Connecting With PGC Participants

by sustainovators

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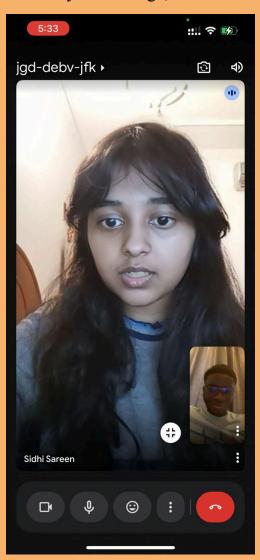
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Activity:

For today's challenge, I connected with Sidhi Sareen from Team EcoVisionaries.



Introduction:

Sidhi is an 18 year old high school graduate from Government Model Senior Sanskriti Secondary School. She is one of two girls on the EcoVisionaries team. In the heart of Ambala, Haryana in India, Sidhi is a passionate environmentalist working to cause change in her community. I had the privilege of having a conversation with her about her Project Green Challenge Journey.

Conversation

1. Where are you and your team mate from?

Sidhi is from Ambala in India and her teammate is from Pretoria in South Africa. Sidhi recently graduated high school, however her teammate is still in high school.

2. How did you and your teammate meet then?

Sidhi met her teammate in an online program called Leaders of Tomorrow and they bonded well enough. So they decided to both join PGC 2025 because of their passion for environmental sustainability.

3. Why did you join PGC?

Sidhi was advised by a mentor in YOUNGO, the official children and youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to join PGC 2024 but it was quite late for her to join so she joined the PGC Newsletter and ever since she got the mail this September, she went digging through the PGC archives. Sidhi has been a climate advocate since childhood, from restoring dried up soils to plant flowers to participating in climate themed donations, hence, she was really inspired by how much quantifiable change PGC participants saw at the end of their 30-day journey and that motivated her all the more.

4. How has PGC inspired change in your life so far?

Sidhi initially knew about indoor water and outdoor water so she was already taking measures to reduce her water footprint. However, after calculating her water footprint on Day 2, she realized that most of her water usage came from virtual water. As a result, she has been making conscious efforts daily to reduce her virtual water usage.

5. What is one moment you felt empowered during PGC?

Sidhi: I feel empowered every day— having to step out of my comfort zone everyday is truly helping me face my fears and improve my self-confidence. Before PGC, I would have hardly recorded a video showing my face to talk about a topic I'm passionate about but the challenges have encouraged me to step out of my comfort and record a video. It's like everyday I face my fears and I believe that is very empowering.

6. What are your visions regarding climate advocacy?

Sidhi: I want to incorporate climate sustainability practices into their day-to-day activities without thinking that they are wasting their time. My career goals are to be an advocate for medicinal malpractice and also research on genetically engineering more plant species that can support our changing climate and absorb more carbon from the atmosphere. I really want to be able to bridge climate sustainability into the medical sector.

Fun fact:

Sidhi founded a youth climate advocacy organization called "Eco Karma". It was an international club and some of their projects included; waste collection drives, donation drives, app developments to quantifiably measure environmental impact. Their reach was large because of the fact that they were international and members were playing a role all around the world. It had around 250-300 members and they

were working tirelessly to get funding to create a climate advocacy school. They were not able to get the funding last time but she is planning on restarting the agenda soon and I think it is very impressive how committed she is working towards creating systemic change.

Favorite quote:

"Never think that you are too young to create an impact. You can always do something, be a motivation to someone and play a pivotal role in the fight against climate change. So step out of your comfort zone and do something!"

Instagram Post:

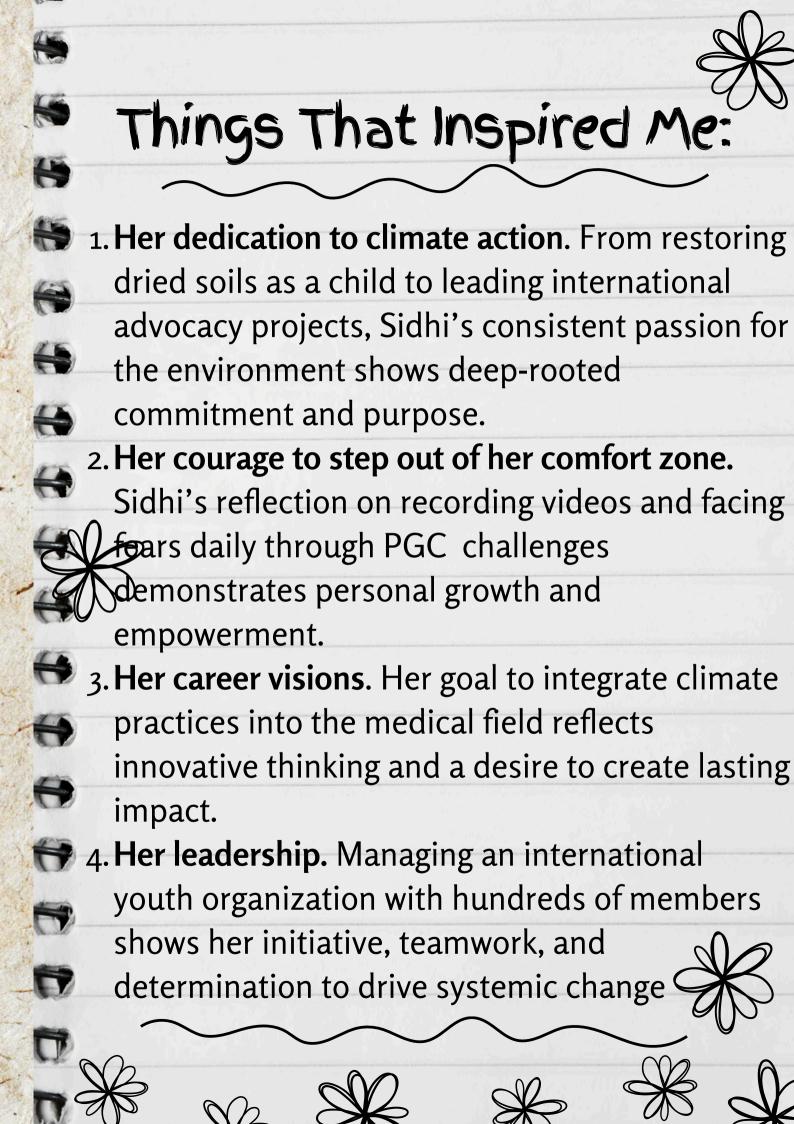


PS: I also had the pleasure of meeting Cassandra Jordan from Florida Golf Coast University

Screenshot of Meeting:







Ecovisionaries Submissions That Inspired Me



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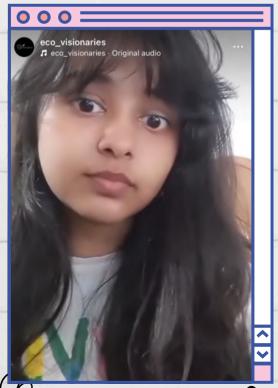
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In this podcast, Team
EcoVisionaries connects global
efforts to local action, showing
that real change starts with
awareness. They elaborate on
how food waste also leads to a
waste of energy, resources and
efforts put in by families. I love
how they are empowering and
encouraging students to take
small, meaningful steps that
create a larger impact.



I chose this post because it shows how Sidhi has stepped out of her comfort zone to record a video and educate people about how marginalized communities are the ones facing the biggest impacts of climate change while playing the least contributions.