I'm from Chennai, India. My 9th grade summer was a life-changing experience for me, I spent it volunteering at the Besant Nagar Beach in my hometown. I had heard about the local organization working towards cleaning the beach, and I was eager to lend a hand.

The first thing that struck me was the amount of trash that was littered along the shore. I was horrified by the sight of plastic waste that threatened the marine life. But, I was determined to make a difference. I teamed up with the organization and we spent the next few days removing trash, cleaning the sand and planting new shrubs.

The work was strenuous but the feeling of satisfaction after a hard day's work was unmatched. It was amazing to see the beach transform from a trash-filled shore to a clean and beautiful paradise. The experience was not just about cleaning the beach, it was about the sense of community and togetherness that we shared with the volunteers.

The beach clean-up taught me the importance of conservation and the impact of our actions on the environment. I am grateful for this experience as it sparked a newfound passion in me to continue making a difference in the world. I hope to carry this spirit with me and inspire others to take action.