

MY APNA EXPERIENCE II

By Aman Shaik

A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning

-Brad Henry

BACKGROUND

Every summer, my mother, brother, and I travel to Hyderabad to visit grandparents from my mother's side. I have been going to Hyderabad every summer since I was a baby. 2 years ago was my first A.P.N.A. experience, and I was inclined to participate for another year. With India, being a vast and developing country, I was excited to make a difference again. In 2018, I volunteered at the Vidyanakatan School, and in the summer of 2019, I volunteer at the Ack Alive Center for Learning.

JOURNEY

The Ack Alive Center was far from my grandparents' home. The trip to the Ack Alive Center took approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes each day due to traffic.

VOLUNTEERING SITE

I was volunteering at the Ack Alive Center since it was Summer Break in India at the time. The learning was incredible. The center was located in a more affluent area. As I traveled to the center, I would pass by houses owned by celebrities living in Hyderabad. When you passed the Ack Alive

Center, there was a dead-end of which there was a large complex, Annapurna Studios, home of Telegu movies. When I walked through the gates of the Ack Alive Center, it felt like a child's dream. The entire building was based on the Tinkle Comics, the most popular comic magazine in India. At the Ack Alive Center, I was greeted by Shikari Shambu and Suppandi, two characters in the comics.

VOLUNTEERING

At the Ack Alive Center, I contributed to their learning S.T.E.A.M fair. The fair composed of activities including 3D Printing, Stop-Motion Movie Making, building a robot, and much more. I had many guests show up, and most of them surprised me. The kids I was working with were from different parts of the world. I had brought a Lego Mindstorms Ev3 Lego Robotics Set. I taught the kids how to build and program robots made of legos.

CONCLUSION

Overall, this Apna Experience was fun. I made new friends and made an impact on kids with what I love to do most: build robots. I would never regret the experience, the environment, and the students. I can't wait for my next Apna Voyage.



IT IS A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP OTHERS AND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



AMAN SHAIK

ON HIS STEM VOLUNTEERISM TO EARN THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD



