

From Delhi to Toledo:

Languages and culture the best ways to know others

The famous Chinese proverb says that “To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world” and I could not agree more. I have been an “Auxiliar de Conversacion” in Castilla La Mancha for the last two years and this ongoing year is my third. You may wonder why I chose Castilla La Mancha and not any other autonomous community of Spain. Well, to tell you the truth, after reading Don Quijote by the famous Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes I was drawn to the land of “The Molinos”.

In my first year (2019-2020) I was working at a high school in Recas and living in the capital of Toledo. Not only did I meet some of the best people I have ever known in my life there but also I had the fortune of imparting English as a second language to some of the loveliest and the most inquisitive students. You must now be wondering what exactly my job is. I help students to improve their English speaking by making the bilingual classes more interesting. We do not only revise grammar but we also go through various fun activities and games in the class which makes the class interesting and encourages the students to get out of their shells and try speaking in English. As we all know, learning a second language is difficult and not impossible and everyone feels shy while speaking, so my job is to help the students in refining their speaking and pronunciation which enables them to feel more confident in learning English.

In the classes, we approach the topic by various methods, mostly by making the class fun and interesting. Role-plays, games, activities, arts and crafts are a few examples of what I do with my students in the class.

I was fortunate enough to be placed in a primary school in Toledo capital in my second and third years. As the little children are more curious and captivated by new things as compared to the older ones, my classes in my primary school have been nothing more than fascinating for the last two years now almost.

At school, with the help of my colleagues we choose and plan the topics for the upcoming weeks and months. We make sure that different cultural festivals are celebrated at school too. For example, every year Halloween and Harvest Festival is celebrated at my primary school, but ever since I have been there, I have made sure that the students know more about Indian festivals as well because the role of the auxiliar is not only to make English a fun language to learn, but also to enable the young learners to know more about other cultures in the world.

I have had the best time of my life ever since I moved to Spain to be an "Auxiliar de Conversacion". I came here with little knowledge of the Spanish language, but as the ministry of education helps us in enrolling for Spanish classes at the Escuela Oficial de Idiomas, I have been learning Spanish too. Currently, I am at level C1 of Spanish and I hope to complete C2 before going back to India.

If you are thinking of being an Auxiliar in Spain, I promise you that Castilla La Mancha is one of the best places you can be. Not only is it located in the heart of Spain, but life here is easy and full of happiness. The tapas culture is something not worth missing and cities like Toledo offer you a deep knowledge of history since it was the ancient capital of Spain. In addition, the ministry is always on its toes to help you and to ease your path to this beautiful country.

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