



KED

Newsletter Issue 6_23



November 24, 2023



KED Culture

We do a lot of exchanges in the KED Network and colleagues connect daily across all countries. But when it comes to student exchanges, they usually involve two countries at a time. Earlier this month, we decided to take on the logistical challenges of bringing together KED students from three different countries in the same exchange program. 18 students and 7 teachers from Sweden and the Netherlands traveled to India to join KED Model United Nations (KEDMUN) at Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon (KKG). This three-day conference aimed to teach participating students various skills, including research, public speaking, debating, writing, critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership. In this issue,

the students and their teachers will tell you everything about it.

In between practicing the ideals of the United Nations, both students and teachers interacted and made new friends. Different nationalities coming together for a busy roleplay project about building a better future resulted in a special atmosphere at KKG. Heidi Hoop, Team Leader from the Netherlands, put a word on it: KED Culture. And yes, our shared culture is so much more than our tools for personalized learning captured in the KED Framework. At the heart of KED culture lies the belief that we can reach further as a team. Collaboration ignites our fire and

makes us do more than we thought possible. Our presence in a wide range of societies makes this collaboration even more powerful. And to reach sustainability, which was this year's major theme at KEDMUN, collaboration is the only way.

Our team in India is already preparing for another round of KEDMUN next year. And you are invited. Sweden and the Netherlands would love to do it again. Nün Academy Kunskapsskolan Jeddah and our partners in the UK and US - please come along to capture the KED culture!

Cecilia Aronsson

Network Director

cecilia.aronsson@kunskapsskolan.com



A Melting Pot of Diversity – KEDMUN 2023 (a foreword)

300 national and international participants, 20 schools, 5 nationalities and 1 platform - KED Model United Nations.

At Kunskapsskolan, “We prepare students to live and work in the modern, global society with its ever-changing challenges and difficult choices. ‘Education for Life’ gives students the ability to see contexts and patterns, understand and interpret events, make decisions and make choices. It is a driving force for a continual deepening and broadening of their knowledge, skills and understanding.” (Kunskapsskolan Organizational Model)

Steeped in this value, the KEDMUN offers a platform to its national and international delegates for sharing different cultural contexts, opinions, and global

perspectives on issues that impact and connect us at myriad levels.

Spread over three days, this opportunity brought together educators and students from our network schools in India, Sweden, and the Netherlands as well as other schools in the national capital region to present, question, share opinions, lobby and negotiate a standpoint.

Through this melting pot of diversity, views, opinions, and exchanges emerged a unified voice for shared humanity and responsibility for the planet. This was an opportunity to look outside of themselves with empathy, appreciation, sensitivity and understanding among fellow beings. As agents of change, we hope our young will continue to impact decisions and

drive resolutions at the highest level.

KEDMUN is one of the many global exchanges, and I have no other than Network Director Cecilia Aronsson to thank for deepening ties between schools to educate our young through meaningful exchange programs.

I would also like to acknowledge the host school’s extensive work behind the scenes to organize a seamless event making it a memorable experience for visitors and delegates.

Until the next global KED Network exchange... 

Sabreena Talwar
Education Director,
Kunskapsskolan India

Our Experience in India



Two months ago, our teachers announced the opportunity to go to India for a week and participate in this year's KEDMUN. We knew that it was going to be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and something we will remember for the rest of our lives.

Our teacher had warned us about the poor air quality around New Delhi, but stepping off the plane we were shocked. When the sun was shining at its brightest you could still look directly at it; like a planet rather than a star.

Nine cars next to each other on a road with five lanes - the traffic was crazy on our way to Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon (KKG) early in the morning. Cars went in all directions and suddenly there was a cow in the middle of the street.

KKG with its 1700 students is huge compared to Kunskapsskolan Örebro. Fin-

ishing breakfast at school, we waited for our KED buddies and their families to pick us up. One by one, we left together with our new friends. Then we rested, tried Indian food, got to know our host families and prepared ourselves for sightseeing the next day.

