*My stay at Aarohi****…***

I see my experience with Aarohi as being similar to some of my favorite song lyrics: “Let’s start at the very beginning, a very good place to start ..!”. This is because it took me nearly a year to reach this charity sitting amidst the beauty of the Himalayas. I first heard about Aarohi through a friend of mine who told me about the fantastic work the growing NGO was doing in the remote villages of the mountains. As a result: I volunteered almost immediately in April 2013 for July 2014.

I teach in an international school in Pune and was really keen to come to Aarohi and share my learning and teaching experience with this wonderful little school! I arrived at ABS bursting with ideas: teaching strategies; powerpoints; apps; websites; books. During my time with the school discovered a whole new world of teaching and learning; the happy faces of everyone around and the affection with which I was met and my ideas received, completely disarmed me. Here was a school that had students who came joyfully and eagerly from many kilometers away to learn from teachers who taught with genuine joy and love for teaching. I realized that this little school brims over with love and happiness at every moment of the school day.

On reflection, I think I learnt more than I shared at Aarohi. Yes, I shared new teaching methods of extending learning, strategies, time lines, action plans and held learning focused meetings. However, the warmth and genuine affection of everyone in Aarohi is something that will remain with me forever. So, thank you Aarohi for showing me your caring, nurturing ways and for enriching my life!