

MY EXPERIENCE

There is so much you can teach these smart kids.

In an ideal world, there would be no hunger, no poverty & no illiteracy. Unfortunately, we live in a world far from ideal!

But... there is hope. Having been on the periphery, I always knew about the great work Pratham Mysore was doing. I was sufficiently proud, and sufficiently satisfied that at least someone was doing something to make this society we live in, a better place for all. These people cared about the world, and they had the drive to do something about it.

Only when I was requested to be a part of this beautiful organization did I realize that maybe I had something that could be contributed too!



**PREETHI RANJAN
KB FACILITATOR,
MYSORE**

After a hesitant start, I took my first step. I went to a Knowledge Bridge session. I have not looked back since. The smiling faces of the children, the eager faces of the parents and the pride in the eyes of the local teachers have made a permanent place in my heart.



PRATHAM MYSORE

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PRATHAM MYSORE

What the volunteers feel about

KNOWLEDGE BRIDGE PROGRAMME



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MONEY CAN'T BUY



Jayanth
*Student, University of
Mysore, Mysore*

There are few things in life which money can't buy. After joining Pratham I felt its true. It is like doing something which makes my heart feel truly happy. Knowledge Bridge is a kind of program which is dedicated for educating kids about Fundamental knowledge.

Ever since I joined, I had the dilemma whether I will be able to mingle with the kids- language proving to be the major hurdle. However, all my doubts and anxieties were put to rest on the first day itself.

Kids greeted me open heartedly. They interacted as if they had known me since time immemorial- as if I was their friend. They are always buzzing with energy; eager to listen to what I am about to teach. They are ever ready to follow my words and explore the world where I am leading them to.

The best moment was when I enquired about what they want to learn next. Quick came the reply- "I want to learn about space, satellites, planets, etc." These are out of their syllabus; yet they wish to unfurl the fascinatingly mysterious pages of Universe.

Kirthi, Infosys, Mysore.

FIRST PLATFORM TO LEARN

I've been part of the kb program from the day it kicked off, and luckily, I got the chance to conduct the first session which was at shantinagar (one of the centers where sessions are held on every Saturday). I had a very inferior idea about the kids there. Like everyone in common, even I thought that the kids might not be good at English and might be too rude, might not be disciplined and well behaved, etc, etc. But, to our group's surprise, we were greeted by the kids and were given a welcome speech too, all in well-spoken English! When I started my session in Hindi, all the kids protested, as they wanted to hear it in English. Over the months, we've grown into a huge volunteer base, which started with just 5 people. Through these sessions I've definitely understood the following 3 points :

My false idea about the slum kids, or kids who are looked down by various other sectors of the society, got sublimed. Now I feel that they are the people who have a very limited resource of luck, and if they use it well, definitely, they can surge ahead of the privileged class.



Saakib,
Student,
Sadvidya College

CONCEPT TRANSCENDS ALL BARRIERS

It's been a privilege to have been since the inception of the "Knowledge Bridge" program. KB has given me a wonderful opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of underprivileged children using my life experiences and skills. Fostering new friendships and seeing life through the eyes of the less fortunate has enormously enriched my existence.



Ranjith,
Student, USA

I've realized that the potential that the Knowledge Bridge program holds is immense. The concept essentially transcends all barriers of society to bring people together for a worthy cause- that of making a difference through education. Seeing the overwhelming anticipation of the kids, each time we have a session is testimony to Pratham's success. Helping them celebrate the joys of childhood is something we look forward to every week. I'm also excited to interact with an extremely talented team of volunteers and the upstanding citizens of Mysore who share the vision of KB. Observing the unique skills that each participating individual brings to the program has also been a humbling experience of learning for me.

The onus is on us to take this program forward, and establish it in as many centers as possible. I am excited by the prospect of seeing this movement transform the lives of more children in Mysore and I hope that we can all join hands to make KB a grand success in the Future.

MY VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE.

Pratham has been my first time ever volunteering for a social cause, and my experience has been enriching and enlightening, to say the least. Although I more resembled a spectator during the first few sessions, I steadily grew a lot more comfortable working with the kids (hopefully by next year, my language skills would have improved)..and I had a lot of fun too :-)

Unfortunately, I couldn't participate as much as I would have liked to in KB, due to the short span of time I actually was in Mysore. I'm still going to be contributing though, working with Pratham Mumbai through school. I hope the kids here are as eager to learn and as enthusiastic as the kids in Mysore!

I'm really really impressed by what everyone's been doing here in KB...hats off to all of you!

