



Lesson Guide: Smile Session #2

Community | Smile Train India

Lesson Information

Overview: This Lesson Guide contains supplemental material for Smile Session #2. This guide can be used to bolster the material in the PowerPoint for older students or those who are looking for more information.

Lesson Objectives:

- Teach students about community and the connections community creates and encourage students to analyze the different connections in their own lives.
- Create awareness about the interconnectedness of society and how important it is to work together.
- Show the extensive web of human connections that help Smile Train accomplish its goals

Background: This lesson is meant to teach students about community and the importance of working together. It will give students the opportunity to discuss the different ways we are all connected and introduce Smile Train's programs and the global community they foster. We will also discuss the role community plays in cleft care and how cooperation is vital for the success of Smile Train's programs abroad.

Make Connections: When using this lesson plan, teachers should:

- Read the information provided in the PowerPoint about Smile Train India
- Show students the video about the Smile Torch Campaign.
- Listen to Shireen's story and read along with the class.
- Have students answer the reading comprehension questions in this guide.
- Ask students some of the questions on slide 12 of the PowerPoint and discuss how community is important to them and to Smile Train's patients.

Community Activity: Paper chain necklace activity! Directions for this crafty project are on the activity page of this guide. You can also follow along with the video in the PowerPoint!



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What is Community?

Community is about people. A community is a group of people that all have something in common, whether it's personal relationships, where they live, common interests, or circumstances. Communities meet and form to do things together that no one person can do by themselves. Members of a community have a sense of trust, safety, and caring for each other. A community can be made up of people from all backgrounds and occupations -- neighbors, teachers, mail carriers, bus drivers, family members, friends from school, coaches, and more! Communities can also form over great physical distances, like through the internet or as members of large religious groups.

You are likely a part of more than one community. Communities usually are not separate from each other, they usually are nested one within the other, like a religious group within a neighborhood or student groups within a school.

Community is important because we can't do everything on our own and we need to work together. Communities can provide their members security, support, and opportunities. We can lean on our communities when we need help or want to feel connected. Communities can also band together to solve problems by agreeing to do things like pass a new law or work together in a time of crisis.



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Smile Torch Campaign

Smile Train has worked in India for 20 years. In that time, we've worked together with doctors and nurses at more than 150 hospitals across the country to perform more than 600,000 cleft surgeries — that's over a half a million new smiles for kids in need! Smile Train is always working hard to find new ways to help. In India we have built a world-class training hub for the new generation of cleft care professionals so that they can continue doing great work in their communities.

To celebrate our accomplishments in India, Smile Train launched a unique project – The Smile Torch campaign. Just as light stands for positivity and hope all over the world, the light of the Smile Torch stood for lifting up the dignity of people with clefts and calling out all of the hurtful things many of them hear every day. The Torch was launched in the city of Varanasi on February 8, 2019, which was National Cleft Day in India, and spent the year travelling around the country, generating awareness about clefts and Smile Train's work with the cleft community. When the torch arrived in a city, it was greeted with celebrations, races, and other fun events. The Torch brought together communities all over India and showed off the incredible networks that Smile Train has linked together all across the country. The Smile Torch completed its journey in Delhi, the capital city, on February 8, 2020, officially marking 20 years of Smile Train in India!





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Shireen's Story

Shireen was born with a cleft lip in a small village in India. Her village is near the Siachen Glacier, in the middle of some of the coldest and harshest terrain in India.

Though their village was remote, nothing could stop Shireen's family from seeking the cleft treatment she needed. When they heard Smile Train was offering free cleft surgeries in the big city, her whole family walked with her for twelve miles over a frozen lake to catch a bus to the nearest town — even her grandfather! Once in town, they waited together to catch a flight run by the Indian Air Force to the big city. Flights like these are rare. They only leave once every few weeks, or sometimes even once every few months!

After all this travel, Shireen and her family finally reached the hospital. Smile Train's partner doctors and nurses worked hard to make sure their trip was not in vain — they knew Shireen's flight home was to leave in a week, and if they missed that flight, the family would not be able to return home for a whole month!

The team worked hard and, thankfully, they were able to perform Shireen's life-changing surgery in time for her and her family to catch their flight back home. It was all quite the adventure, and Shireen knows it couldn't have happened without a lot of help from many parts of her community, including her family, bus drivers, the military, and the doctors and nurses. It all goes to show how important it is that we all work together to create happy endings!



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Shireen's Story – Questions for Comprehension

1. What was Shireen's village near?
 - a. New York City
 - b. Siachen Glacier
 - c. Disneyland
 - d. Mount Everest
2. How many miles did Shireen's family walk?
 - a. 5 mi
 - b. 10 mi
 - c. 12 mi
 - d. 30 mi
3. What types of transportation did Shireen's family take? (circle all correct answers)
 - a. Bus
 - b. Plane
 - c. Train
 - d. Sled
4. Who helped Shireen get her surgery?
 - a. Her family
 - b. The Indian Air Force
 - c. Smile Train's Partners
 - d. All the Above



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Paper Chain Necklace Activity

Materials

Paper
Markers
Scissors
Tape

Directions

Cut the paper into thin (~1/2 inch) strips. On each strip, students should write the name or title of someone in their community. Examples include their mother, teacher, coach, doctor, friend, etc. Students should make a loop with the first piece and tape the ends together. The next strip of paper should pass through that loop and then be taped into a loop itself. Repeat with the rest of the strips of paper until the chain is long enough for a necklace. The last loop should go through both ends of the necklace before being taped.



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Food for Thought | Smile Train India

Sources

Chavis, David M. & Kien Lee. "What is Community Anyway?" *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. (2015). https://ssir.org/articles/entry/what_is_community_anyway

Smile Train. *Main Website*. <https://www.SmileTrain.org>

Smile Train India. *Stories*. <https://www.smiletrainindia.org/stories>