

Connect Express Week 4 Report

Main Activities and Group Dynamics:

This week, students attended the fourth and final sessions of the Program. Throughout the sessions, facilitators encouraged participants to explore their chosen topics on a deeper level and identify strategies to overcome inner biases and cultural misunderstanding.

During the sessions, participants led thought-provoking conversations about women's rights, gender equality and social media while others delved into free-flowing discussions about the role of religion in their respective communities. After the discussions, students participated in the "Communication in the Digital Age" activity where they reflected on how digital communication is affecting their perception of difference.

Towards the end of the session, students reflected on their overall experience and recognized what they learned about themselves and from each other. They took time to express gratitude towards each other and planned to remain in touch after the Program. Facilitators also shared Continued Engagement Activities that will allow participants to continue their cross-cultural involvement through leadership activities and training opportunities.

This week, most facilitators reported that dynamics were "Good" or "Excellent". Most facilitators shared positive feedback on how their groups were actively engaged in the dialogue process. Many students shared how they gradually developed comfort around their peers which made it easier for them to take full ownership over the dialogue process.

Attendance and Technology:

The majority of students successfully attended their final sessions this week. Thank you so much for your constant effort in reminding them of the importance of attendance throughout the Program. We really appreciate your collaboration.

As for technology, no major issues were reported this week. Sessions were able to run smoothly, and students have been able to connect to their groups successfully.

Reflection Papers

Now that participants completed the sessions, they will be reflecting on what they have learned throughout the experience. The deadline for the Reflection Papers submission is on **Sunday, May 2nd**. Participants have received instructions on how to submit their papers.