Agnesha Dahal, Nepal, English 2nd language

My journey of GEE has always been fascinating. Getting an email from college professor about a competition, seeing names of my senior in the winner lists and the curiosity to know what it’s all about doesn’t seem like a long time ago. However, it’s already been 3 years and I have already graduated. I feel lucky to have participated in this journey, I prefer to say journey because it’s not just a competition for me now. It has literally changed my way of seeing life and my interest towards entrepreneurship. GEE was a starting point and since then I have participated in various competitions, joined incubation center to foster entrepreneurship culture in Nepal and have led various projects to establish a social equality. I had never thought one simple competition would change my life this much. Through this journal, I am glad to inform that I have already passed my 1st round of interview for Masters in Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Global leadership and would like to heartily thank GEE for its contribution in shaping me as a person.

So going back to the beginning, after receiving email from Deb, I was eager to put forward my idea which I had worked for months. Our leader Aleisha had already created Facebook page, seeing this I was already impressed with her dedication. May be because I was too eager to share my idea, seeing the group silent even in 2nd day, I couldn’t resist myself and started a conversation in a post. Finally, our leader responded saying some people might take time to join. However, I wanted to start immediately so we started our discussion, agreed to communicate in group and through Whatsapp. Some members felt uncomfortable talking on messenger so we agreed to talk on Whatsapp. We fixed time and date coordinating with the time zones and all set. Unfortunately, at the time of meeting I didn’t have electricity for past 10 hours and my mobile’s battery was dead and had little charge on laptop. I panicked and send message saying I won’t be able to attend meeting on Whatsapp, so my team was kind enough to shift the meeting on messenger. Then, we put forward some idea; of course I was the 1st one to share the idea. Team seemed appreciative and they liked my idea. Aleisha encouraged others to share their ideas too. So we decided to carry on and put forward our research to select the idea.

This year’s members were more energetic compared to previous years where I and my partner had to take leads in most cases. Interestingly, we got many ideas from other members which was really exciting. However, there are always pros and cons. sadly, when we voted for the idea, team members voted for other idea which is our report “GoodWork”, an app to connect employers with homeless people to uplift their living condition. In discussion, I might have gotten defensive in some point as any human would because I had worked so hard for the idea and it got rejected. I was heartbroken; it was not like team didn’t like the idea. They thought other idea was more feasible and weirdly enough my own partner voted me out. That might be my weak point where I had always led and every year my idea used to be selected. So thought this year too I will bring in the idea, it would get selected and I will lead to work on that. But I am thankful for GEE for providing such an opportunity where it makes us realize that you don’t always get what you wanted. Life is not just a dream, it’s far from dream and in reality everything is not rosy. So though my idea didn’t get selected I wasn’t grumpy and didn’t say you guys carry on. I took initiative to find out more about the idea, I did my research and helped other team members and leader to improve on the idea. Sometimes many team members would be missing, I would assist leader to structure our format or help structure the business model. I utilized my management skills and my previous experience to make this experience more fruitful. Throughout this Aleisha was really supportive, she respected everyone’s idea, encouraged participation, made sure people were on track and handled the situation calmly and didn’t let the team divert from that goal.

This years’ experience was unique in its way, more interactive team member giving their suggestions, fixed time of meeting and coming to a conclusion immediately, supportive team members who didn’t complain when I had to switch from Whatsapp to Facebook or when I immediately left to my village 5 days before the finals to check on my grandfather. I didn’t have any internet connection or electricity, mobile data was also weak but they were supportive throughout. So it encouraged me to communicate with team whenever possible and I finished my part anyhow.

When I had selected my idea, I hadn’t thought much about other people and their problems. Mostly, we team up with members from developed countries and we tend to think that they won’t have any problems. However, this idea of homeless people has widen my horizon and thinking of that concept. So many homeless people are facing problems and I didn’t quite believe at first that a developed country like the Netherlands would have severe homelessness problem. Opportunities like this make us realize that we are so much biased about our opinion and think everything we think should be right one. However, reality is far from this. While talking with people with different time zone, you develop respect for people all over the world. You try to put your foot in their shoes and actually feel their pain. You tend to connect with people behind the text despite their age, gender, race and the time zone. Even though you have never seen them, you now know their belief, culture, opinions and mostly their problem and their concern towards solving it. That’s why GEE is not just a competition for me, it’s a constant reminder for me to be in my ground close to the reality, to
understand people and empathize their problem. That’s what global leaders do, that’s when entrepreneurship can make a difference and most importantly that’s when being human makes sense.