

The MUNify Project: Students Lead The Way In Youth Diplomacy

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MUMBAI

In a bid to make global issues and diplomacy accessible to all, students of Bombay International School (BIS) have spearheaded a unique initiative, MUNify — a Model United Nations (MUN) project that reaches beyond their own school to engage students from BMC schools, run by The Akanksha Foundation, and semi-private schools across Mumbai.

The program was held on Saturday (July 19) in the school premises. Led by BIS students Arjun Vora, Gayatri Mehta, and Hriday Rajani, MUNify is a simulation-based program that introduces young students to the workings of the United Nations. Through role-play, participants represent countries and debate real-world challenges from environmental crises to international conflicts.

“Our mission at MUNify is to empower young minds from different backgrounds by providing them with the knowledge and skills to participate in Model United Nations,” said the student organisers in a joint statement.

“We aim to bridge the gap for students who lack access to these enriched experiences by organising and hosting MUN events. Through our various committees, we raise awareness about critical global issues such as environmental sustainability, social inequality, and diplomacy. We want to inspire a new generation of leaders through debate and collaboration.”

As Chief Guest at the culmi-



nating MUNify conference, BIS Principal Arjun Rao applauded the efforts of the students, highlighting the importance of democratising such platforms.

“You, as fellow students, have chosen to share these wonderful ideas with your peers, whether they go to BIS or a BMC school. You all will share the world together in your generation, and seeing that collaboration come to life is incredibly powerful,” he said.

Rao also underlined the role of youth in driving societal change. He said, “I believe change is only truly possible when young people decide to make it happen.” Educators from participating schools expressed surprise and delight at how transformative the initiative proved to be.

“This is a very innovative and unconventional approach,” said Hetal, a teacher from a BMC school. Mamata Sangani, a teacher leader from Sitaram Mills Compound Public School, who has been part of the MUNify journey since its inception last year, described her experience as a guide and motivator. “None of them had even heard of MUN before this. Watching them gain clar-

ity, confidence, and collaboration skills has been beautiful. Honestly, I wouldn't be surprised if they now came up with their own Junior MUN.”

Student delegates like Yash Prajapati from Sitaram Mills Compound Mumbai Public School (SMCMPS) and Aliza Khan from Mahalaxmi Mumbai Public School (MLMPS), representing China and South Korea, respectively, reflected on their transformation through MUNify.

“I used to think China was just a corrupt country,” Yash admitted. “But through research, I've realised it has many positive sides and has done a lot of good as well.” Sharing a similar perspective, Aliza said, “I always associated South Korea with K-pop. But now I know it also contributes to vaccines and healthcare around the world.”

Arjun Vora reminded the audience that “The MUNify Project is not just a conference organiser; we're building a community of architects of tomorrow. Diplomacy

shouldn't be a privilege; it should be a launchpad.” With each placard raised, MUNify is not just simulating global discussions; it's shaping future voices that are ready to be heard.