

Volunteer-Work Report for Community Service at Livelihood Education and Development Services (LEADS)



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Foreword

Livelihood Education and Development Services, LEADS, is a non-governmental organization founded in 2007, the primary goal of which is to provide quality and sustainable education and healthcare facilities through different awareness and education support programs for the children, especially underprivileged children enrolled in different government schools. LEADS mainly works towards development of the underprivileged section of the community with better and more effective learning process in existing government curriculum, while developing their social awareness and basic moral values.

Initially, we, a group of 23 students from Sunnydale School, came to know about LEADS through the advisor of our school's Community Service Club. We were required to complete 20 hours of compulsory community service endorsed by the school, but by the time we were done, most of us had worked as volunteers at LEADS for well over 20 hours. To us, it no longer seemed "compulsory", because we had come to truly enjoy the warm and friendly smiles of the children we taught as well as those of the permanent faculty members, not to mention the amiable Executive Director Mrs. Romina Dewan, who always made sure to update herself with any progress we made.

We worked in two groups: 14 of us volunteered to teach the underprivileged children, while 11 of us worked for an environmental awareness program, "Our Environment, Our Resources", organized by LEADS for school-going children, and a few lucky ones among us had the opportunity to be in both. Although this report cannot possibly

do justice to the diversity of the experience we gained working at and for LEADS, it is an attempt to capture our evident delight in being a part of the LEADS team, even if it was for a short period of time.



Section 1: Teaching & Learning





Introduction

14 of us from Sunnydale School, all in the eleventh grade, were responsible for the education of the underprivileged children at LEADS roughly from October, 2017 till December of the same year. Each one of us was assigned a different class and was asked to teach one or a few subjects. Three months might be a seemingly short period of time, but the experience and emotions we encountered in that short span of time are worth a lifetime. At the end of the stipulated period, we believe we could bring about at least some positive change in the lives of our students whom we had come to adore.

The volunteers who were assigned as teachers at LEADS are Abrar Nasir, Ayen Aziza Haque, Faieka Mujtahida, Faiyaz Chowdhury, Faiza Nuren, Jaid Monwar Chowdhury, Labiba Ahmed, Maheen Mahjabin, Mir Zafin Hassan, Nikita Paul, Rafi Ahmed, Sameen Hossain, Saria Chowdhury and Taron Bashar. In this section, each one of the volunteers involved in providing education to the children at LEADS shares a short account of her/his time at LEADS and the experiences gained there.

Experience of Volunteers

Name of Volunteer: Abrar Nasir

Winston Churchill once cited, *"We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we give."* I saw this quote a few months ago and this really inspired me to be a part of the community and help it flourish. And by the grace of the Almighty, I was provided the opportunity to work at LEADS as a teacher. I would like to thank Ms. Yasmeen Ahmed (Head of ECA, Sunnydale) and Ms. RominaDewan Kabir (Founder and Executive Director, LEADS) for handing me this chance.

The children, here, are not from a wealthy family or even a middle-income family and instead they are the ones who don't have access to proper education backups and who belong to poor families. These brilliant minds are given private tuitions at LEADS to assist them with their school academics. I was asked to teach some children of Class IV (Science and Mathematics) and I had an amazing time teaching them. My job was to explain the chapters of the textbooks, take oral and written tests and help them prepare for their final examination. Not only did I help them with their textbook-based learnings, but I also provided them with knowledge about health, nutrition and other important social traits. In between classes, I also enlightened them with the importance of education and how it will help them in their impending life.

The students were very eager to learn and they always participated in class. Being a teacher was not always easy, but to me, it seemed really interesting. The students were kind, interactive and mostly attentive. I felt like I was a part of their educational life and helped them learn something, if not a lot. The other permanent teachers at LEADS helped me a great deal with my responsibilities as well. Overall, my experience at LEADS was pretty great.

I would like to believe that the children of the class I taught actually grasped the things I taught them and that they would do well in their exams. The children tried their best to answer in the tests and I am glad to have witnessed their improvements. As a teacher, it gives me great pleasure to see them develop.

