Workshop on Cyber Safety by United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan & Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

SAFE SPACES FOR YOUTH

A Cyber Bullying and Safety Workshop was conducted on the occasion of the International Youth Day by the UNDP at the Indian Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 9th of August'18. The theme of the workshop was in accordance with the 11th goal for Sustainable Development, 2030-Safe spaces for Youth. Four students of class XI from DPS Gurgaon participated in it.

The workshop began with a welcome speech by Mr.Arun Sahdeo followed by speeches by Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary of youth affairs, ministry of youth and Ms. Marina Walter Deputy Country Director, UNDP who emphasized on the need for a safe cyber space and how the youth, must take initiatives to promote it. They launched the Manual on Youth Engagement and the much awaited V-Awards Portal after which we were adjourned for a tea break.

Post this break, Ms. Kaushiki Negi and Ms. Saudamini Sharma shared their experiences of cyber bullying and harassment with the students. Ms. Negi talked about how social media platforms should not be blamed for the mishaps that occur but the people who use social media should be blamed for these while Ms. Saudamini shared her experience about the backlash she faced for reporting an incident in the Ramjas College where a cultural event taking place faced opposition. The backlash was severe to the extent that her DU Beats stall in the college fest was vandalised.

Once they finished sharing their experiences, a group activity by Cyber Peace Foundation and MASH project was initiated where the students were made to sit in groups and discuss certain allotted topics in the presence of a moderator who regulated the flow of discussion from time to time. The topic of discussion included freedom of speech and expression in cyberspace, resilience in online cyberspace, rights and duties in online space, digital literacy and lastly the importance of trust in online cyberspace.

The workshop was very informative and it enabled our students to share their views and listen to other's views and opinions on cyber safety and how schools can implement various programmes and initiatives to make the students aware of their cyber responsibilities as one mistake can cause great damage.

The session was concluded by sharing of experiences of what the students learned during the workshop followed by lunch.