

## **Connect Global: Week One Report**

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

Last week, participants attended their first sessions of the Connect Program. Before starting the first dialogue sessions, students shared their perception of dialogue through the introductory activities. Participants opened their first sessions with introductions and activities during which they shared information about themselves and their respective countries. Then, facilitators shared an overview of the Program and the role of participants in the dialogue process.

After the introductions, participants started discussions about the first set of required readings. Based on the readings, some groups discussed the positive and negative impacts of Covid-19 on youth around the world while others shared thoughts on how the past three generations dealt with global and social issues such as poverty and gender inequalities. Towards the end of the sessions, participants started exploring their role in the dialogue process around topics of their choice. Some discussed values and social norms while others shared thoughts on conflict and current events.

Last week, 97% facilitators rated their group dynamics as “good” or “excellent”. While some students shared excitement about meeting their peers and contributing to the dialogue process, other participants had a slower start. Going forward, students are expected to develop a better understanding of their role in the discussions and will become more familiar with each other. Despite the slow start, many facilitators reported that participants were curious about how peers from different countries and cultures dealt with the social issues they discussed during the session. In the upcoming sessions, conversations will run more smoothly and facilitators are expected to take a step back.

### **Attendance:**

Last week, over 75% of participants attended their sessions successfully. We really appreciate your help in reminding students to attend their sessions fully.

On the technical front, no major issues were reported. If students face any issues, please remind them to reach out [student-tech@soliya.net](mailto:student-tech@soliya.net) so they can get immediate help.

### **Second week**

During the second session, groups will continue engaging in discussions about global and social issues and will continue to build comfort and reinforce their confidence through active listening and follow up questions. Then, participants will start working on their final projects by picking a program-related topic with their groupmates and discussing it further with the community members they will identify by the end of the week.