Name of Volunteer: Ayen Aziza Haque

My journey with LEADS has been wonderful since I have begun working with this organization. I have been teaching four students of Class Five English and Mathematics.

LEADS has been a very supportive organization for the students as well as for the volunteers working over there. It has been very helpful for me because of working with LEADS. It made me much more confident and even more outspoken. I was able to interact with people which was very difficult for me. Moreover I could identify my teaching abilities. Furthermore, my students and the coordinators assisted me at first to cope up with the rules and regulations. My students taught me many Bengali terms of Mathematics which I did not know earlier.

On the other hand, when I joined my students were a bit weak in Mathematics and especially in English but gradually I tried my best to encourage and assist them to improve in these two subjects. As they were Primary School Certificate (PSC) candidates so I was also a bit nervous. But when I took their final tests they could improve. They scored good numbers in the tests as they had put in a lot of effort. Hopefully they will do well in their board examination.

It was great working with such an organization and I am looking forward to working with more organizations like LEADS.

Name of Volunteer: FaiekaMujtahida

My journey at the LEADS was a pleasurable one. I was given the responsibility of teaching the students of class two. I taught them Bengali, English and Mathematics for a month and managed to bring about some improvement overtime.

I particularly focused on the students who did not show much progress and emphasized on the subjects they were poor at like English. I tried to spend more time on the topics and questions with which they faced problems like the compound letters in Bengali, 'rearranging the words to form a meaningful

sentence' in English etc. I ended the course by taking model tests and their scores showed signs of improvement.

The experience derived from the course was different and new. It enabled me to assess my abilities as a teacher and made me more responsible and self-confident. I got to know about the academic and living standards of the impoverished children.

I enjoyed the teaching course so much that I did not mind teaching beyond the hours. It is one that I will always remember and this experience will encourage me to take part in more such teaching programs in the future.

Name of Volunteer: Faiyaz Chowdhury

I have been involved in community service at LEADS from October, 2017 to December 7, 2017. I have taught students of Class IX. This was first the time that I have taught students and it was one of the most exhilarating experiences of my life.

On my first day, I was a little nervous about teaching students for the first time. However, since that day I was always eager to go there and teach. The students were all very cooperative and helpful. I had to teach them everything in Bengali since they were studying national curriculum. My Bengali was always a bit rusty and as I have always studied in English, I did not know most of the Bengali version of the English terms. In this case, the students came to my aid. They helped me in understanding some of the Bengali terms.

The students were of average quality and some of them were even mischievous. While teaching, I realized the sort of pain teachers sometimes go through when students talk during the class. Although some students gossiped a bit during class, most of them attended my classes with serious attention. I, in turn, tried to give the students my best. I tried to teach them all the topics as clearly and as extensively as I could.

This community service program at LEADS helped me realize one important thing: being selfless. This was the first time that I have done something for the community and the experience was very satisfying and fulfilling. I never realized that doing something for the society as a whole, however small, could have such a good feeling. This community service at LEADS allowed me to be close to the less privileged children of the society. I realized how fortunate I am that I was

born in a privileged family and that it is my duty to help those who are not so fortunate. I hope later in my life I can contribute more to the society and make this country a better place.

Name of Volunteer: FaizaNuren

For the past few years I have been looking for an opportunity to volunteer for community service. Fortunately this time through my school, I got the chance to work with LEADS.

It was my first time volunteering at an NGO. I was given the task to teach English to the students of Grade 7.

I specifically chose to work with LEADS because I really want to help provide the underprivileged children with the most important thing which is education. Education is the only way these children can lead a prosperous life in future and contribute towards the society.

I had taught five students during this time and although it was a short span of time I believe I have been able to teach their lessons properly.

I am happy that I managed to teach them new things like the certain use of grammar which included the use of verbs, types of English sentences and the proper use of punctuations.

I remember the first few days I found this whole teaching process difficult. It was tough to make the students understand. Later on I realized, it was not tough, I just had to be patient and teach them in a different way. Moreover the students were very nice and made me feel comfortable so I was able to adjust with them quickly.