See you next summer :-)

Anchal Padukone
MUMBAI

MY VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

For me it's a great experience to take part in the Knowledge Bridge program, which helps children to broaden their horizon. It gives children the opportunity to learn about several topics and to ask questions, what in my opinion is the most important point. This program isn't only a presentation of a certain topic, that the children can choose; it contains also lots of communication between us and children and between the kids themselves. Encouraging them to think and to ask whatever they want, we got an amazing response from them. Sometimes the discussion takes much more time than the presentation itself.

The sessions, that we do every Saturday, always are very interesting for me, because every time again, when I see all of these children with their big eyes waiting for someone who will listen to them and also give them information, it gives me the feeling that these sessions are so important and necessary. Knowledge Bridge is a platform for their interest. I hope their will be more volunteers joining Pratham that we can reach more children.



Anne Mahlow
Pratham Volunteer
Germany.

STRAIGHT FROM MY HEART'

'Knowledge Bridge', as the name suggests it is really bridging the gap between groups of people. Since beginning I am with this project of Pratham and its being an amazing experience for me as a facilitator. I always wanted to work at a grass root level, but being a non Kannada person it was not possible for me to work here in Mysore. But after joining 'Knowledge Bridge' project I got this opportunity. This program is giving me a platform to use my learning & experiences for a wonderful bundle of children.



Ruchika.G.Naidu
Infinite Scope,
Mysore

Every time I see children with new spark on their faces & ready to interact; and as a facilitator I feels very well connected with these children. I congrats the team for the success journey so far & wish them luck to carry forward this journey for miles.

INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE

It was incredible to see how the volunteers tried to explain the topics to the kids. They laid emphasis on giving a practical touch to it which definitely kept the kids entertained as well as interested.

I am working on some of the topic. Hopefully, in the forthcoming days I ll be able to help them in my own small ways.

Neharika Ranjan
Student,

Vidya Vikas Engineering College, Mysore

MY SATISFYING EXPERIENCE

As a Co-ordinator of Pratham Mysore, I feel the Knowledge bridge program is a most satisfying experience. All the success shall go to our young and dynamic team of volunteers, these youngsters are not spending their weekends in cinemas, parks or parties but with our kids in slum locations, they really care these kids and share their Knowledge with lot of fun, play, encourage them to ask questions in each topics every week and answer them in a very easiest way!! each child is happy to learn new things about sun, moon, air, water, animals, birds, trees, computers... of course how to be good.. what is good and bad... isn't it great?.. these young volunteers are surely our kids role models, because every child wants to become a software engineer, doctor, teacher or social worker etc., and finally I request for more numbers of volunteers to join in this wonderful program, so that our other children who are living in different locations too will benefit. thank you!



Mahesh D
Prog. Coordinator,
Pratham Mysore

To see how the children enjoy learning from the many sided sessions we have, is a great experience for me. In the process of planning each session we first think about what could be interesting for children and then we talk to the kids themselves to find out about their personal interests. In addition to that we also try to impart consciousness about oneself and our environment.



Ruth
Volunteer, Germany



Shwetha
Infosys, Mysore

From my college days I have the dream of adopting few underprivileged children and providing quality education for them but never really materialized this due to so many hindrances. Knowledge bridge program has given me head start in that direction. Knowledge bridge program is a wonderful concept which came out with the strong vision of bridging the knowledge gap between people. This program is not only about sharing knowledge with less privileged children, it's about building the educated and intellectual India and KB program has set the tone correctly in that regard.

FIRST HEARD OF KNOWLEDGE BRIDGE

When I first heard of the Knowledge Bridge programme, I was instantly interested, and so, it was no surprise when I felt immensely good after I attended my first session with the kids. "Caring and Sharing" was the topic of discussion, and much to my surprise, they not only enjoyed the session, but also understood the deeper meaning of what we were trying to tell them, which is not what you expect from such small children. This was evident from the way they spoke and gave examples, not to mention the way they actively took part in the collage making activity that was organized for them. One particular team pasted a picture of two people boxing, and the explanation offered by that team was "These two men are boxing 'together'", together being the key word!

Kids, from what I gather, are essentially the same, no matter from where they hail, or what their family backgrounds are. But unfortunately, some don't have an outlet to voice their ideas and opinions. Being a part of a team that helps them do precisely this is a huge honour. I am definitely looking forward to many more such sessions with these amazing children.



Swathi Pandurangi
Medical Student
J.S.S. Medical College.