

CLIMATE ACTION DRISIS

DRS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

At DRS International School we knew we couldn't miss the opportunity to take part in the Global Social Leaders' initiative when Ms. Janet introduced us to GSL. We were briefed about Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations and what we could do to help achieve it. Then, we were asked to select a sustainable development goal which we could take action. After long consideration and deliberation, we decided to focus our time and resources on the 13th sustainable development goal of the UN which is Climate Action.

The 13th sustainable development goal focus is very wide. Ergo, we collectively named our team 'Climate Action DRISIS' to actively make the world a better place with one plant at a time. After forming the group, we put our minds together and decided what our goal was about and how much time we had to allot to it in order to achieve our goal effectively and efficiently. Our discussion helped us conclude that the area where we wanted to have the highest impact was the student community and doing it within 4 months would be ideal. We decided to address the concept of climatic variation and change within the set of integrated natural features and processes known as the Earth system.

We aspired to use the school platform to talk to the students in and around our school about climate change and wanted to make this an interactive experience for the students so that they can take away a deeper understanding of the seriousness of the issue at hand. We wanted to highlight the dangers we could potentially face if climate change wasn't taken seriously.

We mapped out a plan which consisted of collaborating with the Forest Academy, a government of Telangana state department to procure plants, free of cost. We planned to plant around our school campus involving the primary school students while conversing with them about climate change and how to make the world a better and greener for our future.

We conceptualized and put our plan into action. We reached out to the Forest Department of Telangana State, who were extremely cooperative and helped us to procure 100 plants. We visited the Forest Department Nursery and collected the plants and exchanged a few words about the air purifying plants with them. We brought back the plants to our school to plant them.

We then, executed our plan for plantation. We spoke to the student of primary section at their morning assembly about Climate Change and its seriousness and the consequences the earth could potentially face and facing now. It was a rather interactive session in the assembly as the students actively participated and answered when we asked questions related to the topic. We empowered them and reminded them that their voices matter just as much as anyone else, if not more because it is their future that is at stake.

We went around classes to personally speak with the students and further interact with them to encourage them to take part in important dialogue. We spoke about the importance of governmental action towards climate change and how they can help by doing their part. However it is more important to make individual initiative and start dialogue and take action, however small initiatives and taking steps such as planting more trees, using less fuel and avoiding plastic as much as we can. We then, went to a few classrooms and gave the students plants and answered a few more questions and shared personal experiences

Later, with the help of a group of students we planted trees around the school campus. While planting trees we discussed about climate change and the students were forthcoming and shared their personal anecdotes, beliefs and ideas on how they thought we could curb climate change. The students were enthusiastic and asked a lot of questions for which we gladly provided answers.

Our initiative bore long term fruit, every second day we saw a group of students who bring saplings and distribute to their friends and other students for special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

The last step of our plan was to visit government schools and share our knowledge about climate change with them, which we could not implement it due to Novel Corona virus pandemic that lead to school closure and lockdown. We hope to take the project further. The epidemic outbreak taught us a big lesson that sometimes moments lost will never comeback. We cannot take anything for granted.

The CLIMATE ACTION DRISIS is the result of one hour a day for about 4 months since January 2020 which including planning, communicating and executing, it took us approximately 150 working hours, which involved directly 20 volunteers, that impacted 800 people.