

My Project GO Story

After finishing my homework today at the local cafe, I headed home where I was greeted by the aroma of tonight's delicious dinner, which was dal makhani. I sat down with my host family and we discussed the tales of the day. They truly make me feel as if I were part of the family. An interesting cultural saying I recently learned about is: "Rotti Kapra Makan" - Rotti is a type of bread here, Kapra meaning clothes, and Makan meaning home. This is a phrase used quite often in films or politics to emphasize these are the basic necessities of life.



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Memorable Moments

Funniest: There were so many funny things that my classmates and I have been able to experience together that have brought us extremely close.

Most challenging: Struggling to stay healthy. I often felt sick from something I ate or catching some sort of virus.

Favorite: The Urdu students decided to go to Rajasthan and see the city of Jaipur together. We had such an amazing experience. We went to sites such as Amber Palace, Hawa Mahal, and Jal Mahal. We also got to ride elephants and camels, which was really cool.

Cultural Differences

A typical morning was... waking up at 7:00am and having breakfast at 7:30am. My roommate and I would leave for the metro by 7:50am and arrive at school by 8:45am. We then had class from 9:30am to 1:30pm.

Something I found interesting was... even though I grew up in one of the busiest areas in the US (North Jersey/ New York City), Delhi is by far busier. It is extremely populated, making it very hard to have personal space at times.

New Perspective

What I learned from my homestay family... the importance of being open minded. In India, it is very important and necessary to live in peace.

Advice to students considering this program: This experience is once in a lifetime. Take the opportunity to be fully immersed by talking to local shopkeepers and going to different markets!

How this experience will help me in my future career: My dream job in the military is to be able to lead men and women and make a difference in the world. Being able to use Urdu in any aspect of life, such as speaking to a person who knows Urdu, brings me great joy.