, I moved on to the next activity, soccer.

I had taken pictures of soccer with me, and passed them around. I used the blackboard to explain how soccer is played. I first started by asking if anybody was familiar with soccer, and a handful of students had played it before or watched it on TV. They even named some players, like Messi, Ronaldo, and Neymar Jr. Using the blackboard, I roughly drew a soccer field with the lines. I then taught them how the field looks like and the main rules. I explained how you cannot use your hands in soccer unless you are the goalie. Then, I moved onto fouls and what to do vs what not to do. After explaining the types of players in soccer, what each player does, and where each player is. I ended the soccer lesson indoors. It took roughly 30 minutes.

The students, the PE teacher, and I went outside with the soccer ball to first practice drilling. I did passing and shooting drills with them. They already had a goal post, so all I had to do was teach them. After drilling for 30 minutes, and did a boys vs girls match, selecting the best player for boys and girls to be the team leader. They played for roughly an hour, before the PE teacher and I decided to end the game, since some students weren't even wearing proper shoes and it was burning outside.

After coming inside, I gave the students a 5-minute break for water, and I gave my final conclusion speech and presented my thank-you note. After saying my goodbyes, I went home. On August 15th, I gave a small speech and handed out the school bags to the top 3 students in every grade from 5th to 10th (english and telugu medium).



PICTURES:



I donated the soccer ball that I used to teach the students with to the school. I also donated around 10 frisbees, jump ropes, and a volleyball to the school.

I gifted each student a clear plastic ruler, a BIC black pen, and a penny. I also gave each student a handful of American chocolate. If students won any prizes from the activities, that would be their gift, too.

Bighelp gave me the initiative to teach the students in India about America and help them expand their knowledge about the world just a little bit more. They helped me prepare for the speech and gave me ideas on how to present my activities to the students. Bighelp also helped me provide 35 bags for the students in India. All in all, Bighelp played a huge supporting role for me in conducting this summer internship program at Zilla Parishat High School.

At the end of this program, I felt accomplished. I had successfully taught the students about America, and they learned a lot more about volcanoes, origami, and soccer than they previously had.. Students who had absolutely no knowledge about the world outside of India now know about the history of America and how the culture is there. The teachers also took some of the information that I had briefly talked about and expanded on it. I felt honored that even teachers gained ideas on what and how to teach kids. Now, they involve students in more interactive lessons rather than simply reading a book.

Not only did students gain knowledge from me, but I also learned more about India. I had realized that the culture in India is very diverse. Many of the students and teachers have a strong bond together, and act as if they are one big family. I learned that having a bond with teachers and others is extremely beneficial in the long run. Also, I learned that handball was a very popular sport in my village. Sai, the class leader, had taught me how to play the sport. It was similar to soccer, but using your hands instead of your feet.

Thank you to the headmaster Mr. K. Venkateswara Babu, and teachers Mr. N. Mohan Rao and Mr. S. Venkateswarlu for allowing me to be with such great kids and getting to know each student's experiences. It was so great being with the teachers and staff. I would like to thank my parents Radhika Ariga and Rajesh Ariga for helping me a lot on my speeches and helping me get all of the materials needed. I also thank my mentors Mythili Aunty and Padma Aunty for guiding me with my introductory speech and giving me ideas for my main topics and activities I presented. And lastly, I thank Bighelp for giving me this incredible opportunity to express myself and educate students about life in America. Students in India had also showed me that they were much more interactive and more willing to participate in activities than I thought. They had taught me about the culture and some of the activities they do for fun there. Teachers had taught me about the history of India, and how rich of a history India has, from great kings to the smartest mathematicians. Bighelp had also boosted my social presentation skills. The first day, I was nervous talking to students my age, but on the second day, I was much more confident. Bighelp made me more willing to get up on a stage and express myself. I wouldn't be here without this organization.