

## Connect Global: Week 6 Report

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

This week, most groups started their sessions with a reflection activity during which they practiced critical thinking and self-awareness. Then, participants engaged in free-flowing discussions about current events and global issues. Among the chosen topics are education, gender issues, immigration and, the effect of Covid-19 on their lives and communities. Around these topics, most of them shared their personal opinions and how they were affected by the discussed issues on a personal level. During the discussions, participants were comfortably sharing whether they agree or disagree with their peers and why.

After the discussions, participants took time to thoroughly reflect on the opinions they gathered in their interviews. Most participants split into smaller groups to provide their peers with constructive feedback and thoughts about their community interviews.

Most facilitators rated the groups as “good” or “excellent”. Facilitators shared how participants created a friendly atmosphere that enabled them to learn about each other on a deeper, more personal level. Others noticed that some students took a little more time to think so they could frame their questions and responses in a constructive way. Most facilitators reported how participants shared their opinions frankly but remained respectful of each other’s differences.

### **Attendance and Technology**

This week, we noticed a slight improvement in the attendance rate. Around 90% of participants attended their sessions successfully.

Except for a few students who missed their sessions due to internet speed, no major issues were reported by the facilitators on the technical front. Students are still welcome to contact our technical support team before and during the session if they face any issues.

### **Next Week**

Next week, participants will also lead free-flowing conversations about topics of their choice. Students will be encouraged to engage in thought-provoking conversations about topics including social norms, stereotypes, cultural misunderstanding, governance and other global and social issues. Participants are expected to keep full ownership of their discussions by driving the conversation themselves, asking one another questions and using their critical thinking skills to engage around differences more constructively.