

Watching the Europeans present their ideas on global business, hearing the African voices on the problems surrounding their region and reading the economic wonders brought about by South East Asians; Television, radio and newspapers act as a one-way traffic for information delivery, where you can neither state any queries nor express your ideas on those issue. Even social media in the Internet binds yourself to the society you already know. How often do you add a random foreign stranger on Facebook and engage in a two-way interaction regarding social, political or economic matters? Well, at least I didn't until GEE provided me an opportunity for doing so.

Information exchange started right from day one. As soon as the team leader added members into a Facebook group, I started interacting with everyone. At times I did feel awkward introducing myself to the group right from the scratch (including my nationality) but, the group members were really friendly and cooperative enough in accepting the differences we had. By the time we started our first meeting, most of the team were still complete strangers to each other while I was a familiar figure to the whole group.

During my annual visit to grandparent's home in countryside a couple of months back, I had seen some extremes of living conditions. Poverty was rampant and women suffered from it twice; first, being a member of poor household and second, being a woman. Nepal has adopted Millennium Development Goal committing to make substantial progress towards eradication of poverty and promoting gender equality, but with the persisting situation it is very unlikely that we can make it in time. Acknowledging the role of private sector in addressing the MDG, I drafted a proposal to the group and they readily accepted it. It turned out to be the business plan our group worked on.

Eight of us were from eight different corners of the world and there were lots of cultural barriers to overcome. All of sudden we were talking in GMTs, and it is not often you do it at your home. Me being from a high context culture, communication was not easy with people belonging to low context culture. Their view on teamwork and task allocation was totally different. The main frustrating point was that we were working on a business plan in Nepal, and none of the other group members had even heard the name of the country. Introducing Nepal to the group members was a fascinating task. I enjoyed

it a lot and in the process I even realized some aspects of my country, which I had never really concentrated on. It was only after the expressions of astonishment from them that I realized how beautiful my country is.

We had a session where we analyzed the problems existing in our part of the world. Just as we learnt in the Economics lectures, members from High-income nations had issues related to sustainability while we from the lower-income nations focused on poverty and inequality. Most of the team members were from High-income nations, thus it was very tough to express the situation of rampant poverty and gender inequality persisting in the low-income nations like Nepal. They seemed to have no clue on what absolute poverty meant and the way they perceived gender inequality was very different. But the whole group was eager to know and learn new things. The group leader in particular showed a lot of interest in comprehending the situation in rural Nepal.

When you face 12 hours power cut a day and uncertain internet connection for remaining 12 hours, when your University lies at a distance of 1.5 hours on Bus and you've got to allocate 3 hours of your daily time for bumpy ride, when annual examination is right on the horizon and there are numerous term papers to prepare, allocating time for team discussion was not an easy task. I used my travelling time for planning the business we were working on. It was there I thought deeply about strategies we could implement in our business. Thanks to our team leader and whole group, they agreed to tinker the scheduled team meeting time so that I would not be excluded from the meeting due to power cut.

GEE taught me a new way of looking into problems around me. Had the subject not been Millennium Development Goal, I would have hardly recalled the misery of poor and women in rural Nepal. Even if I did, I would hardly have had any thoughts other than feeling pity for those troubled people. As an aspiring businessperson, I am determined to reach those rural areas. I want to end the traditional business practice of limiting ventures to urban areas. There are opportunities in the rural areas and one need to thoroughly analyze and exploit those opportunities. These ventures not only boast some extraordinary profits but also play an integral role in changing the life of rural people.