



My Voice = Our Future Every Voice Counts



As part of the campaign for International Day of the Girl 2020, Good Shepherd Mat. Hr. Sec. School (GSMHSS), Chennai, India, joined hands to amplify the voices and stand up for the rights of girls as a unified effort towards generational equality. This initiative by GSIF has intensified as GOOD SHEPHERD ONE VOICE, where the schools have added value to education by preparing the students to advocate for an equal and just future for all.

Educate, Celebrate, Advocate, Act

October 1 ushered the #hashtag campaign, where GSMHSS joined hands with

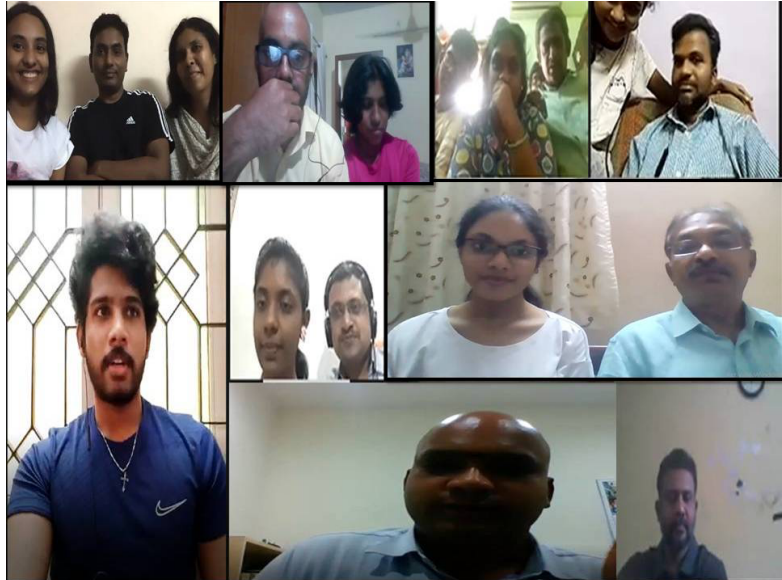


the other GS schools across Asia Pacific in a 10 days common program . This is the first time that the sisters, partners in mission, program participants, students, parents, alumni, staff and volunteers have come together across the region to pray, reflect and participate in such an impactful movement. The IDG theme song from Sri Lanka has become a powerful tune in many hearts.

A healthy sense of competition in designing the logo and posters added great flavour to the program. We have educated students, teachers and parents (specially dads and brothers) by having sessions where we discussed *online safety for children*, especially during this pandemic, apart from sensitizing them on their role in redesigning the future of girls in their homes and society. The logos and posters made by the students are powerful and dynamic – they speak volumes! The winners of the competitions have a special role as young advocates and the videos made by the students have beautiful messages to

convey. One of the video entries even made it to the IDG Summit. All social media platforms are truly abuzz with young GS voices rising!

On October 4, all the schools and social services of GS Central East India Nepal came together as “Good Shepherd One Voice” breaking the barriers of language, caste and creed to celebrate the power of ONE VOICE.



The reflections and gratitude body movements were other powerful tools to stir the students to acknowledge the need for raising their voices against discrimination and gender-based violence and express the need for a safe and inclusive environment.

Never before have we participated in a global forum where young panelists have their safe space to voice out. The panel discussion on October 11 was indeed a calendar event for GSAP. We were proud to witness one of our young students advocating for the rights of girls in India. Being part of the IDG Summit and participating in the townhall, our students truly felt very invested in their responsibilities as change agents.

The energized young students decided to step up the campaign by reaching out to their peers. “Put a period to the period taboo” camp to demystify menstruation opened the doors for more voices to join in. The Intra and Inter School cultural events – IDG PHOENIX’20 provided a platform for the Phoenix within them to rise from their ashes and voice their thoughts and redefine themselves as changemakers of the Future. Fifteen schools across Chennai participated in a 3-day program, stirring the participants to voice out. During the valedictory ceremony, our Principal Sr. Mercy George challenged each one of us to step up and dare to redesign the future.

Seize every platform: Good Shepherd Ideas Worth Spreading (GSIWS) is a *Sampoorna* initiative which was started by a group of students and teachers who believe in vertical literacy with the main goal of providing a safe forum for students to express their thoughts, views and ideas on various topics including issues grappling today's society such as racism, rights of the LGBTQ+ community, cyber bullying, mental health etc. Through GSIWS, the students collaborated across GS schools in India to bridge the gap with their brothers and sisters across Good Shepherd communities in Central East India/ Nepal. GSIWS



aims for students to achieve a combination of mental complexity, emotional intelligence and transformed world view, so that they can be active changemakers and advocates in today's society.

If not now, when, if not you, who?

Act upon your thought! “Rethink, Rework and Redefine” - a panel discussion on December 7, 2020 marks the onset of new beginnings. Good Shepherd School took the next concrete step to collaborate with ePratYek, an organisation of Edmond Rice Foundation in India and invited the boys and girls from various schools to come together to raise their voice for an equitable world. The participants have agreed on pursuing one or more areas of advocacy that they wish to lobby for and spearhead a movement of change in 2021.



"The tiny acorn of our efforts has developed into a strong oak tree with its shady branches- sheltering thousands of people in need." St. Mary Euphrasia