

## **Connect Global: Week Five Report**

### **Main Activities and Group Dynamics:**

Last week, participants completed their fifth sessions. Some students started with icebreakers while others opened the session with reminders and summaries of discussions from week four. Then, they engaged around the Sharing Circles activity. This was an opportunity for students to open up and share personal stories and experiences in a deep and powerful way and reflect on how the differences and similarities affect the way they perceive one another. During the activity, facilitators encouraged participants to practice active listening and ask good questions that will allow them to learn more from their peers. After the Sharing Circles activity, some groups continued exploring topics from previous sessions on a much deeper level while others agreed on new topics. Some shared thoughts on current events and social injustice while others discussed values, social norms and cultural misunderstanding. Towards the end of the session, facilitators reminded participants of the Program's key assignments and deadlines.

Outside of the sessions, students completed worked on the final projects by submitting the second and final set of community interviews. Before submitting the videos, participants collaborated in smaller groups to agree on the questions they used in the videos.

Last week, most facilitators reported that the group dynamics were good or excellent. In most groups, facilitators reported how they took a step back as participants took ownership over the dialogue process and the choice of topics.

### **Attendance and Technology:**

Last week, around 90% of participants attended their sessions successfully. We'd like to thank you again for encouraging your students to attend their sessions fully.

As for technology, no major issues were reported. Please continue encouraging your students to write to [student-tech@soliya.net](mailto:student-tech@soliya.net) immediately if they're unable to login to their session, so that we can provide timely support

### **This week:**

This week, students will delve into free-flowing conversations that will allow them to engage with difference more constructively. Some students will continue conversations about current events and media while others will explore environmental issues and stereotypes on a deeper level. In addition to the conversations, participants will take time to share thoughts about their final projects and reflect on each other's videos.