“something we will remember for the rest of our lives”

Together with our buddies from India and the Netherlands, we jumped on a yellow school bus heading to the India gate monument and the market Dilli Haat. Everywhere, there were colors and scents of various spices. We had good food and searched for some traditional Indian clothing to wear on the second day of MUN. We had to bargain, which is something you never do in Sweden so it was a cool experience and also quite fun. We bought accessories, blankets, scarves and souvenirs.

The following day, we joined our buddies for a normal school day at KKG. We met their classmates and teachers and attended classes. It was really loud, but everyone was nice and welcoming.

Going to India, meeting new people and being part of KEDMUN 2023 has been a wonderful experience that we will never forget. It was a little scary to stay with people you had not met before, but if you can handle that we recommend you to do the same. We are thankful for everything that we experienced and all the new friends. ■

Ella Hultgren, My Hagström, Gustav Wiking
Students in Grade 9,
Kunskapsskolan Örebro, Sweden

Classmates Across the World



Julia Levy together with her colleagues Jelle Kokx and Alina Smulders-Mogutchikh from 2College Cobbenhagenlyceum, who accompanied their students to India.



As a relatively new teacher to the KED system (this is my second year working at the KED ambition school Cobbenhagenlyceum in Tilburg, the Netherlands), I was very excited to be chosen to accompany three Dutch students to the KEDMUN 2023 conference in Gurgaon.

My personal goal for this trip was to get a better insight into the day-to-day functioning of an experienced KED school and what better place to do that than in a school specially built for the purpose. In particular, I wanted to understand how I can better support

The level of vocabulary used by the Indian students absolutely blew me away – as a native English speaker it was a joy to hear my mother tongue being used so eloquently to discuss poetry.

students in my roles as an English teacher and Global Perspectives teacher and also in my role as a personal coach.

I spent half a day shadowing Aaditya, an upper-school English teacher, and was able to observe his year 12 English lesson at KKG. It was really lovely to see that deep down, kids are just kids, and teachers face the same daily challenges; the student who has forgotten their book, the student who has not done their pre-reading, the student who was not really listening to the question - a familiar situation in classrooms all around

the world. However, I also observed students actively and enthusiastically engaged in the analysis of a number of texts by the author, poet and dancer, Tishani Doshi and had the pleasure of listening to them share their insightful thoughts on her works. The level of vocabulary used by the Indian students absolutely blew me away – as a native English speaker it was a joy to hear my mother tongue being used so eloquently to discuss poetry.

As I walked around KKG, everything felt comfortably familiar, from the mission statements and slogans on the walls, to

the workshop areas and coaching areas. An air of calm could be felt in the corridors and classrooms in the school, and even in between lessons the students moved between rooms in a calm and orderly manner.

This is quite a contrast to my school in Tilburg, which is an energetic, bustling melting pot of students who definitely achieve more decibels in their break time and lunchtime, but are also the reason that I go to work with a smile on my face every day and happily tell people that I have the best job in the world.

On the first day of the MUN, during our lunch break, Cecilia (from Sweden) used the phrase “they are your classmates from across the world” and this quite beautifully sums up the relationship between our students and their Indian buddies; so many obvious differences, so many stark contrasts and yet, so many things in common with their “classmates from across the world”. ■

Julia Levy

Teacher,
2College Cobbenhagenlyceum,
the Netherlands

KEDMUN




“The opportunity to socialize and exchange all kinds of ideas with teachers from various KED locations in the Netherlands, Sweden and India has truly enriched me.

KEDMUN was well organized, with attention to even the smallest details. It turned out to be such an opportunity for our students to gain confidence. They started the MUN adventure with a certain degree of uncertainty, but over the course of these days, they have shown remarkable growth and that is what teaching is all about.”

Marijke Verkaik

Teacher, VeenLanden College,
the Netherlands

The Fifth Edition of **KEDMUN**



We are back and it is the fifth edition of the KEDMUN! Delegates from Sweden, the Netherlands, and around Delhi have joined us for a three-day conference filled with judicious deliberation.

