



# July Interviews

**Interviewee:** Swathu

**Capacity:** Moderator

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**Hello Swathu, how are you today? We are here to interview moderators for the yearbook. To start off, could you please introduce yourself? How long have you been on the server?**

Hi I'm Swathu. I joined the server in January 2020 and have been moderator in the server for so long that I don't remember the reason why I became one. I don't know why but I am really nervous and not sure what else I should say. I became a mod in September and I still don't know much about bts.

**So you became a moderator in 2021?**

No, 2020 in September. I think i joined in 2021 actually. Yep, it's 2021!

**How did you end up becoming an ARMY?**

One of my friends sent a dance practice video of boys with luv on instagram and I really loved it. I loved the way they danced. It was perfect and so aligned. Then started to do more research on them. I loved how Namjoon preached about self love so, you know once you get in you can't get out.

**When did you decide to become a moderator?**

After I joined the server, I was kind of helping out other members and one day I think after a month if I am not wrong, Dani dmed me. I got really nervous thinking that the server owner dmed me and I was actually freaking out not sure what to do so I asked, "Yes, What is that I can help you with?" and she asked me If I was interested in being moderator for the server. So, I replied I am not sure what it is but I think I can give it a try. She explained that it was basically helping the server by guiding members and also said that she would help me out and I don't have to worry, then I was like okay. I think



Bndrea (spacedandelion#5251) was the one who actually suggested that I should be a mod and then I became one.

**Oh? So you became a moderator really early on then.**

Yes. I am not 100% sure on the time frame but I guess I became one within a month or two. I think Bndrea was the first moderator and then it was me and Guada. So we three are kind of og mods of the server. And now we have plenty more moderators as well.

**Did you find the transition from member to moderator to be too quick? Would you have liked to wait a little bit more to become a moderator?**

No, I don't think it was as quick as I was very used to our server because I was really active on the server at that time. So, I loved it and was happy to become a moderator so that I could help out other members. I love helping out others and our staff members. So, I don't think it was quick for me

**Bndrea recommended you to become a moderator, if she hadn't done that, do you think you would have applied to become a moderator?**

Hmm.. that's a good question. I think probably not because I didn't know if I was worthy of being a moderator or If I had those qualities. But maybe after some time when I would have gotten really used to it, I probably would have become a moderator. I would have applied for organizer if I'm not wrong but yeah honestly, I like what I'm doing

**We also noticed that you mentioned in your staff introduction you were initially anxious to receive a message from the admin about being a mod, is this because you were worried the responsibilities of being a mod may be too much?**

No no, I was actually anxious because the admin pinged me but didn't tell me what it was for. She just said if it was okay to ask me about something or something along those lines. So, I thought I did something wrong or broke the server rule and was thinking oh my god I don't know!! You must have seen that usually admins don't really ping in a discord server. So, yeah I was very anxious because of that and not because of the responsibility of being a mod but after that I got used to it and they all are so sweet.



**You've been a moderator for quite some time now, what do you think the best part about being a moderator is?**

For me it was always helping people and we as a server have actually grown a lot. There is a lot of difference now from how it used to be before. I have seen drastic changes and all of them are good changes. So as I said, I have seen drastic changes and since we have grown a lot there are so many people who tend to get lost and need help and I can help them out. So, I feel happy and I try to answer them and give them information. Members also feel happy that they are getting all the help they need and they don't feel lost anymore. That makes me happy and is still keeping me as a moderator I guess.

**So the tasks are divided and you all have to do different tasks. What is your favorite task to do as a moderator?**

Hmm. errr. It's very hard to pick one oh my god! I would say assigning roles, I don't know why but I feel like I have a lot of power assigning and removing the roles and you know in the situation where they send the screenshots and we add roles.

The other one is the server tour tracker, we used to keep track of people. Previously we used to warn and kick them when they reached the limit of 3 weeks and I used to work on that. It was only me and Guada who used to work on it, so I used to like that.

**What are some of the changes that are good for a mod and server?**

I think the server tour, where we don't have to share posts and reactions. Like you remember previously, how we shared a post(of available timings) and members would have to react, then we mods would write their names and see whether members attended or not and warn them if they didn't attend one. So now since that has changed, to them watching pre-recorded videos and then taking the test it's a huge help because it was hard for us to track those reactions after some time. So, I would say that change is good for us.

***Griz: It's more time consuming as well***

Yes, exactly and you would need to check the availability of staff every weekend. And sometimes members don't have the time over the weekends



but are free during the weekdays but we are not free during the weekdays. So, I think it solved the problem of not being available

**What are some of the changes that are good for the server?**

Server wise, I love the server because Nae is teaching us right now through BK (Beginner Korean) class. I love it because when I joined there was a soundcheck member. I am not sure if you were there when we had a soundcheck.

