

My Incredible Experience

My name is Mukund Viswanadha. I am a junior at Parkway West High School in Ballwin, Missouri. I went to India this summer, and I had the chance to visit my grandparent's house in Guntur, where I spent many years as a toddler. From Guntur, I would travel to an orphanage/school in Martur, Ongole district named Sarada Niketan. At the school, I taught different subjects, from plant reproduction to acids and bases to triangular geometry to parts of speech. I taught students from grade 4 to grade 12. On my last day there, I wrote a test with questions from all of the topics and administered the test myself. The last question of the test asked for the student to write about a favorite holiday of theirs. When it came time for me to grade, it brought joy to me when I was reading through all of the responses. Even though they have gone through much hardship and have not grown speaking English as their first language, they still tried their best and created beautiful responses. When it came to announcing the top 3, I was delighted in giving them their prize, as they truly worked hard. This was a highlight of the trip, and I genuinely felt like returning in the near future and teaching these hard-working students again.

I want to let future APNA ambassadors know that if something doesn't work, it doesn't mean that everything went wrong, and that it is possible to try again. When I started to teach my first lesson, no one immediately grasped the concept. For a few minutes, I thought that no one was interested in learning. Later,

I learnt that the kids sometimes didn't understand what I was saying, and that it would be beneficial to explain some concepts in Telugu and talk more clearly. In short, if something doesn't work the first time, it doesn't mean that everything has gone wrong. In fact, you can fix the problem and make it much better!

Honestly, I wouldn't really change anything. I only wish that I had taught more clearly at times in some difficult lessons, like optics.

To summarize, I had a great time teaching the kids from Sarada Niketan. I hope to return in the near future and teach the students more subjects. I would like to thank APNA for providing me a chance to teach these talented and hard-working students. Going to the school and teaching opened my eyes and convinced me to help anyone, anywhere, anytime.