

(Draft Copy)

# PYP Exhibition Essay

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I can't believe it, the exhibition has finished! Poof! Gone, like a puff of smoke. I felt relieved that it's all over, but what a sensational seven weeks I had doing it! Curious? Well, I'll tell you every single detail about it.

This year's exhibition transdisciplinary theme was under Sharing the Planet, but we went deeper into it and used the subtheme: SHARING OUR HUMANITY. My friends and I were also given a Central Idea to help us work on our inquiry learning, which reads: "Accepting Social Responsibility Can Contribute Towards a Sustainable Future". When I first saw the Central Idea with my own bare eyes, the first thing that came in to my mind was like, Gosh! We are going to help people, and I hate it when we should go out there and help people. Especially with the word "sustainable" posted in the Central Idea. That means we must help them many times! I was beginning to feel sick. What if I messed up my Exhibition, just because of the Transdisciplinary Theme? My nightmare soon became a reality. During our first Exhibition gathering, our teachers explained that this year's Exhibition is going to be action-based. We were told to choose one of the 6 Global Issues happening in our world today, which are: Poverty, Education For All, Digital Divide, Peace Keeping and Conflict Resolution, Infectious Diseases and Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation. No! I thought. For goodness sake, how can I succeed in the Exhibition like this? But let me tell you, the Exhibition ended up as a huge success, which was a great relief to me after my initial sickening thoughts at the beginning.

Meanwhile, after miles and miles of thinking and consideration, I chose Digital Divide. Digital Divide is basically the gap between the people who can afford technology and the people who cannot. I chose this Area of Interest because of many reasons. One, because I have never ever heard of it before in my 11 years in this world (cross my heart), two, because I want to face a new challenge for this exhibition, and last but not least, because it's related with technology (I had been a big fan of technology since I was in playgroup!)

I still remembered when I firstly met my group mates. It's the first day back to school after Christmas break. I was teamed up with Dendy and Clarissa. I thought my group was excellent! I was glad to be working with them. Having a good group gave me more spirit to achieve great results and success

during the Exhibition. For your information, Digital Divide contained 4 groups, Digital Divide 1, 2, 3 and 4. It has the most groups compared to other global issues. I am in Digital Divide 2. During the whole course of the Exhibition, our group was cruising through our tasks like a speedboat in the open ocean. We usually didn't have any trouble in doing our tasks, and we often finished ahead of the others. Also, we managed to present fantastic results. So, what was the secret recipe of our success? Well, we had a group leader, and it was me. I was so happy to be group leader, leading such a good team. I also did a good job as a leader in organizing and dividing our tasks equally to each member, and that made doing tasks faster. Our group always respects our time and used it effectively, because we always remembered that we cannot repeat the time that has already been given by the Creator, so we must utilize our time wisely. So, as you can see here, anyone could say that we teamed up superbly as a group.

Well, let's talk more about our Exhibition journey. Right after making groups, we started our Tuning In stage. Our goal here is basically to at least find the basic knowledge about digital divide. To get the information that we need, we did the Post Box strategy. We interviewed 25 Grade 6 friends of ours about "What is Digital Divide?" Once we interviewed our friends, we made a conclusion. From this conclusion, I now know that the meaning of digital divide is the gap between the ones who can afford technology and the ones who could not. Then, we zoomed to the Finding Info stage. Well, the name tells everything about it, really. We need to get as many information as we can get, and to do that, we used 3 strategies. We went to the rural areas of Laban Village in Lakarsantri, which is my driver's village. There, we interviewed 4 families (Mr. Gatot's, Mr. Edy's, Mr. Herry's, and Mr. Dody's) and asked them about their feelings and thoughts about before and after having different types of technology. We now realize how important technology is for our lives, and how we rely so much on technology in our daily lives. For example, some families there realized that before having hand phones, they must run far away to the local "Wartel" to call someone. They said it was very troublesome. But after having hand phones, they can just reach in to their pockets and call. We also searched and found out tons and loads and bags of information by doing web searches on the Internet. Last, we made article summaries that we got from the local newspaper regarding about digital divide. Then, we went to the Sorting Out stage, where we need to sort out and publish the information we got from the Finding Info stage. Here, we published a newsletter titled: The WDC Times (WDC stands for Wilbert, Dendy, and Clarissa). This newsletter talks about our field trip to Laban Village. We also made a poster that tells about the causes of digital divide. From this, we now know the major causes that cause digital divide around the world: Low-Income, Gender, Age and Access Disability. It's not done yet. We also made a PowerPoint presentation about The Global Impacts of Digital Divide. It has loads of impacts; from the impacts to digital divide in many different countries till the impacts

digital divide cause towards other issues. After all of this we did the Going Further stage, where we are fully preparing for our Taking Action stage. First, we prepared Lesson Plans, to guide us during our teaching. We also made proposals, signed by our TIC and the school principal in the holding of our action. Plus, we made handbooks to make our action more sustainable.

