

Maya Nanda, '04

New Delhi, India



At Shri Ram Trust, I had a total of four classes from 9am- 4pm everyday and each class consisted of boys in the same age group. This picture was taken after my 11-12 pm class with boys ranging in age from 14 to 17 years old. I taught conversational English to kids who came from poor neighborhoods and who could not afford a good education. No matter how hot it was, these kids were still dedicated to this after school program everyday in the summer in order to increase their likelihood of becoming successful professionals and escape their surroundings.



These boys are probably the closest to my heart because of their jovialness and extreme optimism. They ranged in age from 7 to 9 years old and the one hour class we had together was the highlight of my day because they loved to learn and joke around. They made fun of the way I spoke Hindi and I teased them. I wish I could describe the fun we had, even though our

classroom was hotter than it was outside. I can tell you that I know every single one of these kids will succeed in life because of their love for life, dedication and optimism.



There is a mixture of different people in this picture, but all of them are from the Lohar Basti, which is a poor area where the people's livelihood is ironwork- they are blacksmiths. The older kids in this picture were my students and they are the most dedicated people I have ever met in my life. We had classes outside under a tree in the sweltering heat and when it rained we would cram into one of the tents. They amazed me with their dedication and hard work in class and the work they did for their families to help support them.



My baby Utpul! I know in this picture with his mother he looks a little bit scary because of the eyeliner but he is the sweetest baby in the world. His mother is extremely incompetent and was cooking fish curry in the portable stove. The stove was placed under the bed that Utpul was sleeping on and he rolled over into the pot and got 3rd degree burns all over his head, chest and

arms. He recovered very well and is almost 100% better, however he will need skin grafting in the future when he begins growing. I took care of him everyday from 12 to 1pm and I loved every moment because for those three months, he was my baby.



The other 3 ladies in this picture are teachers in Project W.H.Y (We Help Youth). The two girls next to me are my age (20-21) and they are amazing in their ability to run this organization efficiently and effectively. Without them and Anu (founder of this organization) Project W.H.Y and the kids involved would not have reached the success that they have.