I have tried my best to provide the students with the proper guidance that they needed. In doing so, I myself got the opportunity to learn from them. I talked to them about other things outside their studies and got to know about their lifestyle, which is so different from mine. These children are not so privileged, they have to go through a lot of hardship in order to continue their education but nevertheless they are still doing it with a smile on their face. By looking at them I learned to not take my life and my education for granted and work hard in life with no complains.

Each day after finishing the classes, I had the best feeling ever, thinking about all the little effort I have given to bring a change in the lives of these children.

I had a wonderful experience working with LEADS. I would like to thank RominaDewan madam and Afroza madam for giving me this opportunity to work with them. This experience has certainly made me more socially conscious and eager to volunteer more for the good cause in years to come.

Name of Volunteer: JaidMonwar Chowdhury

My journey at LEADS began in October, 2017. LEADS - a non-profit organization- helps the poor and needy people in our society who cannot afford to send their children to school by providing free educational services. They have other projects such as recycling projects, water conservation projects, and others. Due to these active projects, the staffs sheer devotion, including Mrs. RominaDewan's hard work, Leads has earned country wide recognition.

It is an honor for me to actively participate in their teaching program as a volunteer. When I first took charge of my students of Class IX, they were in a pretty bad condition, especially in Accounting. So, I started from the very beginning; teaching the basics. In the first test, one of my students failed. I knew that it was going to be a difficult task to bring her up. Therefore, I motivated her, gave her practice tests, and tried my best to solve all of her problems. Besides, this was my duty to help her improve in her performance. But this required her effort as well, and she tried her best to develop herself. In the end, the result she achieved in the last test was amazing- She got an A. Other than accounting, I taught Higher Mathematics General Mathematics in Class VI and IX.

During the few months at LEADS, I also learned a lot from the students. The students taught me virtue, character, and selflessness. They were always very cheerful and smiling in the classes, as if all their wishes had been fulfilled. Moreover, they taught me how to respect elders. Once, one of their permanent teachers was leaving the job. As a farewell gift, each student gave a gift to the teacher: a painting, some flowers and others. Such feeling of love existed between them. Even the teacher bought them chips and toys. I was extremely pleased to see their relationship.

All in all, my experience in Leads was just amazing. A great journey which will hard to forego.

Name of Volunteer: Labiba Ahmed

It was always my utmost wish to give some good contribution from my side to the society. Today the wish turned into reality and all thanks to Sunnydale and LEADS for making it happen in real.

During the holiday I worked with LEADS, an organization which provides guidance to the underprivileged students who study in school but due to lack of amenities fails to study at home. I started to teach a group of six children of Class Three who were curious in learning new things and also showed quite a good interest in studies. I taught them mathematics. At first I had to work very hard making them understand the concepts and methods. Then gradually each day with good practice they improved.

With improvement came good motivation in them. Besides, I also use to interact with them regarding games, their hobbies etc. to remove boredom. Once I also brought chocolates for them as rewards for studying well. They used to like my presence and I loved their smile on seeing me. If they continue this hardwork they will definitely succeed in life.

This is my first experience of handling children and that too by teaching. Each day I developed a good change in me as well. The friendly atmosphere together with needed discipline helps everyone to become a good human. I loved the three weeks short experience over there and special thanks to Mrs. Romina Dewan and Mrs. Afroza miss for thinking me capable of doing this.

Name of Volunteer: MaheenMahjabin

I was very fortunate to have received the opportunity to be a part of the organization LEADS. I had started volunteering there from the 2nd of November, 2017 and taught the students of class-3. Working there was a memorable journey for me that I will never forget.

English, Bengali and Mathematics were the subjects that I taught. Throughout this teaching journey I had seen my students improve gradually. Although each of them were good at different subjects, they had individual lacking that they needed to improve. I basically taught them the topics included in their syllabus

but put more emphasis on the topics that needed more attention. Within two weeks or so I could see they were improving gradually. I am glad that they put efforts to improve by properly following my lectures and doing the home works they were assigned on a daily basis. Their improvement was evident in their grades.