This year's major theme is sustainability.

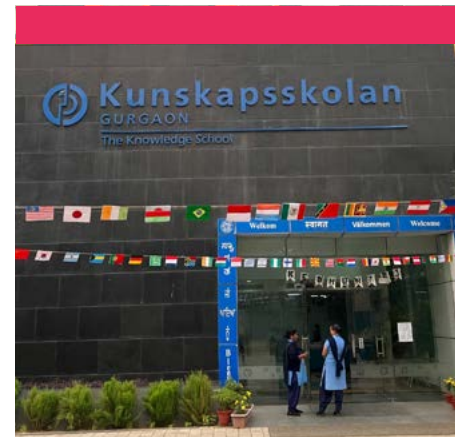
To promote this on all levels, the lanyards have been reused, the decorations have been made by newspaper, the ID cards do not have a plastic covering, and the pens have seeds which the participants can plant at the end of the conference.

“Sustainable development is not just an idea; it is a call to action. We must each take responsibility for our choices and actions, recognizing that even small changes can have a significant impact. As a school community, we are committed to embed sustainability into our curriculum, operations and culture. By working together, we can foster a sense of environmental stewardship, empower sustainable practices, and inspire future generations to make a difference,” says Inderbir Thussu, Head of School at Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon.



The 300 students who participated in KEDMUN were spread across the five committees, each focusing on specific topics. There was also a press team of student journalists, reporting about the work of each committee.

In the United Nations General Assembly, student delegates gathered to figure out how to get the money needed to make the world a better and more sustainable place, both from within



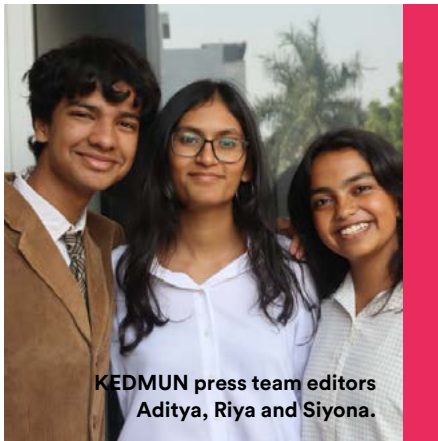
This year's KEDMUN conference was divided into five agendas, mirroring different sections of the United Nations organization:

- **UNGA** - United Nations General Assembly
- **UNHRC** - United Nations Human Rights Council
- **WHO** - World Health Organization
- **UNESCO** - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- **UEFA** - Union of European Football Associations

The 300 students who participated in KEDMUN were spread across the five committees, each focusing on specific topics.

each country and by working together on a global scale.

“Climate change is a global phenomenon and requires a global approach to successfully imbibe sustainability in our lives. In this contemporary world, it is common knowledge that this is the time of action. We need change now. We need to know what our governments are doing to deal with this climate emergency. We need transparent budgets to finance sustainable development. This is what we want, you have to hear us,” one delegate declared in her speech.

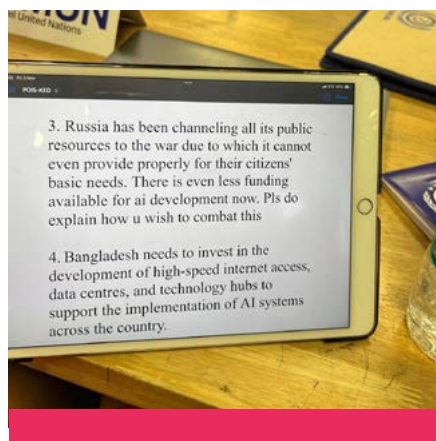


**KEDMUN press team editors
Aditya, Riya and Siyona.**

The Human Rights Council debated the best way of helping refugees who have had to leave their home countries and are now living in a new place to start their own small businesses in farming to earn a living and become more independent.