*Griz: it was actually closing when I joined.*

Ohh so we were given live sessions and then you need to learn from homeworks, it was kind of exactly like what we are doing in the BK Course. I loved this because it was nostalgic for me. I was like ooh soundcheck has come back and I have homeworks due, exams and other things. So, I love that now it is back.

*Griz: yeah it makes you wanna study more as well plus Nae is an amazing teacher.*

Yes and she holds you accountable. All thanks to Nae.

**What are some of the challenges you have faced while being a moderator?**

I am not sure exactly what problems we would face, it could be the people joining the server to troll, I have seen them joining the server and posting many irrelevant messages. I don't think it has happened recently but it used to happen a lot before so that was one of the problems. But I don't think I have seen any other problems as a moderator. But as I said people joining just for troll and being rude to others and staff would be one of the most important one.

**How is your mod team? and how do you find working with them?**

My team is extremely sweet. They listen to things and pay attention to it and I'm not going to lie they are all quick learners. Me, Bndrea and Guada give them training and then we observe how they perform. We don't ask them to



answer in their own threads anymore. So, you know how we used to create threads but we don't do that anymore. They directly answer in the channel but we do back reads and check if they have answered properly or not. They are super active now. Guada, Bndrea, and I are not really active but other moderators are.

When moderators apply we create a separate thread for them so we can answer any question or correct them and also give feedback so that other trainees could not see what feedback we give them and it's just for privacy reasons. So, at first we expect them to answer their questions in their own training threads and then we ask them to answer in the channels. But the trainees we have now are all trained. And we are actually thinking of promoting a few of them so now they can answer in the channel directly.

**So you speak 6 languages, is that correct?**

Yes.

**Do you think knowing these other languages has helped you in any way towards learning Korean?**

Hmm.. I know Tamil, which has a lot of similar words in Korean as well, so that actually astonishes me.

***Griz: So I did some research. I looked it up because I was bored and it turns out that there is this Tamil princess that went to Korea and married someone there, so that's how there are so many similarities.***

Yes, I have heard many people saying it's a true story. I think it is true and I do find a lot of words which are very similar so I keep on thinking it's the same word in Tamil as well. But otherwise the other languages that I know don't help me much but I love learning languages so that is why it gives me motivation to learn Korean as well and also why would I not?

**You know Hindi, right? Have you noticed the structure is similar to Korean?**

Yes, I have noticed. You would struggle in structure because it's not the same in English but then because you know it in Hindi it just flows.



**We saw that you work as an auditor, do you find that to be a stressful job or time consuming?**

Hmm.. yeah

**Your job is really time [consuming/stressful] as you mentioned along with that you are part of club leadership in clubs. How do you manage to juggle working, studies, learning Korean, moderating and club leadership duties.**

Hahaha.. I am not gonna lie it is really hard but recently I joined a new job in April. So, I am still getting used to the work and the time zones in the server because now my shift has changed from 2-10 and it's in the afternoon. So, I get some time in the mornings to work on my personal stuff and I also have to travel from my house to another city where I have to work and I have a lot of things to take care of. I am currently very busy and I am not being able to give much time to my clubs but thank goodness for my club leadership. They are taking good care of my clubs and I just pop in every now and then to give my opinions and help. But I am thinking by August I will be free and will be getting back. And I use my morning times for learning Korean, go to classes and do my homework and the other days I usually help with club related works because I am leader of K-Theater Club so, I have to create stuff for that and for moderating the server, I try my best to answer questions but it doesn't have specific time but again thank goodness for trainees and mods that are taking care of it. I am really thankful to them.

**In which way would you like the server to grow more?**

I would definitely like to see the soundcheck back because it was really good where we had live sessions where you could read the courses. But there were a lot of members and mentors involved before. We had bt21 names for all the groups so, I would love to see that back but obviously we need more people and help from mentors. That is the one thing that I have always wanted other than that I think we are going in a good direction so far. We have new things like Run <sup>아미</sup> Ksg and tournaments. But I have actually not taken part in the tournament because it usually happens at a different time when I will be sleeping, the time zones I tell you I don't like them. I have not taken part in tournaments but I have heard from other members that it was really fun and



it is so good that they are doing extra things and not just learning Korean. I am not so sure as I haven't really participated but tournaments are a fun way of learning.

**We are coming to the end of the interview now, we have one final question for you. What advice would you give to anyone wanting to apply to be a mod? And would you recommend becoming a mod early on?**

Mhm..hmm No, I would not recommend applying when they just joined the server. I would say they should take some time at least 3 months to see how exactly the server works, what are the challenges we have and all the things we offer so they get used to it and get more information then they can apply. They would not know clearly so they won't be able to pass the test and we would be rejecting their application telling them to get to know the server better than apply. So, I would recommend them to take their time and then apply.

Hmm.. I would still ask them to apply and see because there are people who can learn quickly. So, they can apply and if we think that they know the questions and if their answers were actually good and they have put effort in answering then we would think to train them. We can also give extra training to see if they get the answers right. Otherwise I am pretty sure we would have to reject an application