The experience was a memorable one and I talk about it frequently. It challenged me in so many ways. I found myself participating in activities I had never considered doing, like teaching. It enabled me to gain teaching experience and boosted my self-confidence. I felt the responsibility that this job demanded as it was very important to teach them properly. I am thrilled that I was given this opportunity and this is an experience that I will cherish and value forever.

Name of Volunteer: Mir Zafin Hassan

My teaching experience at LEADS has been both inspiring and enlightening. My students - Lamia and Tahmina of Class Eight - have shown great enthusiasm towards learning new things. The atmosphere at LEADS is ideal for learning too— the teachers are very friendly and the senior students help out the junior students in their work; it is like a closely knit family.

I taught my students English prior to their Junior School Certificate (JSC) examination. Although we didn't have much time (one month to be precise) we tried our best to go through the syllabus thoroughly and practice almost all available model tests. I provided them with study material in the last weeks leading up to the exam, which helped them further in understanding the topics. Given the time constraint imposed upon us, we gave it our best shot and I hope results do justice to the hours of hardwork we put in.

Furthermore, my time at LEADS has made me realize how blessed I am and that I should give back to the community as much as I possibly can. The hardwork of the students to materialize their dreams has inspired me like nothing else in my life.

Lastly, I thank you for providing me the opportunity to volunteer at LEADS and helping me gather some memories and lessons which I will cherish throughout my life.

Name of Volunteer: Nikita Paul

Volunteering in LEADS has been by far one of the most valuable and life-teaching experience in my life. I was given the task to teach little Second Graders but little did I know I would end up learning a lot from them. The first day was truthfully very confusing as I was unprepared but gradually I developed a special bond with the students. The two days in a week I was assigned to teach them were days I looked forward eagerly each week. Teaching had brought a positive change in me and helped me grow as a person.

Knowing that you are of help to children who are underprivileged even if your contribution is small gives you a feeling of genuine happiness. It was always an amazing feeling to be greeted with students who are waiting for you. Working with them I realized how different their childhood was from mine; they had to be independent at an early age and did not have much of their parents' guidance in their education. School and after hours of coaching in LEADS was usually the most they could study and practice what they learnt. However, there are more ways why they are like every little children out there. They are enthusiastic, full of energy and creativity, love to draw and take up challenges. They taught me how we should take life simply and how to be appreciative for small things in life. They revived me of the good values I was taught in my childhood and made me realize how the pressure while growing up has affected those. I learnt the lesson of responsibility through them and how to interact with different kinds of people as each of the ten students were a different individual. The teachers there are very caring and patient and I respect them for their hard work. It was inspiring to see how of the people involved are working for a great cause. To be even a small part of this has been truly wonderful. From here I learnt the lesson of responsibility through them and how to interact with different kinds of people as each of the ten students were a different individual. I may have come to LEADS to teach, but I learnt a lot myself.

Name of Volunteer: Rafi Ahmed

Community service has always been a moral deed through which we can give back to society - or at least that was the perception I had. I was wrong. Because not only do we have an opportunity to give back to society, the lessons we learn from those we help are almost equal in measure. It is a wonderful exchange between human beings that makes everyone a better person. And that has been the most wonderful aspect of my experience teaching at LEADS.

The strategy I had as I began my teaching was that I needed to start from the basics of English and teach them slowly on a step-by-step process so that they could comprehend better. I was surprised not only by how quickly they caught

on to my lessons, but their raw passion to learn. Whenever I found a mistake, they were always deeply disappointed in themselves and persevered to rectify that mistake. They never gave up and that made me realize how hard-working and talented they really are. Hence I tried to teach them skills beyond the syllabus and within their ability to grasp. I taught them techniques that would help them in answering passage questions and spell a word correctly. In the process I learned the principles I should have as a student.

My experience at LEADS has been a great journey, one I will never forget. To my students who I loved and who taught more than I could teach them, to the kind teachers who support them and care for them, deeply, to the authority of the organization who have given them education - I will always be grateful. Thank You.

Name of Volunteer: Sameen Hossain

I have had a great time at LEADS and I surely have learnt a lot of important things there that I could use throughout my life. Teaching class two was indeed a very enjoyable experience for me.

