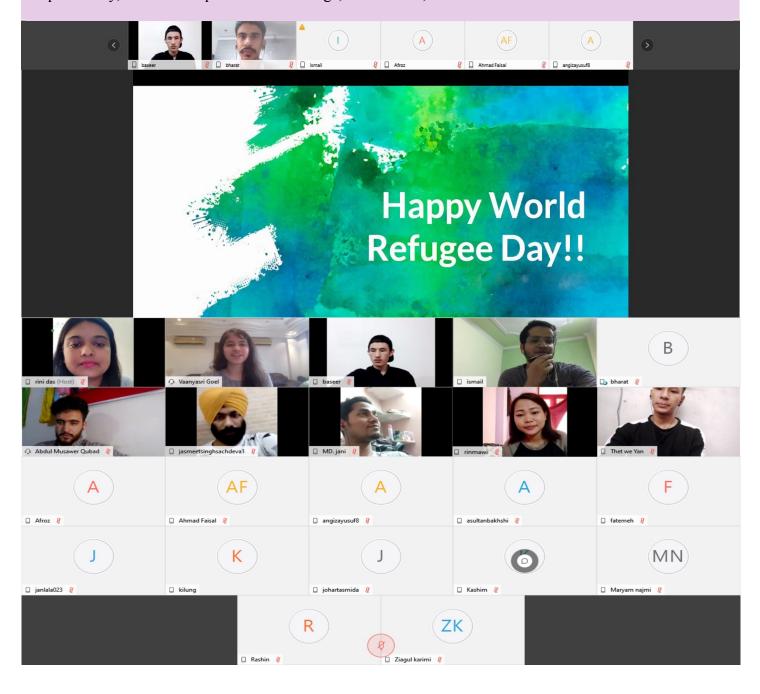


## WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2020 WITH DAFI SCHOLARS

**EVERYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. EVERY ACTION COUNTS** 

Every year on June 20 World Refugee Day is commemorated to honor the resilience, perseverance and courage of all refugees. This year we mark the day amid COVID-19 pandemic. Refugee day aims to remind the world that everyone, including refugees, can contribute to society and every action counts in the effort to create a more just, inclusive, and equal world. It is the responsibility of each one of us to make sure that no one is left behind irrespective of nationality, ethnicity, culture, religion, caste and gender.

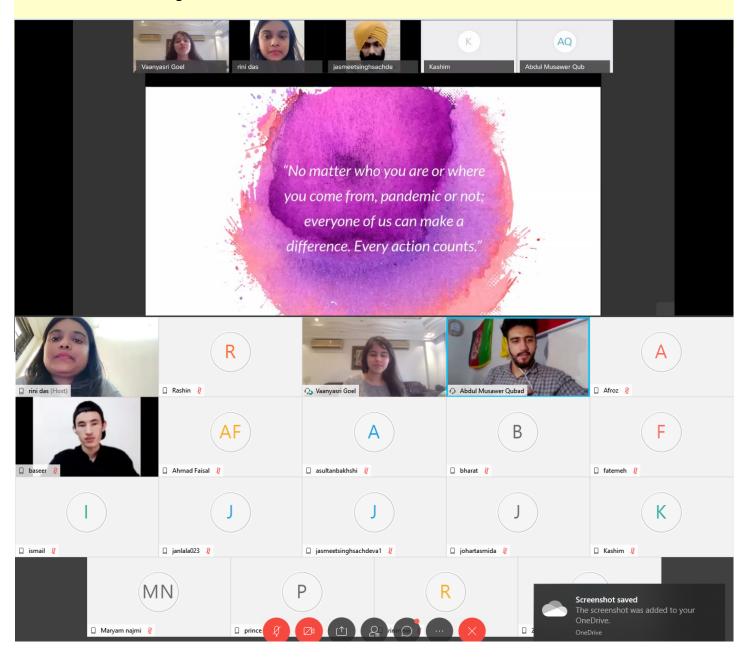
In observance of World Refugee Day during COVID-19 lockdown, a virtual session was organized using Webex application on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020 with DAFI scholars and Ms. Vaanyasri Goel as the resource person who is a social work enthusiast and a motivational speaker pursuing graduation in Business studies from USC Marshall School of Business, USA. The virtual session commenced with a round of introduction by all the scholars followed by sharing of an inspirational video -Make an Impact by Ben Lionel Scott which talks about taking responsibility for one's own happiness, success, and life-situation. The video explained the fact that when we blame others, we give away our power and become a victim. But when we take responsibility, we have the power to take charge, take control, and create a better life for ourselves.



