

talk

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VOLUME 5

TTM! CONNECT

to me!

As the Chinese marched ruthlessly into Tibet, Jamyang fled to India clutching her new-born tightly. The fates deposited her at the Tibetan settlement in Mysore. Then the winds changed and wafted her to the USA. Despite the heartbreak of being driven out of the home of her ancestors, the purity of her soul beamed through her weathered eyes. She immediately found a loving home with a family I know, who were absolutely delighted to have her as a nanny to their children.

Jamyang regaled the family with stories about her beloved Tibet. Here is a touching story about the day when she heard a feeble, almost inaudible whimper outside her home in Mysore. She rushed out and found an abandoned new-born puppy.

Spontaneously, impulsively, she scooped him into a protective embrace and brought him into her cramped room. He lay in her arms, unmoving. Her love for her own child expanded to envelop this helpless soul and she extended her breast to him. He started to suckle, first with great effort; but as her love and prayers infused every pore of his being, he began to suckle with ease. Then, with a contented sigh, he drifted into a restful sleep. Knowing he had come home.

Jamyang continued to breast-feed both the puppy and her baby until they were ready to be weaned. She lived joyously in the expansiveness of oneness.

Many of us too have experienced this joyousness, this expansiveness, as we mentor at TTM! "For it is in giving that we receive!" May we continue to give with joy and to receive in abundance through 2022 and beyond!

Malavika Sharma



The Bhils - A Presentation

In June, Rajni and Usha, along with technical support from Rajat, did an excellent presentation on the Bhil community for our mentors and mentees. Although the interesting and well-researched hour long presentation / inter-active



session covered the whole gamut of the Bhil community, including their dress, worship styles, festivals, etc., following are



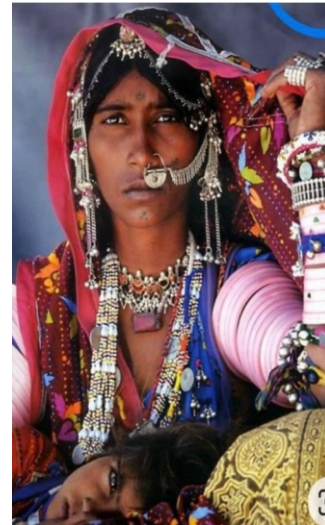
some snippets from the presentation:

The name Bhil is derived from the word "Billu" which means bow. They are excellent archers with a deep knowledge of their local geography. Bhils are the oldest tribe in India. Some say Valmiki who wrote Ramayana was a Bhil. Others trace their ancestry to Eklavya from Mahabharata.

Bhils are the second largest tribe with a population of about 1.2 crores, and live mainly in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Bhils prefer to live in isolation in the hills and forests and don't really mix with the outside

world. They are a close knit community and are only allowed to marry within the clan.

Their literacy rate is extremely low; only 6.6 % in men and 1% in women. Traditionally, experts in guerrilla warfare, today most of them are farmers and agricultural labourers. They love to dance the Ghoomar and Gair and are skilled sculptors and artists. As we will see from the pictures, their art form (Pithora) is a language they use to express their life experiences. They



decorate the walls and ceilings of their mud huts with frescoes. The characters are all from real life. The Bhils use neem twigs, flour, turmeric, flowers, leaves and oil to create brilliant colours.

The presentation was followed by a short animated film "Hum Chitra Banate Hai" directed by Nina Sabnani. Before

concluding with a question and answer session, Rajni and Usha left the viewers with the following important message that came through from the film:

The story's message of water conservation was obvious. It also emphasized the importance of learning from nature. Birds, snakes and turtles are important characters that lead the villagers to water and show them ways to save it. The rooster grows from a timid and fearful bird into a community hero, offering his life for greater good. The real Shaman (a person regarded as having access to, and influence in, the world of good and evil spirits) silently shows the villagers how to take control of their own lives and environment.

Creative Minds



Payal Sejwal



Public Speaking

Following the success of Rajat Ray's successful session on public speaking on 29th August 2021, he graciously agreed to conduct more sessions for our mentees. Thereafter, public speaking sessions were held on the 4th of September for grade 9 mentees, on the 7th for grade 10 mentees, on the 23rd for college going and working mentees. Finally, a round up session for all mentees who had missed the earlier opportunities was held. Rajat's well-planned and presented sessions are truly engaging and a great tool for mentors and mentees alike. The TTM! family raises a toast to Rajat, who has been with Toastmasters International for seven years and is a speech trainer with them.



explained the importance of every detail from beginning to end. I am so grateful to TTM! for giving us this platform, and to Rajat Sir, for all his efforts."