The World Health Organization focused on how innovation and new ideas, especially those involving digital technology such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), can improve access to healthcare and make treatments

more effective. Many countries spoke positively about AI in healthcare. France told the committee that AI will not only greatly help healthcare through innovation, but will also boost the economy.



UNESCO, also known for its research about the future of education, focused this time on safeguarding freedom of expression, keeping journalists safe and helping people become more critical consumers of information.

UEFA, finally, tackled two important things in the world of football (soccer): making sure that football is played fairly without any cheating or dishonesty, and ensuring that women have the same chances as men to be involved, whether as players, coaches, or in other roles. Students in this committee represented Europe's leading football teams, discussing how to respond to the need for change. The draft resolution was sponsored by Paris Saint Germain, FC



KKG students in grade 7 singing at the KEDMUN opening ceremony.

Barcelona and FC Bayern Munich with all other clubs as signatories. The ten clauses of the resolution covered measures to ensure gender parity in football, reduce corrupt practices and adopt sustainable measures.

The underlying mission of KEDMUN is to foster understanding and cooperation. Every participant contributed to this larger cause and the pursuit of a more peaceful and interconnected world. ■

Siyona Pandey

Student in Grade 8,
Head of Journalism KEDMUN press
team, Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon, India



KEDMUN



“We had a great week with an absolutely wonderful Dutch delegation from various schools in the country. The lovely teachers and students from all countries made the trip exquisite. We learned a lot about India, their schools, about KED, the UN and also about each other.”

Noah Olesen
Student, 2College
Cobbenhagenlyceum

“It was very easy to get along with my host family and I had a lot of fun with them. After MUN, they took me to different places to make my experience even better.”

Wiesje Staps
Student, 2College
Cobbenhagenlyceum

The Journey of a Lifetime

The joy was unexplainable as the teacher called out our names: We were going to India to represent our Swedish school at KEDMUN 2023. The weeks ahead were filled with constant workload, extensive research, training programs and multiple video calls, all for this event. And soon enough, the day arrived.

During an MUN conference, participants take on the role of a representative from a country and work together with other delegates to solve global problems. The three of us represented Luxembourg, Ethiopia and Montenegro in the United Nations General Assembly, where we focused on financing for sustainable development by mobilizing domestic and international resources.

The first day started with the opening ceremony. It was an incredible start to these three days and we felt very welcomed. We started with the general speakers list (GSL) and established the first subtopic for a debate. Namely, promoting sustainable water and food resource management. Overall, the first day was not so fruitful. The board of the committee gave us feedback though.

The next day it became obvious that everyone had pondered upon the useful feedback from the day before and really tried to make their

speeches better. As the days went by, we slowly got used to the atmosphere and more people dared to speak, which further deepened the debates.

On the last day, the board decided to introduce a crisis into the committee; Spain, Italy and China becoming fascist countries and the complete disbandment of the Arab League, which meant that no European countries would receive oil from the Middle East. While many people saw



Johanna and Vianna from Kunskapsskolan Enköping in Sweden.

this as a stressful add-on to the already demanding situation, we took it as an opportunity to expand our knowledge, improve our speeches as well as showing the committee the reason we were chosen to be here. With some successful edits, we presented well structured and solution based speeches.

After a lot of lobbying, we started working on the draft resolution. Johanna (delegate of Luxembourg) and Vianna (delegate of Montenegro) were torn between which draft resolution they would choose. Especially considering Montenegro being a poor European country depending on aid from the other countries. In the end, we decided to sign both resolutions. The committee submitted a completed draft resolution and the debate was concluded. Johanna and Vianna landed a shared fourth place with both receiving honorable mentions.



Emilia, Johanna and Vianna together with other KED students at the MUN.

The conference has given us more knowledge of global problems, immense problem solving skills, critical thinking and teamwork and leadership skills, all during a short period of time. The skills and knowledge we have gained will support our study technique, schoolwork and careers. It has awakened a burning desire to continue to participate in global

discussions and debates. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in KEDMUN 2023 and for the cherishable memories we have created together.

