

REPORT

EXPLORING CIVIC OBLIGATION AND RESPONSIBILITY: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Exploring Civic Obligation and Responsibility: A Global Perspective, is an outreach programme initiated by Boston Latin School (founded in 1635), USA. Four students of class 11- Paarth Arya, G Pranav Bharadwaj, Tapasmi Ray Chaudhuri and Tanvi Nagar are participating and representing DPS Gurgaon. The initiative connects youth leaders from 44 countries and 58 schools.

The programme commenced on 25th September, 2020. It connects students from around the globe, engaging them in conversation with reference to the problems that the world is facing in the 21st Century. The discussions among the students will help to change the existing mindsets and seek probable solutions.

Phase I and II of the initiative presented the students with topics of global interest, from varied spheres of life, which gave them an opportunity to introspect, grow and develop. The lead discussion was on - human rights, life of people in different nations amid the pandemic, the political frontier and conflict between nations, which enriched the students' knowledge about the situation in other countries. Initially, the students communicated through emails and messages, introducing themselves and making each other feel welcome. The students in their initial exchanges shared their preferences and also shared their views about matters of global concern, like the socio-political situation the world might face after the American elections.

Every week the students are given a topic for discussion and the varied viewpoints are shared on Padlet. The current topic for discussion is – ‘What is the common good for all?’. Students and teachers alike will be sharing their views on the same. Prompts have been sent for the students to start sharing their thoughts based on facts and data.

The students are looking forward to the conversation and engagement initiated by Exploring Civic Obligation and Responsibility: A Global Perspective.

The participants of Delhi Public School, Gurgaon have expressed their thoughts:

Students speak~

“Participating in the Civic Obligation Programme has been an enriching experience! I have had conversations with young adults from various parts of the world, learning about their views and priorities. Each week, we are given a new topic to discuss, right from discussing the environment, climate change, the pandemic, elections, to voting! After putting forward our views, we also got the opportunity to pitch in with solutions to some of the civic issues. I noticed how environment conservation was of utmost importance to everyone; how people from different countries reacted to the COVID pandemic, and how they think our future will change because of it; the passion with which the students from the US were following the Presidential polls, and how eager they were to get the chance to vote in the next elections. It has made me realise that our generation is capable of improving the current condition much beyond anyone’s imagination.” ~Paarth Arya



“Participating in this programme till now has been an eye opener. In Phase I we introduced ourselves and shared our preferences about food, movies etc. It was quite useful because this helped us to know the members in the group. The chats were enjoyable and we shared pictures with each other of our place of stay and dream tourist spot. Phase II was about transitioning into what we had to achieve. The aim of this programme was to understand the civic obligations of society, the role of youth and how we could be proactive citizens. We discussed politics, our obligations and the collective good. We had recently done a Padlet activity on why people don’t vote and tried to get down to the core of the problem. We have been working at a steady pace and slowly more students are starting to interact. Overall, it’s been fascinating to meet people across cultures and see a rainbow of perspectives.”

~**G Pranav Bharadwaj**



“Phase I and II presented a unique opportunity for us all to learn. We worked in teams of 4-5 students from all over the world. In Phase I of the project we introduced ourselves, had fruitful discussions and learned about the cultures and lesser known facts about several nations. We appreciated each other’s views, and gradually became good friends. In Phase II, we worked with 10-12 students and discussed issues like the Government’s political role and its responsibilities. All of us spoke about COVID-19 and how it’s affecting our countries at the macro level! It was an enriching session. These engaging conversations will help me to learn more, grow more and become a better and more responsible human being!” ~**Tanvi Nagar**



“The entire experience so far has been nothing short of incredible. As someone who has always been passionate about world issues and current affairs, this project has already given me more insight into how the world works than a Google search would. News articles are just words and statistics whereas human beings are stories, experiencing the world as we know it, in real time. Interacting with people from all over the world is truly fascinating, with everyone coming from varied backgrounds and cultures, yet being united by one goal for the common good. The discussions and activities have not only helped me become aware of the issues we face but they have also encouraged me to analyse the problems and actively come up with constructive solutions as a global citizen. We are only two phases in but I can safely say that I am already wiser than when I started!”

~**Tapasmi Ray Chaudhuri**



The students enjoyed the first two stages of the project, and hope to learn even more in the next few phases.

Written by **Tanvi Nagar**

Teacher Coordinators for the initiative -**Ms Mamta Kanti Kumar and Ms Geetika Aggarwal**