During the session, the scholars were informed about the theme for this year's World Refugee Day which is - "No matter who you are or where you come from, pandemic or not; every one of us can make a difference. Every action counts." This theme revolves around social inclusion and motivates everyone to embrace cultural diversity. Ms. Vaanyasri through her presentation explained how important it is for everyone to respect and appreciate each other's cultures, values, norms, traditions, language, perspectives, race, skills, beliefs, age and gender.

She explained the concept of diversity and inclusion with support of examples for better understanding. Following major benefits of social inclusion and cultural diversity were explained to the scholars-

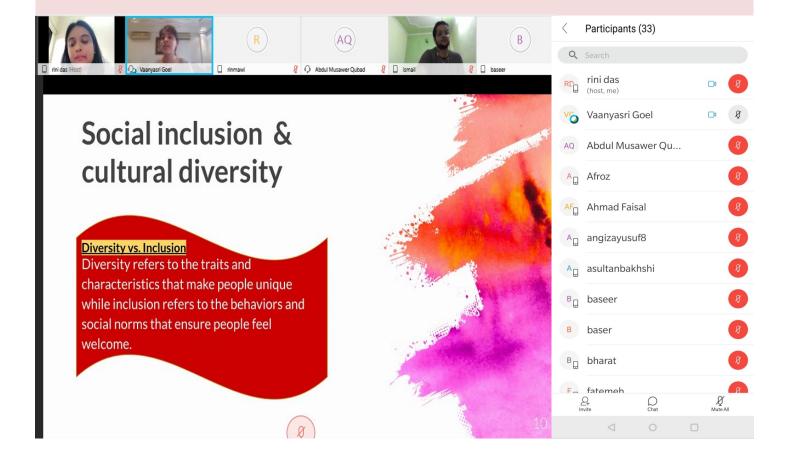
- Innovation
- Creativity
- Improved decision making
- Greater productivity
- Enhanced knowledge



Ms. Vaanyasri also shared details about the various initiatives designed and implemented at organizations/ educational institutions to practice social inclusion by promoting culturally diverse environment. Following are the most commonly practiced initiatives at work place, universities and schools which were explained in detail to the scholars -

- Building understanding
- Structuring the team
- Translation resources
- Language development and leadership opportunities
- Skill development and certifications
- Exposure to growth opportunities
- Communication and feedback
- Broader programming
- Buddy programmes
- Flexible schedules
- Maintaining healthy cohesive environment
- Organizing social/bonding events

In the end participants were asked to share their knowledge about social inclusion and cultural diversity since DAFI scholars belong to diverse nationalities settled in India: country of asylum and pursuing their education from Indian universities. It was a delight to hear scholars sharing their journey and experiences in India. They spoke highly of the Indian culture and shared that the people around them have always been welcoming and supportive towards them. They also thanked the resource person for taking up this topic in the session.



An activity was organized in view of World Refugee Day where **DAFI scholars and native Indian students** prepared a video and shared posters with motivational quotes inspired from the theme of World Refugee Day 2020.

The session concluded with World Refugee Day wishes and the following points to be remembered –

- Always be proud of who you are and where you come from
- Keep an open mind and stay positive
- Embrace diversity
- Explore knowledge
- Be empathetic towards each other
- Help everyone and spread love





## **PARTICIPANTS**

Total Participants- 33	Male DAFI Scholars – 16
Total Male- 16	Female DAFI Scholars-15
Total Female- 17	Guest Speaker (Female) -1
	BOSCO Staff (Female) -1
	Total Male- 16



"ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE UNIQUE JUST LIKE EVERYONE"
-By Margaret Mead