105\_TESOL-Weekdays \_**Sunhee Jung (Sun)**

**Empowering the marginalized & Doing it effectively**

I never intended to be an "English teacher." However, I have always enjoyed empowering the marginalized in all ways possible in a society which I belong. Through the years I have been engaging myself in helping the marginalized in developing countries and in Korea. Thanks to my father, I was brought up in a non-Korean speaking country and had been in schools taught in English since I was seven. This enabled me to speak, read, and write in English and naturally led me to teach English whenever opportunities came. I either taught adults to empower the ones who were considered to be marginalized, in the hope of generating solid income to cut the cycle of poverty by widening their career opportunities or I have taught for the purpose of generating additional income other than from my main job to get involved in helping others. I have been teaching because I get energized from watching the development in people and seeing the difference it makes in people's lives and it always have been rewarding.

Looking back at classes which I had taught, I do not necessarily think that I have been a good teacher at all times. Honestly, I cannot even say that I had always strived for excellence. There were times when I was frustrated with my students and asking myself why they could not remember the things I have taught with such zeal and I think I may have found an answer. I was more of an involver rather than an enabler because I was too busy trying to be on a teaching schedule which I am expected to follow. I was just too busy. Starting from next Tuesday, which is the day I teach new settlers from North Korea as a volunteering activity, I am planning on being more of an enabler. I am also planning on asking students to teach each other on what we have learned so far and see the difference myself in them with changes in my teaching methods.