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English is not my first language.

In 2011 when I registered for the GEE, it was my second time and I was even more confident than 2010 where I had found some real-time leadership skills managing a multi-cultural team. But it turned out to be rather a busy May last year and I happened to contribute absolutely nothing more than a measly introduction.

This year I was all the more determined to fend off the pressures and gain from the GEE experience. I know how an active interaction here works wonders. Things went according to the plan. Strangely, the sense of déjà vu was apparently very strong. Again, I found no one taking the lead and no one with a real idea to put forward. I started wondering how it could be that people register on an international competition and do not have the imagination to build upon it. There I started to experiment myself, only without a conscious deliberation. After carefully playing with words, suggestions started coming out from at least three people. They assisted till the last minute and we pulled off another GEE project.

There was déjà vu with other things as well- like a few people pretending to be active and another designated leader who didn't show up. But then there were not any egoistical, sadistic personalities desperate to pull out the plug on our contest. I thought it to be so until the last minute when one of us didn't heed to even basic courtesy while sending the team report before waiting for others to see it. I knew nobody would go back from this temptation. The report was lying with me and I had my blood and sweat all over it. In order to make my team feel they had done a significant contribution, I parted off with the report with a message- "Whoever sends it shall mark a copy to the rest."

Well it itched for a while but I ended up uncovering one more capability in me- to work and not feel about the credit. I've read about leaders and I try to imitate the best traits. It is best to stay low profile and emerge out a winner.

While brainstorming on the idea, I happened to give a thought to solutions that this world needed. I asked myself to think most imaginatively staying close with the theme. Researching on the web is only an inseparable part of GEE for me. It upgrades a lot of crucial knowledge. The ideas other people threw only broadened my horizons and perspective. I am just glad.

As an afterthought, I would say the next time I would like to experiment even more. I have worked extensively twice on GEE reports, and without a second thought, worked singlehandedly. I give myself all the accolades. But I doubt myself at one point- do I have the ability to trust on my team? I think if by the stroke serendipity, I happen to get a very great team next time- I might just let others do the project and only oversee it or assist. Many a times when I take an overall look on the project during the course of competition, I invariably find it broken at junctures and incomplete or missing an element or two. I struggle to keep its integrity intact. To have a talented team sometime would raise the chances of having a more complete report, and the chances of my not working like a beast in/till the end. (Another experiment I'd like to do next time would be writing with more brevity!)

I presume that is the beauty of the profession I'm in- one might not get the best people all the time, or may have varying opinions, but one still does have to come out winning with nothing but one's best output. That is management and that is how I love it. At least one ends up with a fresh experience each time. I feel rejuvenated and motivated to go harder in life. Thank you GEE.