

Connect Express - Week 2 Report

Main Activities and Group Dynamics:

Last week, most groups started their sessions with icebreakers and reminders about discussion topics from the first session. Then, they delved into activities during which they practiced constructive communication through active listening and asking good questions. In some groups, participants focused on defining the importance of active listening and the role it plays in exploring differences on a deeper level. In other groups, students engaged in free-flowing conversations about topics of their choice. Some shared thoughts on stereotypes, human rights, global and social issues and, cultural misunderstanding. Others chose to discuss current events and how their lives were still affected by the global pandemic.

The majority of facilitators reported that the group dynamics were “good” or “excellent”. Many facilitators shared how students felt more comfortable sharing their opinions and were dealing with disagreement respectfully. As they finished their sessions, many students shared how they started feeling comfortable communicating with their peers openly and expressed interest in learning more from each other in the upcoming sessions.

Attendance & Technology:

Last week, we noticed a small, 5% increase in student attendance. Thank you so much for following up with students and for your constant support on that front. That said, we still need your continued support in reminding your students to attend the remaining two sessions of the Program, given that a large number of students missed the second session.

As for technology, no major issues were reported. Please continue encouraging your students to write to 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, facilitators will encourage participants to reflect on the meaning of constructive communication and introduce them to the concept of inner voice and bias. Then, groups will continue engaging around topics of their choice.