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### Spelling Bee Workshop- Summary and Reflection

National New Paper, Times of India published this educational event in the news paper on Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016



Whenever I would travel to India, the experiences I encountered were homogenous - a large variety of food, exciting parks and games, and just all around fun with friends and family. However, when I went to India this past summer, my experiences broadened as a result of the Youth Ambassador opportunity that was presented by NSF. Thanks to NSF, as I learned a lot

and I was able to offer my services as well. As a part of this opportunity, I conducted 5 days Spelling Bee workshop at the Indira Gandhi High School and Indira Gandhi Girl's High School in Nagpur, Maharashtra for 150+ students. This is a public school but most of the teaching was done in Marathi language (a language spoken in Maharashtra state) and most of the students falls under economically challenged families, who do not have the same luxuries and support as I do. Hence, I was able to get a different perspective on education and hard work that they pursue.

When NSF was offering this opportunity, I immediately agreed to take it. This is a result of my personal desire to help children. Since this program focused on schools that has kids from economically challenged class, I was even more eager to teach them, knowing that I will have a better chance of making a difference there. However, some doubts started running through my mind. My biggest concern was the amount of information they will understand for a few reasons. One major reason was that I have an American accent. Also, I use some US word that are not common in India. Another major reason is that curriculum of Spelling Bee Workshop may make students anxious. Therefore, I started preparing for the workshop in layman's term.

Despite all my preparation, nothing could comfort me knowing that I was about to teach around 150+ 8th grade students at a Marathi medium school. Luckily, my parents had contacted the school ahead of the time and the English teachers were more than happy to help me in teaching this. However, their help was hardly needed as the students were able to understand what I was saying and were able to easily grasp onto the different ideas that I presented. The most exciting experience from this was seeing them actively participate and paying attention for the all days that I taught. I was also able to see how their life at home affects them in school, as they tend to pay a lot of attention with curiosity. Some students participated more than others, which helped them get the top prizes for the Spelling Bee. When it came to the Awards Ceremony, I was thoroughly proud of these students, as they all had done a wonderful job on

the Spelling Bee. I was also grateful that I was able to teach these students and get a fresh perspective on what truly means to be vigorous and hard-working. Thus, I would like to thank the head masters of the Indira Gandhi School, NSF, and the students for providing me this wonderful opportunity. I really hope that I will be able to do this often.

**Video link -** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jubv3dCctRQ>



Khush conducting Spelling Bee workshop for 150+ students



Kids participating in Spelling Bee Workshop



Khush gave trophies to Spelling Bee winners (head masters on sides)





All participated students received Spelling Bee Workshop Participation Certificate



Khush receiving honorary reward from the schools for conducting spelling bee.