Personal Reflection

A 3rd time participation in GEE proved to be very productive yet challenging. Productive, because I could utilize the experience to guide my team members who were new to this. Challenging, because coming to the idea was very difficult this time.

I am glad to have participated in the competition like previous years as it has really sharpened my leadership skills. I have learned to take initiatives and guide the group. Also, to be able to work with people from around the globe with time differences at prime age where everyone is busy, is surely a hectic task. Sometimes not all team members can be players because of health issues, private concerns, but I have learned to be supportive of that. We are all human beings and things do not always work in favor but having support during hard times is what society teaches us. I personally think that without empathy and concern, human beings are incomplete.

This time, I was the one to set deadlines for tasks that were essential to get the group started and everyone was very supportive of that. We had lost most of time in the first half just coming to an idea so when I felt that it was late, I made a proposal of an idea in a new area.

Despite who comes up with the idea, it never fails to mesmerize me that humanity still exists in our world full of chaos. Whenever coming up with the idea, the team members are brainstorming of what problems could potentially be solved in their mother nation or other parts of the world deprived of needs, and that always gives me the hope that country like mine can evolve soon.

I come from a very least developed nation where even the most basic infrastructures are not available. So, when I get to communicate with people from different cultures and countries, I feel blessed to have gotten opportunity to study and that I can communicate with them.

I am a person very enthusiastic in influencing the youth of any nation. Youth is a prime age where it is very easy to mold their thought process into something good. Hence, I love to teach. These experiences from GEE have always helped me become a better person as a leader, initiator, and most importantly a team player. I am proud of the simplest things I have learned here like encouraging someone else to speak up or put up their opinion in the team because not everyone is outspoken. I have learned that asking for their opinion and saying that it matters make a lot of difference. I have gotten better at time management, team management as well as communication. This has helped me become better as a teacher too.

However, I still struggle about what kind of sentences are appropriate for people from different cultural background. I fear that I might come off as too strong or commanding. Sometimes some sentences from my team members come off as offensive to me in my culture. However, I do not let it bother me because I understand it comes because of his/her cultural norms.

One of the most important things I have learned in GEE is moral relativism and how we must be open to whatever is thrown at us. Because the same color might be gold for someone while it might be yellow for someone else. But there is possibility to meet in the middle or even compromise in some cases for which we must be willing to set our ego aside and shake hands.