One of the things that I learnt from LEADS was being punctual. In today's day and age time is a very big factor and not being punctual can lead to a lot of potential damage. I have also gained a lot of leadership qualities such as organization, strategic planning, time management etc. Lastly, teaching at LEADS made me realize how fortunate I am. Seeing the students being so happy despite their socio-economic conditions taught me to be grateful for everything I have and not take anything for granted. I have also learnt a lot about their lives and it is indeed very colorful and interesting. The students have definitely inspired me to be a better human being and to work hard.

The students have improved a lot academically. English was definitely their weakest subject by far at the beginning but it is at the same level with their other subjects. They can now form cohesive sentences without any assistance and their spelling has improved a lot too. They now have a wider vocabulary range and are more confident in using the language. The students have improved a lot in Mathematics too. Most of them are able to perform the basic mathematical operations with confidence and making them practice their time tables regularly has helped them a lot. Bengali was their strongest subject and it still is. They can now form more complex sentences in Bengali and their spelling has improved a lot. I tried finishing everything at class and giving them as little homework as possible as some of the students complained that the

conditions at home were not ideal for studying. Homework for them would include some timetables and word meanings to increase their vocabulary. The students have learnt how to work better together as a team and how to work better independently.

I really hope that I can carry the lessons I have learnt forward in life and I hope that the students can do the same.

Name of Volunteer: Saria Chowdhury

I was fortunate enough to be able to work at LEADS for a longer period of time, commencing in August, 2017 till the 9th of December, 2017. I came to know about the organization through a friend of mine before my school informed us about the compulsory volunteer service, and I cannot possibly be more grateful for having the opportunity to spend such a long time working with an amazing organization as LEADS.

I was responsible for teaching English to the students of the third grade, although I never really “taught” them the subject. I tried to inspire them to learn and love this subject which they feared the most, and in the process I helped them with their vocabulary, grammar, sentence structures and spellings. I tried my best to let them make use of their imagination by not restraining them to memorizing essays and sentences, but by helping each of my six students to structure their own creative writings. Often, they would ask me the English of certain Bengali words while writing, and even if I thought it would be too difficult for them to remember, they would make me spell the word so that they could make sentences with it. Their eagerness to learn the subject which they initially despised encouraged me to work hard and deliver the best of my knowledge to them.

LEADS taught me responsibility, contentment and determination. After class, I would always keep some time to talk to my students. Sometimes we talked about our friends and family, other times I was the good listener to their stories. While it was evident that they were not from a privileged background, I have never once heard them complain. They seemed perfectly satisfied with whatever they had and they truly enjoyed the smallest things in life, like me complimenting them on their good work. They strived to correct their mistakes and shortcomings, and although it took a long time, their determination never failed.

I am going to miss LEADS. I am going to miss my short-chats-turned-long with Romina Miss, a person who is traditional and modern, easy-going and hard-working, all at the same time. I'm going to miss Afroza Miss and Laboni Miss, the two diligent teachers at LEADS and my guide to handling my students initially. I'm going to miss the smiles on the faces of my students when they saw me. But most of all, I'm going to miss my students inspire me to learn Life while I inspired them to learn English.

Name of Volunteer: TaronTaseen Basher

Livelihood Education and Development Services (LEADS) is a non-governmental organization which not only aids the education of unprivileged children of the community but also hosts numerous environmental awareness competitions and campaigns for the students. Under the watchful eye of its chairman A.S.M. Kabir and unyielding efforts of its director Mrs. RominaDewan, LEADS has carved its own path while establishing the vital role the organization plays in the education and future of these children.

However the work of this organization would not be possible without the help of its innumerable volunteers. Volunteers consist of students from different schools, both English and Bengali medium, who donate some of their time for the betterment of the community. I also had the privilege of participating as a volunteer for LEADS. From day one I had noticed how organized and efficient the work inside the premises was. Everyone was busy with one task or the other either teaching children or helping with administrative work and so on. I was given the task of teaching English paper 2 and Science to a class of seventh graders. Later I found my class to consist of 5 students, and even though they were seventh graders from two different schools but the level of attention and determination they showed towards their studies made my work easier. I didn't even notice how fast we had finished the syllabus and before I knew it I had already gone way past the obligatory number of working hours.

