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Personal Reflection

First War Game

Below you will find something similar to a diary account of a War... a War Game! The first mention of the term "War Games" had me a little frightened. I was not sure what to expect: would this be a debate or a regurgitation of information? I knew I would be in a team, but upon receiving my assignment I felt very flustered. I was to study the health sector of India, through the eye of climate science, regarding engineering adaptation in resilient cities. Needless to say, I did not know where or how to approach my studies. I felt that my personal input for my team came into fruition after I realized that I needed information regarding climate science and infrastructure.

First, one of my teammates discussed the climate changes that impact health, i.e. air pollution causing polluted water, which contributes to waterborne diseases, or a heat stroke. Then another one of my teammates elaborated on the infrastructure in the health care system. This demonstrated that hospitals in India are not equipped to handle a large influx of patients regarding hospital space. Moreover, the segregation between private and public hospitals was realized. Another problem was the way in which medical help was mobilized.

These inputs finalized the main objectives to tackle. How do people living in rural areas get help? Are primary hospitals equipped to handle these situations? Are hospitals properly constructed to adhere so drastic climate changes or natural

disasters? What are preventable methods that can help reduce the size of preventable diseases? If policies can be implemented to fund the health sector, how should they be allocated efficiently?

Before the actual War Game, I was personally overwhelmed by the amount of intricate steps that are necessary to improve India's health care. If climate changes are merely a facet of the issues stemming with health care, then how will a country of this size be successful in adapting to the drastic changes needed? This daunting question is what followed me throughout the entire process of the War Game; more so during the actual War Game because agreement was needed amongst many different factions.

I decided to be the presenter for my team, which again proposed the challenge of introducing points that I had not personally studied thoroughly. This was of course difficult because I did not want to do a disservice to my teammates by missing some key points in their sections. As the day neared, my teammates and I solidified solutions that could mediate our main issues. The main solution to all of the problems involved increased funding, which is always easier said than done.

On the day of the War Game, I was extremely nervous. I confused my first three slides, and went over them quickly, but then I started to redirect what I was explaining. I thought that I would struggle the most with the policy making section, as I had focused heavily on the engineering and tangible health aspects of the health sector, but I ended up explaining the social part of health care the best. I also attribute this to my teammates who not only encouraged me before my presentation, but also made sure that I understood the concepts they had

researched. They showed me the segue between engineering adaptation and infrastructure as well as climate science as applied to health. They also enforce the need for policy adaptation.

After the presentations we went to lunch to discuss the propositions from the other sectors. We realized what we truly needed... correct allocation of money. During our bilateral discussions with the other teams, we recognized that health is clearly an undeniable concern for citizens. However, their own interests were also a viable concern for their objectives. We had to compromise to assure that the areas that needed attention were concentrated on. I think that for the health sector, we learned that it was easier for us to discuss with other sectors because health is crucial to the overall success of a country. Most sectors, except industry and energy, had very close relations to the climate science that impacted health. I learned that the other sectors impacted health indirectly.

When all teams got together to discuss, I learned again how intricate each section was. It verified for me how something so obviously necessary, like health, could be withheld or put towards the back of discussion when profits were involved. Each one of my team members had something to contribute in our final discussions. In this stage, there was very little "role playing" as we all contributed to the fruition of the discussion.

When we were covering the amendments, I recognized that even within the health sector, we had different expectations. We had to compromise within the team to allocate money amongst the different aspects of the health system that needed attention. We were asked frequently about population control, which to be honest,

we did not look at much, considering the climate approach we were prompted to take. I liked that we all had different opinions and focused on what our specific sections needed as well. However, our team worked very well together and seemed to agree on most topics, and if we didn't, compromise was not too far fetched. I enjoyed the actual day of the War Games; I thought it was invigorating to see my peers so passionate about a topic that they never truly thought about before, or really cared for outside of the classroom setting. I myself felt that way.