



Hi Mercy,

Did you wish your favourite teacher this Teacher's Day on September 5th? We have always seen and shown the impact of various programmes at Oasis, but more often we forget those who work tirelessly to bring those results. Here are a few tutors and testimonials that we have captured for you!

Ezhil was part of our six-month employment readiness programme, Blue Edge at Basin Bridge and was a vital part of the Community Vigilance Group, creating awareness with a team in his community. He tutors over 35 children at the after-school programme (ASP) at Kannigapuram and helps with their holistic development. Here's a short interview with him.



- What do you do now?

I am working in H&M, Chennai as a Sales Adviser. I also tutor children at Oasis' after-school programme. This job has really helped me to identify my strength and weaknesses. I have learnt to understand myself which has in turn helped while working with children.

- How has your experience been with teaching children at ASP?

Tutoring has become a great part of my life. I consider it a privilege to help these children and take a special interest in them as my brothers and sisters. On Teacher's Day, they all wished me and I felt like it was the biggest achievement of my life.

- What is the one thing you follow while dealing with children at ASP?

I am always patient while dealing with children. I try to be calm and kind when I teach and discipline them.

- What is your dream for children from Kannigapuram?

My dream for them is that they will all learn English and will learn to speak fluently and boldly.

- Who is your favourite teacher and what have they taught you about life?

My favorite teacher is Evangeline Grace who taught me in Blue Edge. She taught me that how we treat others is how they will treat us and I have always followed that. I will continue to teach that to the children at Kannigapuram.

Our students from the Blue Edge employment readiness programme look back at their life and talk about the teachers who have impacted them.



Mohan Sir was not my professor but he taught computer science at college. He supported us whenever we needed anything. I hurt my right leg and since I am physically disabled, he accompanied me to



the doctor. The treatment cost about Rs. 10,000 which my family could not afford. Mohan sir arranged for it to be taken under a government fund. He is a kind person and he has taught me to always help others when I can.

Mohammed Tousif, 19
Bangalore

Shisla Ma'am was our school Principal's Assistant and she was a great motivator. Sabha Ma'am who was my Social Studies teacher, always told us that we should be nice to other people and treat them with respect. That was very inspiring for me.

Muskaan, 16
Bangalore



I love the way my teacher at Blue Edge treats us all equally. She makes sure everyone is included. That's why I love her a lot.

Sheela, 18 Chennai



I had a little knowledge about computers when I joined Blue Edge so I was lethargic and I did not attend classes regularly. But my tutor never gave up on me and encouraged me to finish the course so that it will be useful for me in the future. That motivated me to attend classes regularly.

Balaji, 17
Chennai



"A gifted teacher is not only prepared to meet the needs of today's child, but is also prepared to foresee the hopes and dreams in every child's future."

ROBERT JOHN MEEHAN



Daraksha Khan teaches self-defense and football for our ASP girls in Kamathipura, Mumbai. Living in a high-risk area, girls lack the confidence and awareness to protect themselves. She says, "I want these girls to be empowered. One way to do that is by physically and mentally developing them. Sports and self-defense provides growth in both these areas and I am glad that I am able to teach them."

Sohib*, 14, is from one of Mumbai's largest red-light areas. Last June, he joined our after-school programme and it was a difficult road for the tutors and him. He was uninterested in studying and failed 9th grade while joining ASP and he decided to take up the exams privately. Children learn from what they see and Sohib is no different. Growing up in Kamathipura, he exhibited the bad behaviour that he had seen around him.



The tutors found that he was not taking initiative to study and was not disciplined in class. The tutors started counselling him and they continued to appreciate him and show him his strengths. This helped him to see his strengths. Now he is working hard to be focused in his studies and change his behavior through the life skills sessions at ASP.

*name changed

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