

I joined Azim Premji School, Dineshpur in July'16. Its been almost a year working with this school. I am a graduate in science and did my BTC from DIET Lucknow. Though I have worked with children before in some government primary schools during my internship but working here is a totally different experience, even a challenging one.

So when I joined the school things seemed quite easy. I had to teach English to primary classes and Science to upper primary classes, but as days flew, things became a bit difficult. Managing the students was a hard task for me, specially the younger ones; they drove me crazy.

The lesson plans that I made, the TLMs that I had, were never enough for the little 'jumping jacks'. I was really struggling with my English period in class 3. I shared my thoughts with colleagues and wondered how this would get better. When everyone shared their own thoughts, I was able to make a connection between the situations I was facing and their experiences. I did many things but something just wasn't right.

Soon I was announced as the class teacher of class 3. 'Noooooo!' – yes, that was my expressions – 'How could this get even worse'.

So as a new class teacher, the first day I entered the class, I just made some ground rules, changed the seating plan and all. Even a week after that things weren't going well. From July to December, I was literally struggling to handle a bunch of kids of class 3. So now it was high time. I thought and thought and thought, 'What is wrong? Why are the kids just not listening? What I should do to make things better? Am I bad teacher? Should I resign?'. These thought constantly occupied my mind, but I didn't have an answer to any of these.

We had a meeting and were discussing about how children learn and all other important stuff and came to the point of 'Teacher student relationship', and that random thing clicked my mind. 'Where is that bond? How well did I know them? I actually knew nothing'.

So I finally had a hint to my questions. I never built that bond. I was just reacting according to my colleague's experiences - what they did to solve the problem, I did the same. But kids are different, I am different, how could I expect the solutions to be same. After this, I tried to be a part of them and wanted to know more about them. We had conversations about their likes, dislikes, problems, families. During the class or outside the class, I tried to be there with them. I made myself more accessible to them. I talked to their subject teachers about their work, behavior and where they were lacking. We (the kids and I) talked about their views on what kind of class they wanted, what kind of problems we are facing in our class, what kind of rules should be made to resolve those problems. Now I knew them a bit more and what they are capable of; so I allotted them with some duties according to their interest and to my wonder, they are actually responsible!

I am still growing as a teacher and still facing problems with a few of them but that is just fine. We will know each other better soon.

**Kanika Srivastava**

Teacher, Azim Premji School,  
Dineshpur, Udham Singh Nagar  
kanika.srivastava@azimpremjifoundation.org



**Reflections  
of a Teacher**