

War, Healthcare and Team Dynamics

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The Healthcare Sector could only be described as focused and well prepared. We knew our stance and had the research to back it up. In our team meetings we all knew what our role was and what the team's next step was going to be. Our meetings ended with us praising ourselves on how hardworking each team member was and appreciating the fact we never argued. I'm incredibly lucky that I got to work with such a smart well rounded group of people. This helped going into the war games which were an uncharted territory for me. We felt comfortable asking each other questions and speaking up when we knew more about a subject. We were truly going into this war hand in hand and ready to fight for our sector.

I was also immensely happy that I got to be on the Healthcare Team. When people ask me what I want to do with my Industrial Engineering Degree I at first am overwhelmed by the vastness of the question but always come back to the answer: healthcare in any form. I am ready to talk about the weaknesses of the American healthcare system. I am ready to learn about other healthcare systems' weaknesses and strengths and compare. Researching about the Indian healthcare was a privilege and came easily to me. I learned more about the weaknesses like the large gap between the economic classes' quality of healthcare. I learned about the education system for doctors and why it needed to be open for more people. Then I tied this new information into climate change and how they would impact each other. Tying this information together gave grave results for the World and India's future. Weak healthcare systems and even strong ones should be ready for more medical issues due to climate. We should recognize that population growth hurts us and the climate. Healthcare is not ready for climate change.

The day of the war games arrived and my competitive side came with it. This became apparent when during negotiations I became aggravated discussions were not centered on healthcare. How could everyone not see that we needed to focus on the fragile Indian healthcare system? The industry team was taking too much time talking about proposals that were not a necessity for Indian people. Better healthcare funding was an obvious necessity with India accounting for less than 1% of the world's healthcare spending but 16% of the world's population. It felt as though other sectors were fixing future problems and proposing preventative measures while we had to fix a broken system that was going to see even more problems in the future. It is easy to see the world through one color lens. At this point I was looking through the healthcare colored lens. I could see that money needed to go directly into the healthcare system. The system needed to be more level. Elite and non-elite India did not have the same system. This lens did not show me that I should help other sectors to help my sector. Our team needed to help agriculture push GMOs so less people were dying from malnutrition. We did still need to examine GMOs from a healthcare lens and push the idea of research on the health effects of GMOs. We needed to help the water sector get funds to fix their broken system which in turn would have positive effects on healthcare.

The war games exposed an overwhelming and sad part about our world: of course change happens slowly. Government discussions are incredibly more complex than this war game and have even higher stakes. Governments do not have endless supplies of money like us. They do not have the luxury of focusing on what is best for the world with high tensions between parties and countries, money motivated politicians and lack of resources for the public.

I learned an incredible lesson from the war game and also this dialogue; impeding foreign problems like climate change must be solved with a holistic lens. Everything in our world is

intertwined from economy, healthcare, businesses, social media, and religion. There is not enough time in one lifetime to learn every discipline to solve climate change so we need to be able to come together with all areas of expertise and solve it together.