

**To whomsoever it may concern,**

I enthusiastically offer this internship note for Arijeet during his engagement with Ummeed CDC (Ummeed Child Development Center) in 2022-23

In this letter, I want to highlight the initiatives that Arijeet participated in as an intern where I currently work as a lead in the Early childhood development and disabilities team. Ummeed provides specialized care for most developmental disabilities and has moved into areas of training, research, and advocacy. It is now one of the country's leading NGOs, much respected for its work in the field of children with disabilities. Through motivational talks to children and families Arijeet was able to share these key messages:

- Seeing yourself through your abilities and not your disability.
- Asking for rightful help confidently.
- Making friends in an inclusive set up.

Details of his engagement are encapsulated below:

Arijeet was invited as a part of a round table in the 4th IDPA (International Developmental Pediatrics Association) Virtual Congress. He was a part of a panel that shared his journey and learning about a visually impaired person and how he used assistive technology to enhance his experiences. He plans to design such assistive apps to support people with disabilities.

As a part of an advocacy campaign, he shared his messages via a story and dialogue with Tayzeem at Ummeed (Advocate for Autism) which has been widely shared on LinkedIn, Instagram, and twitter. During this conversation, he shared his successes and challenges as a person with disabilities that provide insights to caregivers and children with similar challenges and hope for a meaningful and fun filled life. He values his and the need to advocate for self while making friends. He today enjoys their company, and all his friends see him as a loyal and fun companion.

He supported Ummeed in facilitating the Inclusive Diploma programme at Azim Premji University where he spoke to teachers on how they can support children like him in achieving their full potential. He will also be talking to Ummeed members on the 22nd of December sharing his insights on providing equitable access and learning opportunities for students like him. As a first person to pursue sciences and math in high school, Arijeet as not only been a front runner but has set a base for visually impaired students to follow their passions rather than being limited. He will share these learnings with us so we can further implement Ummeed's vision in making every child move in their journey of meaningful participation.

Through all these initiatives, Arijeet has shown his commitment to not only excel in whatever he pursues but share with the world how others can do similarly. He hopes to continue this advocacy post his education either through being a part of public policy or through working with designing cost effective technology to support persons with disabilities.

While I have taught and interacted hundreds of students in my over two-decade career I can remember very few as talented and committed as Arijeet. I have no doubt that he will be successful in the program that he chooses to pursue, and I offer my complete endorsement.

Please contact me if there is any other information I can provide.

Sincerely,

Priyamvada R Das

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Ummeed is registered with MCA for CSR activities - Registration number CSR00000221

Ummeed is registered with The Charity Commissioner, Greater Bombay Region, Maharashtra State

All contributions to Ummeed Child Development Center are eligible for deduction u/s 80G of the Income tax Act, 1961

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