Our group was absolutely successful in every stage, but that doesn't mean that we are free from problems. We were so busy; we cannot finish our handbooks on schedule to give to our students. But at last, we managed to photocopy them and gave it to them on the last day of Taking Action. All of the Inquiry Stages we have been on and the steps we took were very useful for our learning and success.

During my 7-week inquiry learning, I have learnt and found out bags of important information, including this hair-raising stat: There are still over 30 countries that has an Internet access of less than 1%! This clearly shows that slowly but steadily, digital divide is threatening the existence of our future. And how about this stat: The whole African continent has only 2 % of the world's total computer penetration. More about Africa, did you know that the entire African continent-home to over 50 countries has fewer Internet users than France alone!

Other than learning about the factual information, in the Exhibition I have learnt to be a more grown up boy. I have improved so much on my feeling of empathy, especially when we took action with the Lakarsantriers. When I saw them so dead enthusiastic on using the computer every time, it touched my heart. I know these kids have hardly any chance of accessing the computer, and I felt very fortunate to have access to it anytime I want. This Exhibition has also made me better as a leader, and it was a challenge for me to always be together as a group, cooperating as well as we could. The Exhibition has allowed me to use all of the profiles, attitudes, and skills at the very best.

I think concentrating on Digital Divide as a global issue is a very worthwhile learning, especially in the Exhibition. Why? Because Digital Divide can bring a huge impacts towards our lives. The impacts may not be seen today, but it may come ANYTIME. So, that is why we need to take action from now on. Especially in this time where everything we use and see uses technology. If Digital Divide doesn't threaten our lives, then why should it be considered as a global issue??

You know, when I firstly heard about the word Digital Divide, I thought it was talking about the history of the evolution of the technology itself. But I was proved wrong. By looking at these valuable information, I now realize that digital divide is the real deal. It's a monster that can threaten every single one of us, unless we try to stop it from attacking us. It is not too late to make a difference.

But how? Well you can do what I did with my group. You can all work together to help teach these students about computer programs. In our case, it's Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Internet Browsing. We cooperated with SDN Lakarsantri 1 School to realize our actions. We made our teaching to 3 separate sessions, each session taking us about 2 lessons, or 2x45 minutes. In each session, we spend the last 30 minutes to let them do a final project. This is where our "students" must use the knowledge we have given to them to complete a task given by us. In Microsoft Excel session, for example, we told them to interview their friends about specific topics like Favorite Foods, Sports and Colors. Then, we ask them to make a bar graph or pie graph to present their findings. At the end of the third session, we gave them handbooks about what they have learnt to both the students and the teacher who has been always there with us. By giving the handbooks, they can always check their books if they forgot how to do specific things, and that will also help the teacher to educate their students more about the computer. With this, we realize that by doing this again and again, we can make a difference. We can help these people have a better future, and that will also cause a better future for all of us, too. See? Just by doing such a simple action, we can make a big difference.

I think my topic is closely related to our Transdisciplinary Theme Sharing the Planet, especially with the quote "Access to Equal Opportunities", because during the Exhibition, we took action. And by teaching kids how to use the computer, we are giving them a chance; we are giving them hope to survive in this technological-based era. It also connects to our Central Idea, Accepting Social Responsibility Can Contribute Towards a Sustainable Future, because we are accepting social responsibility by taking action, and by taking action, we can all make a sustainable and long lasting future.

The Exhibition has finished, but that doesn't mean our learning will stop here, we will continue to learn and take action, especially in Grade 7 where we will have a CAS (Community and Service) program. But, the Exhibition has been a superb yet a challenging journey for me and my group, especially during the Taking Action stage. It was our first experience as teachers, and we found it a hard time to get our "students" attention. It was like a great, long and tiring roller-coaster ride, but it has finally ended. Honestly, I felt sad that the Exhibition has finished; I had so much fun with my group, TICs, mentors, the Lakarsantri gang, everyone. We faced challenges, we solved problems, we met new friends and we worked as a team till the very end; It is an experience I will NEVER forget in my whole life.