Shruti Path

Toastmasters International helps people to become more confident speakers, communicators and leaders, and we are delighted that Rajat is a member of the TTM! family. Here's what one of the participants had to say:
"TTM! has been providing so many wonderful opportunities to all of us. Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed the public speaking sessions a lot because sometimes we have to address public directly or indirectly. So, these sessions are very beneficial. Besides the chosen topic, Rajat Sir, carefully



Career Workshops

The array of Career Workshops initiated by Kavleen started in July with the idea of giving our mentees "Food for Thought" on a variety of career choices. Until December, the following professions had been covered:

1. Lawyer
2. Teacher
3. Doctor
4. Architect
5. Chartered Accountant
6. Graphic Design
7. Indian Navy
8. Indian Army

Confirmed Workshops in 2022:

1. Civil Services
2. Air Force
3. Hospitality

With the following possibilities:

1. Interior Design
2. Police
3. Computer Programming
4. Software Engineers

Kavleen's single-minded commitment is truly commendable. Not only did she identify professional speakers, but she facilitated the whole process, along with support from Madhur and Amita. The speakers were knowledgeable about their respective fields and individual careers, and interacted with the mentees like life coaches. Following the talks, the question and answer sessions showed completion of the talks, showed the speakers' approachability and their ability to engage with the young, curious minds. Feedback from our mentees has been very encouraging. Here's what a couple of the mentees who attended the sessions had to say:
"I attended the Army workshop, where I learned many things from the speaker. For example, the



entrance exam, physical exam, etc. I have learned many things from the workshops. These help us get a chance to gain knowledge about our desired career, and get answers to our questions." *Gurarpanjeet Singh*

"Guidance is the most important need of a student. Earlier I was literally confused about

the stream I'll choose and didn't had that much clarity about the professions which I now have after attending these career workshops. In future, I will be clearer with my career.

Lawyer, air force, doctor, teacher, army and navy - these are some of the workshops which I attended and took the benefit. I would

like to thank Kavleen Ma'am for organizing these workshops which helped not only me but each one of them who attended.

Sakshi Shukla



Mentor Round-Up

Feedback from institutions - Across the board, the institutions have been deeply appreciative of the efforts of each of our teams. This is truly very heartwarming. Congratulations to all our Group Heads, and all our mentors. The depth of commitment of our TTM! family is truly awesome!

"Firstly, I have been giving a virtual tour to Anshika from wherever I am, as I feel this is education for her. I have also been sending her lots of videos and talking about the places I have been to, so she can learn and see with my eyes. Secondly, I have started reading Twinkle Khanna's book, Mrs. Funnybones (a compilation of satirical stories written by her for various newspapers) with Anshika. We are enjoying this journey of laughter and discussions. Also, while reading, she jots down difficult words and we find the meaning of those words. She then makes sentences out of them to get a better understanding of the words. In addition we are reading chicken soup stories and learning a lot about personal experiences of people. From the TTM! website I do many readings from

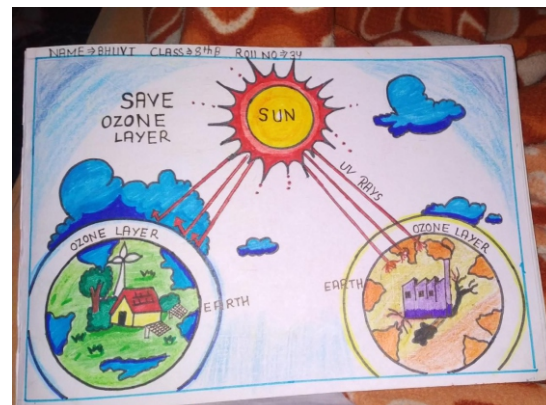


Additional Resources and find them very useful. We also read books from Bookshelf. Anshika wants to understand American and British accents better so we hear and read those short stories."

Sona Sampat

"Group O2 had their meeting with the mentees today. A few of the mentors attended as well. The topic of discussion was Social Media - a necessary evil. It was moderated by one of our mentors, Vishal Nigam. The idea was to get them to open up a bit and express their views in a group. The artwork by Bhuvi of Nai Disha captured her vision about saving the planet."

Sumathi



Mentee Round-Up

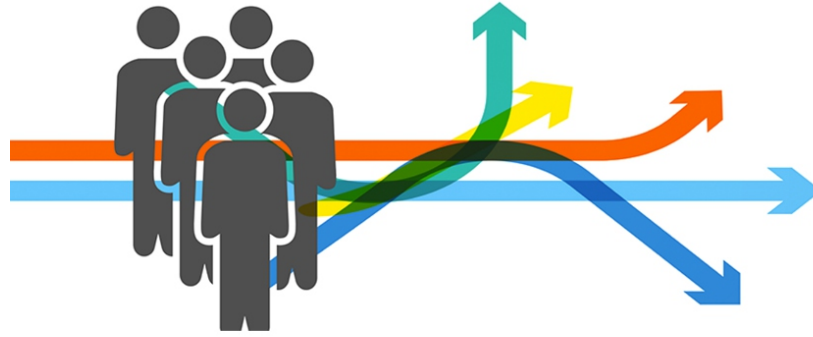
Thank You TTM!