Teaching the students actually was a new and surreal experience for me during my time at LEADS. I truly thank Romina Miss for establishing a system like LEADS where we are not only able to gain experience of skills such as teaching but are also able to actively participate in developing the future of our community.



Section 2: Environmental Awareness Program

Introduction

Besides providing education to the not-so-affluent children of the society, LEADS also organizes environmental awareness programs for school-going children. These programs help the children to become aware of the importance of the environment and its resources, consequentially preventing pollution and wastage of resources. LEADS believes that children are the torch-bearers of society and they are the best agents to bring about positive changes in society.

The event where 11 of us volunteers had the opportunity to aid LEADS to make the program a success was the third phase of the environmental awareness competition "Our Environment, Our Resources", organized by LEADS in collaboration with ACME Agroviet & Beverages Ltd. We aided with management, photography and hosting the award-giving ceremony of the competition to make the event a success. The 11 of us who volunteered for the event are Elona Taqwa, Gazi Rifat, Md Tanjeeb Hossain, Nafisul Huq Khondaker, Nikita Rahman, Sameen Ibn Shahid, Saria Chowdhury, Shanata Ahmed, Sharar Hossain Siddiqui and Taron Taseen Bashir. All of us truly enjoyed being part of the event, and in this section, the volunteers share their experience working there.

Experience of Volunteers

Name of Volunteer: ElonaTaqwa

Leads is an institution fully devoted to providing underprivileged children coaching so that they can excel in their studies. Leads also encourage children to showcase their talents by organizing events like the 'Environmental Awareness Competition' which was held on the 27th and the 28th of October, 2017. Volunteering for this event was undoubtedly a fantastic experience.

The purpose of this event was to spread awareness of the environmental issues faced almost worldwide. This not only helps us by making Bangladesh a better place to live in, but by also saving the world. This competition was organized for students studying in high school. Many schools participated like Viqarunnesa, Rajuk etc. and they were all successful in amazing us.

I must appreciate how organized the event was. It went smoothly without any trouble. The timing was also strictly followed. The gallery and the stage was neatly decorated. It was simplicity at its best.

I am so glad I met Mrs. Romina Dewan. She is a very inspiring and kind woman. She did not care about publicity and thus did not even call the media! She simply wanted to convey her message through the event and help children in any way possible. A big thanks to her for letting us be a part of this event. It taught us to be selfless, taught us how to work together, and ofcourse, how to take care of our environment.

Name of Volunteer: Nafisul Huq Khondaker

LEADS is a non-governmental organization aimed to provide quality education to the underprivileged students of the society while being within the affordability of their families. Besides their permanent staff, LEADS allows interested high school students to volunteer and help in their various activities throughout the year. I worked with LEADS as one such volunteer appointed to help with the preparation of an event they were to host.

The "Environment Awareness Competition", the third phase of LEADS's annual activities, was held on the 27th and 28th of October 2017. This competition was organized for high school and middle school students following the National Curriculum. The completion had three categories, Poster Making, Mobile

Photography and Recycling; all three categories following the same slogan, "Our Environment, Our Resource." Being involved with the preparation of the event was a truly remarkable experience. It involved a great deal of professional work followed by numerous learning opportunities for people my age. From inputting data into a computer to helping on stage in the prize giving ceremony, I must admit the task was tiresome yet enjoyable. On the day of the event it felt great to watch the young eager faces of the participants, while meeting renowned artist Prof. Mustafa Manwar (chief guest and judge) was a great pleasure.

To sum it all up, this was without a doubt a worthwhile endeavor and I hope more students like me will volunteer and help organizations like LEADS go even further with their ambition. Unfortunately I was not part of the teaching staff of LEADS but I'm sure it would be an equally amazing experience, which I hope to attain in the future.

