

Our Action Towards “Climate Action”

PUTCHA Jyothi Priya

Our intemperance with regard to our planet is like cutting off the very branch that we are currently sitting on.

The advancement of human society, as a whole, has taken place on the compromises made with the natural environment. Our actions with respect to the over-exploitation of the natural environment have resulted in a plethora of man-made problems, climate change being the biggest and the most threatening one of all. Through long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns, climate change has irreversible consequences on the entirety of our planet, including us. And therefore, it is imperative that now, more than ever, we collectively act toward mitigating climate change.

The message and the masses

From flat earthers to climate change deniers, we have our fair share of challenges when it comes to human thinking and behaviour. In order to get people to take action when it comes to climate change and our planet, education and awareness are essential tools. That being said, it is also true that access to quality education and related resources seems like a privilege, and not everyone has that advantage. Education is one of the key areas that need attention and intervention. Improving and reforming educational policies, infrastructure, and accessibility by the government/ private sector is the way.

Inculcating the values of sustainability and environmentalism at the grassroots level is an essential step in inducing positive behaviour in communities over time. In the case of short-term oriented goals, promoting capacity-building programs, running awareness campaigns, educational programs, and interactive sessions on the topics of sustainability among the general masses can increase the scope of making better national policies that are in the interest of the general public as well. Thus, producing an outcome where the public shows active participation in the fulfilment of the SDGs, an ideal win-win situation.

Noblesse oblige

“With great power comes great responsibility” are wise words from uncle Ben, not just for our friendly neighbourhood Spider-man. Taken in the context of governments, corporations, and people, which hold both power and influence, it holds true in the sense that people with power have the means and, therefore, should take responsibility

to use it for the greater good. The government, and the public/ private sector, play the role of the biggest group of stakeholders in climate action fulfilment. And therefore, they should set an example in contributing to the SDGs. For instance, in the actions regarding decarbonization, the big companies and government agencies should start by reducing their GHG emissions, transitioning to renewable energy, promoting eco-technology, and so on. By taking responsibility for being the major contributors to GHG emissions, like by implementing steps to reduce their carbon footprint, they consequently encourage the general public to be more participatory in reducing individual carbon footprint.

Additionally, the governing bodies have the power to make just laws that not only push climate action but also take into consideration all classes of the affected masses.

In short, the government and private sector play an important role in many diverse areas like policy making, implementation and review, research and development, transfer of technology, dissemination of information, funding, and more.

Collaborative actions

Coming to the Leadership program, we had the privilege to learn and interact with many amazing experts from various fields. Getting into the programme, I had a general idea about the SDGs and the importance of decarbonization, but the area of policymaking was an entirely new concept to me. The sessions and the interactions with the experts and the other participants helped expand my knowledge and improve my team-working and leadership skills.

One of the core values that the Leadership program stressed is the importance of collaboration and collective action among all the stakeholders. When it comes to climate action, all of us undoubtedly play the part of the stakeholder. The diversity in our experiences, backgrounds, knowledge, and skills is what makes a collaborative strategy so effective in remediating any issue. For instance, our group consists of members coming from different backgrounds and belonging to various nationalities. It was a wonderful experience to have discussions from different perspectives and work together collectively for our presentation. For our group presentation, all of us got to discuss ideas and improve on many aspects, like researching the core areas of a problem, identifying the stakeholders, and understanding their roles in drafting and implementing policies that can have the desired effect of decarbonization via short- and long-term goals. The entire process was very dynamic and immersive and further proved the importance of collaborative action.