Team 45: Shishir Hari Rajbhandari, Nepal,

I heard about Global Enterprise Experience from my classmate, Subin and we immediately decided that we must participate and headed out to enroll for the event. Since enrollment, there has been no looking back and the 21 days to collaborate and come up with the business proposal has been a life enriching learning experience. I feel proud to have been associated with GEE to collaborate with such a diverse, yet cohesive team to develop a proposal that uplifts the economic and social status of women and still manages to earn profits.

Working in a diverse team with multitude of differences, i.e. difference in cultures, perception, expectations, time and within a time constraint was quite a challenge; however the common goal to come up with the proposal about profitable venture that uplifts the social and economic status of women motivated us to take up the challenge. The decision to focus the venture on Nepal, added more responsibility to my shoulders and motivated me further to contribute towards the team as I was well aware of the ground reality and could ensure true depiction of Nepal and the status of Nepali women.

Being from a developing country, the acute electricity crisis in Nepal, i.e. 12 hours of load shedding/power cut a day really was a big hindrance to collaborate in the team. In addition to this, the time differences between the team member’s countries made collaborating more difficult. As I had taken up the challenge, I made sure that these factors along with my college assignments didn’t act as a barrier to my contribution toward the team. So, for the project duration I borrowed laptop from my cousin, bought a battery to power my internet router, and there were times when I stay awake till 2 am, chatting with my counterparts about the future course of action as well as the ground reality of the country that would be crucial to getting inputs from them.

Initially, I found that there lacked commitment from some team members, and we were unaware of how to move ahead with the project. We lost the first week, waiting for all the participants to put their views about the venture that we will be undertaking and its location. Soon we realized that, it wasn’t how it should be done, so we set aside few days to discuss on each topic. Few participants popping up after a week or so and again disappearing about a week really drove me mad, however I thought that they must have had a valid reason for it. As days passed by we got to know each other’s culture, way of working, which eased collaboration and we smoothly moved towards completing the proposal on time.

From the experience at GEE I have grown as an individual. I have had fair idea about the way of life, perceptions of the team members. The different perspective of the team members toward the same issue enlightened me regarding how broadly we can see issues. I have learnt to work across diverse culture within a time constraint, and how to get things done in a team. Delegation was crucial and most the members, showed their commitment on doing the delegated task on time.

On the overall, participating in GEE was an experience to cherish, and it gives me sense of satisfaction to have completed the project collaborating with such a diverse team despite of all the differences and hindrances.