Johanna Wheeler, Vianna Erfanian-Daneshvar, Emilia Gavelin
Students in Grade 9,
Kunskapsskolan Enköping, Sweden

KEDMUN



“My host family was so kind and welcoming. I would have liked a day just with them. Still, I walked onto the airplane with a whole new experience and sight on the world.”

Julius Bakker
Student, VeenLanden College

Could it be More KED?

Students Jorien and Liz with their teacher Vera Boone and Heidi Hoop from 2College Ruivenmavo in Berkel-Enschot.

After receiving the invitation from Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon (KKG) to participate in KEDMUN 2023 in India, we knew that this was a unique opportunity. How does Model United Nations work exactly? What does it offer to students? Can we also organize a

‘We are all unique’ and ‘have high expectations’ is what came to mind.

KEDMUN? How is personalized learning implemented in India? How can we strengthen our bonds with our KED colleagues on the other side of the world?

Our students Liz and Jorien were accommodated in fantastic host families, and we had the privilege of staying in Academic Director Henrik’s apartment along with our other Dutch colleagues. The visit to Delhi was the first for many of us and was impressive, especially the traffic.

Spending a day observing KKG in full operation gave us the opportunity to engage with students and teachers regarding personal coaching, strategies, learning objectives, scheduling and organization. ‘We are all unique’ and ‘have high expectations’ is what came to mind.

MUN kicked off on Friday. For Liz and Jorien, these were exhilarating days,

and they even had doubts about their level of participation. However, they did not give up. ‘Life is what you make it,’ right! What they learned this week, ‘they learned for life.’

Many thanks to our Indian colleagues who worked very hard to make KEDMUN 2023 a big success for all of us.

Heidi Hoop

Team Leader, 2College Ruivenmavo, the Netherlands





The ChatGPT KEDMUN Poem

Artificial Intelligence (AI) was discussed by several of the KEDMUN committees. The student delegates explored how AI could help improve healthcare and spur sustainable development. Inspired by the young generation, often described as digital natives, their teacher Julia Levy asked the bots at ChatGPT to write a poem, giving them the first ten words that came to mind after experiencing Delhi traffic in the rush hour. Please enjoy this AI original to wrap up our KEDMUN report:

**In Delhi's bustling streets so wide,
Where traffic chaos doth reside,
Tuk-tuks zip with a whir and a whiz,
Bicycles weave, oh, what a tizz!**

**Buses lumber, lorries crawl,
Horns blaring, a constant squall,
In this vehicular symphony, all's a race,
Cars darting, finding their own space.**

**Amidst the hustle, the city's heartbeat,
Delhi's traffic, a lively feat,
A cacophony of motion, each a face,
In this urban dance, we find our place.**

ChatGPT November 2023



"I joined my buddy Omera around the school. She had a German test, English, economics, math and PE. I was really impressed by the way they work. Their lessons are only 35 minutes long, so students can focus and do their things. I gave two speeches at KEDMUN, which was scary but I am happy I could do it."

Britt van Meerlant
Student, VeenLanden College

KEDMUN

"The great thing about living in a host family is that you get to see how people actually live in India."

Rose Rijntjes
Student, VeenLanden College



"We completed our journey without any major hiccups. We were on time on all occasions, and no one forgot their passport. Luckily, the Indian food was not too spicy for us. We had noodles, dumplings, curries, butter chicken and spring rolls. It was delicious, an easy 10/10 food experience."

Julian Thodé
Student, 2College
Cobbenhagenlyceum

Listen on Spotify

(and other podcast platforms)



A podcast series brought to you from Stockholm by Kunskapsskolan Education (KED). Reflecting and connecting educators of more than 100 schools that use the KED Program for personalized learning across Sweden, the UK, the Netherlands, India, USA, and the Middle East.

Working around the globe to personalize each student's education according to their individual needs and abilities. Empowering the students to master the challenges of today and shape the world of tomorrow.