Eshan Choudhary- NSF APNA Youth Ambassador

I never expected myself to be sitting in a classroom during my summer vacation. But this summer I was introduced to the NSF APNA program. Honestly, at first, I had no motivation to teach a class in India nor was it going to be an easy task for me; my speaking skills Hindi are not that great. But after going through with the program, I can honestly say that I enjoyed my time spent in India.

Feeling like an outsider was not a great feeling. Walking into the school the first day was an awkward feeling - I had no idea what to expect. Everything about the school was so strange to me; the school was much smaller and simpler than I had expected. The first day was also quite relieving. We received a warm welcome from the principal. He introduced us and explained the children about the workshop. The school children seemed very excited to hear that they got the opportunity to be in spelling bee workshop and to hear that there would be a cash prize. I was really looking forward to the upcoming week.

Teaching had proved to not be quite as difficult as I thought it would be. Though my Hindi was weak, the students were always on the same page. Occasionally the students had found it difficult to understand my accent when I spoke in English but the cooperative staff at the school were always willing to lend a hand. Sometimes even the teachers would sit in class and lend a helping hand with pronunciation. I found it amazing how much these people valued knowledge. At first I thought my journey was going to be a rough one, but the combination of good material provided by NSF and amazing staff made the workshop much more enjoyable and rewarding.
The final day was the most inspiring. My dad’s former classmate, who is now a principal of a college was the chief guest and gave a truly encouraging speech to all of the participants in the spelling bee. Afterwards, I handed out the final spelling bee test and the students got to work. After a long 20 minutes, I collected the test and graded the papers. In the end, not only were the top 5 students winners, everyone who participated in the spelling bee was a winner. Including myself.