

### My Participation as a Youth Leader

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DSDS 2015 has facilitated my learning by introducing to TERI's work on sustainability and climate change, current happenings in the field and its act of unveiling where real-life case studies, policy intervention measures, socio-economic innovation models, financial implications, world public opinion, and issues of global collaboration were brought to light by varied interest groups and institutions towards global issues faced by humanity.



(Poster-making Participation for DSDS 2015: The SDGs would be incomplete without “the YOUTH who have the POWER to challenge adversity, COURAGE to change old ideas and HOPE to create a new future.”)

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In the first instance, I would like to thank The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for having provided me with a meaningful and unique opportunity to take part in the 15<sup>th</sup> Delhi Sustainable Development Summit.

Youth leaders are looked upon as leaders of the future. My participation as a youth leader at the 15<sup>th</sup> DSDS coincided with the year 2015 which marks a significant milestone as the UN General Assembly is expected to arrive at a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the global community as a whole. This forum was as a unique learning opportunity for me on the SDGs, its vital proceedings and processes being followed by the UN General Assembly. As youth leaders, we were entitled to an exclusive opportunity to listen, witness and interact with some of the Nobel Laureates, Heads of State and Ministerial, UN Representatives, Policy-makers, Business Leaders, Journalists, Academicians, Ambassadors, Faith Leaders and World's well-known thought-leaders. The forum also has provided me with an interactive opportunity with other youth leaders and students across continents resulting in benefit from each others' experiences. This opportunity has equipped me with knowledge about sustainability, environment and climate change from its varied disciplines. Apart from being a great learning experience, I see it as great networking hub to get involved in constructive programs related to issues of sustainability and climate change. This enables one to use, promote reflection, dialogue and exploration to understand issues, differences and values of paradoxes and not rush to find a single problem solution to burning issues. As youths around the world are driving change we were exposed to its challenges encompassing interacting and working with cross-functional team to create wider inclusive boundaries among stakeholders. It was a meaningful platform for youths to engage in the ongoing effort to have a say in the formulation of SDGs. Understanding of the varied discussions on issues related to energy, environment, development, sustainability and its related models has shaped my interdisciplinary approach towards such issues. Bringing corporate sector and inter-faith dialogue for sustainability to the common forum was the defining moment of the summit to aid the process of SDGs.



(Youth Leaders with the Solar Lamps. Veteran cricketer, VVS Laxman was appointed as the Brand Ambassador for TERI's Lighting a Billion Lives (LaBL) Initiative, which has been making a concerted effort towards providing clean and affordable energy to rural space at DSDS 2015)

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