

**Name: Iémima Guez**

**Country: France**

**Volunteering period: August 2019 – January 2020**

### **Final Impression, August 2020**

My name is Iémima and I've been a volunteer from the August 2019 to January 2020 for the NGO Sambhali Trust through the French program called "Service Civique". My mission was to teach women in an Empowerment Centre and children in a Primary Education Centre. I was in Shakti EC and Laadli PEC.

In Shakti EC, I taught English to the advanced group and Math to the medium and beginner groups.

With my advanced group, we studied a lot of irregular verbs, how to describe a picture and the regular and irregular plurals of nouns. The students also learnt how to understand a text in a certain context and did some exercises where they had to explain something in English to prove their understanding of it. During each session, there was a time dedicated to the lesson and a time where the students had to express the knowledge newly acquired. It was either oral or written exercises. The advanced students of Shakti EC had a very good level of English, so it was very easy to work with them.



With the medium group, we started to study the present tense. Then some new volunteers started working at Shakti EC, so we divided the groups between us. I was working alone with the advanced group and the two other volunteers were managing the beginners and medium groups. This way, the amount of work was equally divided.

Before the new volunteers arrived, I taught the alphabet to the beginner group with written exercises. However, at some point, I started working only orally because the beginner students didn't know how to read. I thought that the most important thing was for them to be able to understand people when they speak. We also studied animals and vegetables names.

I never had a real teaching experience before. At the beginning of my volunteering, I was not feeling legitimate to teach them because I was not fluent in English. And after some time, I realised that it was not the most important thing and that the main goal was to give new knowledge to the women, even if it was not in a perfect English. At some point, I was feeling a real connection with the students and I started really enjoying my classes. I felt like I was where I belonged.

The teachers I worked with were really helpful and so nice. Manju and Sunita are very good at doing their job. Usually, Manju was helping me with the Hindi-English translations.

I also gave some workshops during my volunteering.



At Laadli PEC, where I worked with my friend Julia, we did a lot of things. After one month of teaching there, I realized that the medium group students didn't know how to read. I was really surprised because they only worked with long-term volunteers and most of the students are going to school. The problem was that they only memorized everything by heart. That was a real issue for me because it meant that I could

not teach them anything new. In my opinion, when learning a new language, knowing how to read it comes first. Therefore, I started to teach them how to read and we did that while learning body parts, vegetables, fruits, birds, flowers and animals' names. We also studied the days of the week and the months of the year. I think we completed almost all the curriculum with this group.



With the beginners, we spent a few months teaching them the alphabet. Then, we started with how to read easy words which was great. We also studied the animals, vegetables and fruits names.

With the advanced group, we revised everything they had studied before and we taught them some grammar as well. We studied the present tense and started to study the past tense. We also taught them the plurals of nouns, the articles a/an and how to use that/this/those/these.

It really was not that easy to work with the medium group because most of them couldn't read and they all had different levels of English. Therefore, I had to adapt myself and teach in such a way that everybody in the group could learn something from me.

To conclude this report, it was an amazing time to worked in those centers and at Sambhali Trust.

Iémima Guez