“Thank you for inspiring me to be my best, and for being there to guide me when I needed help. Having you in my life opened my eyes to my own

**Payal
Sejwal**

inner strength and has motivated me to become and do more. TTM! prepared me for life. Thank you for

all the lessons you've taught me. TTM! motivated me to keep trying. I enjoy so much with Aditi Ma'am. She is incredible and one of a kind teacher”



“I gained a lot of confidence after joining TTM! When I started talking to Gauri Ma'am, I got to know my mistakes. I was lacking Grammar skills and was not able to talk fluently. TTM! helped me to overcome these mistakes. I am really glad that I joined TTM! I don't feel hesitant anymore. I really like how TTM! conducts progress tests and career workshops to help us out and guide us to the “right” path. I believe that with TTM!, I will improve my English and become a better person. I really like reading novels and discussing characters and the theme. Currently I am reading “Little Women”. I really enjoy my classes and have learned many things.”

**Anjali
Sejwal**

**Asna
Singh**

“First of all I would like to say thank you to all mentors, with a special thank you to Priya Ma'am. Joining TTM! impacted my life a lot. I was afraid to talk to anyone in English. But now, if someone talks to me in English,

I understand and try to reply. Earlier I tried to read English books, but couldn't understand the meaning properly. After joining TTM!, I give tuitions to other children and can now read and explain to them well in English. I also got a job in payment posting, and I want to do a job in a big company in payment posting. For this it is very important to have good English and experience. In payment posting job, it is necessary to understand End of Business (EOB) for which English is essential for me.”



Eitika
Das

"I am Eitika, and I really appreciate how much TTM! is helping me. I can't believe it! They have been very supportive and I have had very kind mentors. They are giving me so much confidence and support that I can do whatever I want to do in my hard times. Thank you so much TTM!"

"I have been a mentee since class 7th, currently in 8th. TTM! is an amazing platform that helps me enhance my English writing, reading, listening and talking skills. Not only that but it helps me express myself better. I have noticed that I am no more anxious talking in English. And mostly I am comfortable with my mentor. She is always there to help me. The website has amazing chapters and are very interesting. The TTM! Career workshops are amazing, I can understand about my field and can ask questions to the speakers and they clear my all doubts. And last but not least, TTM! is the best platform if you want to enhance your vocabulary and learn to express yourself better. Thank you so much TTM!"

Anushka
Dhall



"I have been a part of the TTM! programme since 8th Standard and am now in the 10th. My TTM! mentor is Ms.Tanu Priya Puri. I've learnt many things from my brilliant mentor. At TTM! I learnt to express myself to the people and speak confidently. My mentor makes me believe that I CAN DO IT! She always kept me at high spirits of confidence and made me understand my calibre. The TTM! lesson plans are very helpful in learning new and interesting things and values of life. It also helps in enhancing our vocabulary and grammar too. During exams also, my mentor provides me with practice questions and makes sure that I do a thorough revision before sitting for exam. In this time span of 2-3 years with TTM! I have improved a lot as I can feel it in myself. If anyone would ask me a platform where one can learn, express and improve themselves, I would suggest that person join TTM!"

Bhumika
Basist

"I have been in touch with the TTM! family since class 8th and am now in the 11th. My journey with TTM! family is wonderful and even it is going well now. I must admit that I got fluency while speaking English. My grammar, writing skills and vocabulary too got boost up with improvements. Every single chapter on the website, each time comes up with a moral, some of the chapter put forward those faded true stories which I think we have never heard before, not even in newspapers or any other social network. While lock downs, all the Zoom meetings on different activities, like Origami paper folding activities help me get rid of boredom. The recent Career workshops gives us more knowledge in those fields which one would like to adopt. It made us better informed. Talking about my mentors, I could clearly express my true self to them. They are friendly, caring, supportive and loving. Attempting TTM's first programme was a great experience for me. I had a good time there, me and my schoolmates too performed a small song on the given platform. TTM! is a great organisation where not only our English improves, but also we can express ourselves to our mentors. It really encourages us to put ourselves with full confidence in front of the public".

Sneha
Das

A Web of Kindness

The TTM! family is a magical one.

Over the last couple of years my mentee and I have been working on various career options for him. We've run through the whole gamut of possible careers, from the police force to paramilitary forces to retail to airline crew, etc. He has been for interviews, spoken to employment agencies and taken exams. Towards the middle of last year he got a job as a nursing orderly at Safdarjung Hospital. He loved the experience and was constantly observing the nurses at work. In his spare time he watched YouTube videos to update his nursing skills.

Unfortunately it was a temporary job and again he was in the job market. But the good that came out of this was that he had found his true calling. At around this juncture Mala happened to ask me about Asif. I told her about my dreams for him and she suggested I speak to Neeru, who runs the Udyam Trust. I know Neeru well, but the thought hadn't occurred to me.

To cut a very long story short, she is mentoring him on his various paramedical choices. She is also educating me on paramedical fields and together Asif and I have drawn up a list of options and the pros and cons of

each. He hopes to register for a lab technician's course in March. The icing on the cake: Neeru and her group are hoping to finance the 2 year course!

I first met Asif at the Begumpur centre. He comes from an impoverished family and did not speak any English at all. What struck me about him was his earnestness, his

intelligence, his willingness to help everyone he came into contact with and also his determination to do something useful with his life. When Covid struck we stopped going to Begumpur and Asif was heartbroken. I decided to enrol him into TTM! and I've been mentoring him ever since.

Debika Lahiri



Artistry



Ravi Singh Rawat

