

## **REPORT ON THE SOWING SEEDS TOGETHER FOR CHANGE AND THE WAY FORWARD**

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On remembering the first activity of getting to know each other, it was from that activity I came to know all the participants were active and anxious to know one another since no one wanted to lose the game to avoid sitting down hence I was very much motivated from that observation. All the expectations and ground rules raised by the participants was also a second sign for the seriousness of participants and the moral each and everyone had about the five day meeting.

On the hand activity which the 5 fingers of the hand represented the word YOUTH Y-you O-objectives U-us T-thought H-hero, This activity was very important since all the participants had a chance to exchange experiences, views, minds at personal level. Since we mingled and everyone could go to any person and ask her or him about the five words, which were written on the participants fingers. Also this activity provided an opportunity to every participant to be free and stop fearing one another since that was the beginning of the meeting and many people did not know one another. By forming the web after the hand activity, also provided a chance to show the significance of networking.

On day two we started by meditation. The story of warriors who conquer everyone but his armored refused to get out. After he was advised to take time and spend alone, he went for journey and reflected on all his action he had done before, then the armored started to get out. **This was a very a significant story** since we learnt that to get peace within yourself, then fast we should start by taking time and to yourself and also to others. We also knew the impotence of a learning log i.e. a note book since it assist someone to listen to himself because we only write things which are very important for you on a note book. Also it will give you a very clear flashback of something which has happened before.

**On the net activity**, all the participants were given two cards and asked to write anything on the mood or character of oneself. Then all the cards were mixed and we picked again the cards, we were asked to try to identify the owner of the card since no one was allowed to pick his or her card. Then we tried to identify the owner of the character traits written the card. This activity pot raid how the participants understand one another since the question was, how did you did you know the owner of the card. This showed that the participants were very observant, interactive i.e. sharing feelings, experiences, situations, good listening skills and many others. This showed that the participants were getting together like brother and sisters.

The next step, the youth leaders separated from the youth. June from UNESCO was our facilitator who took as through "From discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance to

respect and mutual understanding” As the youth leader I also gained more skills which empowered my role as a leader, such as how to organize staff and volunteers, how to involve the religious leaders, networking, the role of Geneva office and how it can support us. We also learnt more about the manual, such as interfaith networking, spirituality which up to date I remember Agneta explaining about the spirituality.

The next activity it was when we were asked to identify 3 deference’s and similarities between 2 people. The next puzzle was on how and why to make the change to us youth and the rest of the world, it then emerged four strong words, that is, respect/ tolerance, sympathy, responsibility and reconciliation. After a very deep discussion it’s when we discovered that there is a slight difference between tolerance and respect. Also one right comes with two responsibilities and reconciliation without justice its not reconciliation.

We also took a lot of time discussing about Discrimination. We started by defining examples on how to combat discrimination and to conclude this discrimination, we ended with an activity on which everyone was patched with a colour on his forehead and no one knew the color on his head, then we were requested to come together those with the same color but silently. We could only use gestures and all people with same color collaborated and each one assisted one another to form a group. This activity showed that, to fight anything bad there must be collaboration since together we stand divide we fall.

**My most challenging discussion was on believes.** I do remember very well when Agneta was giving an example of a triangle that is it has 3 corners and everyone accepted that was a fact. Then we were asked to write something which is a fact and another which is a figure and you give a reason why it is a fact or a figure. On conclusion, we all agreed that there are four factors which come with any believe, and those are my personality-who I am, my experience, upbringing-the importance of the fast person who took care of your young age and finally environment. We also shared on the challenges experienced in interfaith working; some were missionaries, religion superiority, exposures/experience, etc. We looked upon on empathy; this related to ability of putting yourself on others people shoes. We also discussed on empowerment.

We visited several schools and institutions in Dar-es-salaam. Our fast stop was at Kibasila high school. We were welcomed by the peace club of the school, they explained about there activities and on how they organized themselves. Our next stop was at Jangwani high school, all the participants were motivated by there activities. We also meet Clara one of the co founder of peace clubs in Tanzania under gnrc. We then went to Dogodogo center where we found rehabilitated street boys inspired with great hopes in life. We finally ended our tour at Kigamboni community whre we meet the acrobats. Afterwards we proceeded to Kipepeo beach hotel for dinner and cultural evening.

**I learnt many things from this visits.** One, you must always be determined in whatever you do, grown ups must show good example to young one, giving opportunity to everyone, motivation, co-opereation, inspiration, unique goals etc.

On the last day we started by meditation. We were presented with a saying message in term of a puzzle, which is, **“if you think you are too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room”**. This encouraged the participant not to undermine themselves thinking they are young to do something, since even a mosquito can make a huge impact on your health. We discussed the role of the youth leaders which some were, volunteering yourself, be fair, having confidence, mentorship, providing guidance, facilitating etc. Challenges/problems faced by leaders/members include lack of support from parents, different ideologies on gnrc, decision making, lack utilities, funds etc.

Finally we discussed the meaning of GNRC. We started by looking at the meaning SWOT which is S-strengths W-weakness O-opportunity T-threats. We were then divided into four groups each group representing the appreciation gnrc, and each group to relate swot to the gnrc.

**On conclusion on my way forward is that this meeting have lead to my motivation on my working on interfaith to bring peace on this universe and also it has empowered my leadership as the youth leader of Kenya since I have successfully form a club in the capital city of Kenya that Nairobi and Mombasa. This meeting it has also led to motivation of DPAC in different regions of the world.**

By Mohamed Said

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