Name of Volunteer: Nikita Rahman

Leads, livelihood education and development services in a non-profit organization established in 2007. Leads is known for their work involving the underprivileged class of society especially providing sustainable education to children in need or dropping out. Apart from this, Leads has been organizing programs for the welfare of society and this year for the third consecutive time LEADS in partnership with the ACMEAgrovet and Beverages Limited has organized 'Our Environment, Our Resources' an environmental awareness campaign involving school children from renowned government schools across Bangladesh. This campaign had several stages and ended with a competition where students had to channel their creative side while keeping the environment in their mind. As volunteers we had a complete different perspective of the event compared to that of the students or even the organizing groups. Preparations for the event started days before, with us running around the rooms of Lead's office at Dhanmondi. Prior to the event our work included listing the name of participants, preparing questionnaires to be answered at the event, checking the legitimacy of the winners and so on and so forth. My descriptions probably paint a boring picture but I can say without doubt that none of the volunteers were even remotely close to being bored. My work however was a little different from other volunteers. I accompanied by my fellow anchor spent time preparing to present ourselves as representatives of the organizing committee at the event.

The event started off with us setting up the posters and the recycled items for

display at the exhibition at Shilpakala Academy. Some of us took time to hand out questionnaires to the students to fill out the survey. During the lunch break we were responsible for handing out snacks to the participants. The hectic day one ended with famous personalities such as Mostofa Monowar sir and Enamul Haque sir gracing the event with their presence as judges. As the anchor day two was more important for me. It was a challenge keeping the audience entertained and eager to listen throughout. Day two called for the students to even perform. While some mesmerized the audience with their singing voices others shook up the stage dancing and performing their drama. The two-day long event ended with us announcing winners of each category. From the stage we could see the nervous looks on the participants' faces, waiting to hear their names being called out. It was an absolute delight hearing the cheers for the winners while they received their medals at the end of the event.

In the end community service proved to break the stereotype for us as we woke up the very next day missing having to run around and work.

Name of Volunteer: Sameen Ibn Shahid

The first day at the event organized by LEADS symbolized my very first experience in lending a hand to aid in a greater cause. Watching the youths only a few years younger than me exhibit such amazing passion for their intricate artworks and handicraft through the way they presented them was truly inspiring for me as an aspiring individual determined to live life with the same passion they possess. I'd like to personally thank Romina ma'am for giving me the opportunity to be present at the two-day event as what I value more than the contribution I made was that I was able to admire the beautiful pieces of artwork and exhibitions that were on display and those alone were enough to inspire me. Although the event itself was very short, the positive effects that it had on me will last with me for a very long time throughout the coming years as I approach university. And with that I would like to conclude mentioning how grateful I am to be able to contribute even a little bit to such a fantastic organization whose motives and intentions I truly admire and am super proud to have been a part of.

Name of Volunteer: Saria Chowdhury

I was one of the lucky few who had the opportunity to be involved both in providing education to the children at LEADS as well as in aiding LEADS with the prize-giving ceremony of the environmental awareness program "Our Environment, Our Resources". I volunteered at the prize-giving ceremony as an anchor, and although it was not the first time I hosted an event, it will be the

most memorable experience due to the sheer enthusiastic engagement by my young audience.

One afternoon when I was taking my class at LEADS, I was offered to volunteer as an anchor at the environmental awareness program organized by LEADS and ACME Agroviet and Beverages Ltd. The two-day-long event was to be held on 27th and 28th October, 2017, and unfortunately, I had classes on both days. Despite that impediment, I volunteered to participate as an anchor for the prize-giving ceremony on the second day, and I am very glad I did so. In fact, I regret missing the first day, as my fellow volunteers seemed extremely pleased to have been a part of the exhibition held on the first day.

Although we only had a short period of time to prepare, my fellow anchor and I carefully scripted our opening speeches, and the names of the guests and the winners, and tried our best to be spontaneous in our anchoring. The event which might otherwise have been monotonous due to lengthy speeches was brought to life by amazing cultural performances by the participants, which included singing, dancing and dramas. As an anchor, it felt great how the audience engaged with what I said, and even answered the questions thrown at them with enthusiasm, which eradicated the slight nervousness I had at the beginning of the program, and boosted my confidence.

