

APNA Essay - Jayvik Joshi

My family planned to go to India as soon as I finished my exam in June 2018. My mother told me about the Ambassador Program For North-South Alumni APNA program. I checked the website and was very much excited and felt like I got the purpose of my visit to India. I had been taking part in North-South Foundation Bee competitions from elementary and middle school. I understood more about NSF and its purpose in middle school. I have always enjoyed teaching and helping other students. I submitted my application and got selected in the Ambassador program. I had received guidance from the coordinate of the APNA program.

Once we landed in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, I started preparing a list of schools that I would be able to help and conduct my workshop. I and my mother set up few appointments with the school principal and chose A.B. Parekh Gujarati Vidya Mandir Primary School. We chose



this school because when we talked to the principal, we found that it was the neediest school from my list. We set up time for my workshop, luckily I got an opportunity to do a 2-week workshop. I planned to do Science workshop for first week and Vedic Math workshop on the second week. At first, I was nervous because I didn't know how challenging it would be to interact with the students. Also since the school was Gujarati medium but kids could understand little English. I could speak Gujarati fluently but had a habit of using a lot of English

words. I warned the student to ask me again if they don't follow me. I started with the introduction and asked students to introduce their friend, that helps me and students to get ready for learning. It was really an amazing experience. I learned a lot from this workshop and also was able to inspire other students to dream and work hard. I learned about the environment the students learn. There is no air conditioning in the school. In each room, there was a small ceiling fan. There



was only one gate. It was at the front of the school The school also had no roof in some parts. By end of the first week, I learned all the students names and what they like to do in their free time. I had shown them the science experiment and showed them how a volcano erupts. I gave each of them a turn pouring in the ingredients. They were so happy they wanted me to do it again that same day!

The second week I taught the class Vedic math. The students were very interested in learning about the subject. All the students loved math. It was their favorite subject. Most of them knew what to do but some took a while to catch on. Eventually, they all were doing math 2-3 times faster than before I came and taught them. The students were very interested when they learned. They respected me and really wanted to learn.

The APNA Program was very fun for me and the students that I taught. It was a great experience for me and the students. They all loved it and wanted me to stay. I told them I had to leave but that I will come back next year. I had a fun time participating in the APNA Program and really enjoyed it. I hope I get to do it again next year and the year after!