

ADDING TO THE LEARNING IN YOUTH

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ISSN 2277-7733

Volume 7 Issue 1,

June 2018

Abstract

In the journey of youth, we may experience something unforgettable, something meaningful; we may met someone special or most of them are normal. No matter how does it happen, it's a part of our journey in the world. In this article, the author wrote about how she decided to teach in Chinese rural area. At where she met a little girl and they come to be friends. The little girl reminded she that when she was also a little girl, who studied in such a rural area but no such volunteers to helped her like what she did. She hopes that what she did can have a small impact in this little girl. Maybe in the future she will get a call from this little girl and tell her she did it.

Keywords: *Learning, youth, development, teaching, volunteer, Chinese rural area, feeling, take care of others, summer intern*

Background

In 2017, as soon as the final exam was over, we 16 volunteers set out from different provinces of China and gathered in the rural primary school where we will live for a month.

Although we were told that the condition is bad, we were still shocked when we arrived. The school consists of a two-storey teaching building, a three-storey teachers' dormitory, three offices and a concrete playground. There were no computer, no projector in every classroom from grade1-6, the only things were a few desks and chairs. They have 5 teachers, but no teacher's education is above colleges. American politician Bill First said that Every child should have the opportunity to receive a quality education. (1) With this belief we started our journey.

Change in Attitude and Mindset

I was the headteacher of grade three. The first day we met, I wrote basic personal information on the blackboard and drew a simple map to tell them where I came from. To my surprise, they wrote down my introduction and even the map in their notebooks and started to talk about me. At this time, a little girl was sitting very quietly, as if she was dismissive of me. So I called the roll to find out who she was. She raised her hands when a boy's name was called. She had short men's hair, but wearing pink clothes. I was confused, Is she a boy or a girl? In later home visit, I got to know that her name was changed into her brother's in residence booklet. In this way, she began to attract my attention.

It turned out that in addition to her family she also has a brother and two sisters, parents were divorced, they are raised by the father. But her father came home once every three or four years. She grew up with her grandmother and was a typical left-behind child in rural area of China. Even when we went to her home, she hid in her room and would not come out to talk with us. As the head teacher, I thought that I can do something for her.

After that, whenever I have extra time, I will stay with them and share the interesting things outside the mountains and my college life. I told them that at her age, I was

also studying in such schools, but now I walk out my way. I hope they can also. She was listening to me, carefully.

I appointed her as the monitor of our class to help me collect homework, arrange everyone to clean up classroom and so on. What I asked her to do, she always do it well.

In the third week, there was a speech contest. I began to teach them how to give a lecture one week in advance. Firstly, to a good article is necessary, try to leave off your script, make eye contact with the audience, add some body language.

On the day of the presentation, I was shocked. She was completely off script, fluently, full of emotional speech and her confidence and calm, as if the misfortune had never happened to her. Beyond doubt that she won the first prize. I have never so proud of anyone but her at that time. She deserved it.

Emotional Attachment

I found that gradually, every class break, she will come to talk to me, although it is some trivial things, such as who scolded who and I ask me to uphold the justice or some trifles, but she seems to start to open her mind to me.

A fleet month is coming to an end, it was time to say goodbye. The day before we left, we gathered the whole children together and bid farewell to them formally. She sat quietly in her chair, head bowed, didn't want me to see her tears. She asked me for my phone number, but so far she hasn't called me up.

Conclusion

Even though it was the hardest month of my present life, I had teammates who helped me go through out thick and thin, students who loved me, and most importantly, I was doing something that could affect a child's life. Maybe one day in the future, I will get a phone call, she told me and she did it. That's enough.

For education, there's no reason why children in inner cities or rural areas do not receive the same quality education or opportunities as those in suburbs or wealthy neighborhoods. If we truly believe in giving all citizens a chance to pursue happiness and pursue their goals, then we cannot continue to marginalize entire groups of people.(2)

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