Although I did announce the name of a winner in the wrong category once, but when my co-anchor corrected that mistake, we turned it into a light joke and the audience laughed along. It was truly an honor to have anchored at such an event graced by the presence of eminent personalities like Mr Farid Ahmed, Director of the Department of Environment, as the chief guest. I thank LEADS for presenting me with such an opportunity and I am glad that I could make good use of it.

Name of Volunteer: Taron Bashar

I, TaronTaseen Bashar from Sunnydale School, had recently opted as a volunteer in the organization LEADS for community work. Through LEADS, I received the opportunity of assisting to organize an environmental awareness competition. The competition was held by LEADS at the Shilpokala Institute Shahabag, and it was sponsored by ACME Ltd. The competition was extremely educational for both the students and the volunteers even though it was only a two daylong event.

On the first day, there were three competitions under the criteria of the environment. Firstly, there was the poster competition where the different colored drawings of the students on the environment were displayed in frames in the exhibition hall for evaluation. This evaluation was done by Professor Mustafa Monwar and Dr. Enamul Haque. This was followed by the mobile photography competition and the recycled invention competition and after further evaluation the winners of the three competitions were promptly selected. On the second day, all the students, organizers and sponsors gathered in the auditorium for a wonderful cultural program. This consisted of dance, drama and musical performances by the students of the participating schools. In the end was the award ceremony for the winners of the competition from yesterday. The other volunteers and I had helped set the stage for the ceremony and also to bring up the artwork and projects of the winning students. There was a lot of excitement and merriment in the atmosphere as the winners made their way one by one to the stage where the awards were given by the chief guests Mr. Farid Ahmed (Director of Department of Environment), Mr. Yamin Hossain (GM Sales and Marketing of ACME Beverages Ltd), and Mr. Sabbir Ahmed Saimun (Brand Manager of ACME Beverages Ltd).

The event ended in applause for the participating schools and smiles on everyone's faces. Its success wouldn't have been possible without the whole hearted efforts of the volunteers and I hope LEADS continues to host such socially beneficial events in the future as well.

Name of Volunteer: WasifFarhan

LEADS- An organization which helps underprivileged children achieve their hopes and dreams. I was initially supposed to help the students of LEADS study, but later I was asked to assist in the event, a Program-cum-Science Fair regarding environmental awareness organized by LEADS.

On the day of the event, I went to Dhanmondi, due to the misconception that it would be held in LEADS' premises in Dhanmondi. Nonetheless, I managed to reach the actual venue, Shilpokala Academy in time. Things started out rather haphazardly with me being handed a bunch of questionnaires. I initially thought that very few people would actually be interested to fill a questionnaire in the first place, let alone such a huge one. But I was surprised to see that in an instant, the 20 questionnaires I had were gone. Moreover, students were asking for more. This changed the notion I perceived regarding these students participating in this event for the sake of it. Even when I was supervising the projects, it was clear how much passion and hope the students had put behind it.

Each and every one of them were serious regarding the participation in this event.

Lunch time came and the hectic saga of the questionnaire distribution ended. We had to distribute snacks to the participants, who were very disciplined and polite which made the snack distribution go smoothly. The lunch was delicious and it was specially ordered by the Chairman of LEADS. We also had the freedom to admire the wonderful Art galleries. The first day had thus ended.

I was not supposed to stay on the second day until the end of the event. But the first day had ended with me realizing how friendly the other volunteers were. Due to me being new to Sunnydale, I was rather nervous at first. But all of them were very warm and cheerful and so I decided to volunteer for the entirety of the event. In the afternoon of day 2, it was hectic with us having to organize the auditorium for the cultural program and prize giving ceremony. The cultural dancing and singing by the participants were very enjoyable. In the prize giving ceremony, I mistakenly handed over a wrong painting once, but other than that it went well.

Finally, the curtains closed. The two days were slightly hectic but very enjoyable, where I got to know friends from my new school better. It had also changed my notion about how students are not interested about these programs and especially environmental awareness. Although we could have done better, this was a near-perfect event which broadened my horizons. I can say without hesitation that I do not regret spending two days volunteering in this event.