**DUBAI IMMERSION PROGRAM**

**Report**

I'm Yash Agarwal, a Computer Science and Engineering student at SRM University AP with a focus on Cyber Security. I've watched as technology has advanced over the years, moving from keypad phones to smartphones, from gasoline and diesel cars to electric cars, and from doing everything manually to fully automated machines and robots. As I watched technology advance, I came to the conclusion that I too wanted to make a contribution to technology in this society.

Every year during my time in school, we had a science fair where students created original concepts and prototypes to present to the crowd. I participated in it with a group of three other people, and we created a project on a smart city, winning first place. After that, I made the decision to press through with my goal of making a technological contribution to the world.

When I came to know about the Immersion Program in Dubai and when I went through the itinerary, I was mesmerized. I went home and discussed it with my parents and convinced them that this would be the best opportunity for me to explore new technologies. The formalities took place and the wait for the program was around a month, which was difficult to hold on to.

Finally, it was 11 pm on 16th Jan 2023, when we all met at Chennai International Airport, completed the formalities at the airport, and started our journey to Dubai. The moment I came out of Sharjah Airport, it was a jaw-dropping experience for me as everything was systematic.

Counting from the day we reached, we went to the stay, got refreshed, had our meal, and had our orientation by Ureka Education Group. Thereafter we had our Dubai city tour where we got to visit the most famous tourist places like the Gold Souk, the Dubai Mall, Burj Khalifa, Dubai Frame, the Museum of the Future, and Palm Jumeirah.

Our main purpose of the tour, that is the industrial visits started from Day 2 which started with Gracia Group. Here we have learned how plants can be grown in soil and by minimizing the usage of water. This technique is called Hydroponics. We have also known how Aquaponics also plays an important role in aquatic animals like fish and prawns etc. . Thereafter we went to Masdar City where we saw how sustainability comes into action. This city is nothing but the future city with all the growing technology combined. We saw how Solar Power is used to generate electricity for the houses, techniques are used to make an area cooler by maintaining the temperature at 23 degrees celsius naturally. We have also seen driverless cars.

The next day we went to Sharjah Technology Research and Innovation Park (STRIP) where we saw the world's first Solar Car, 3-D printed houses and models which would reduce pollution and are built in an eco-friendly manner. In STRIP there is a place called Soilab where a person can carry out their research and also startups were boosted. From there we went to Dubai International Financial Centre Innovation Hub & FinTec Hive and saw how startups are boosted by providing funds and are under proper guidance in terms of finances. After the industrial visits of day 3, we went to Global Village which is a multicultural festival park, where we get to see cultural dance from diverse cultures, authentic shopping, and fun rides.

On day 4, of the Immersion program, we went to the Intel Innovation center to see the technological advancements. At the center, we saw a machine where you place a device and you can operate it on the big screen, get the details of it and all. And also saw a projector that works on hand gestures like if I want to select one particular option, I just need to place my hand there over the projector and the required action takes place. From there we went to the Emirates Mall to attend a workshop by Apple. The workshop was exploring a feature in the Apple device camera called Panorama mode, by which we clicked some awesome pictures. After the workshop, we had the time to take a tour of the Emirates mall which is the second largest in Dubai. From there we headed towards Dhow Cruise having a beautiful time spent over the water with dinner, getting to see the amazing view of the Burj Khalifa again.

Starting with day 5, we had an Instagram Influencer, who gave us amazing tips on how to grow on Instagram with her own experiences being shared followed by a session on Transforming organizations in a digital-first world by Khalid Alfanney who is an alumnus of Imperial college London. He briefed us on how technology can change one’s life in everyday living by making things easier. Then we had our lunch and departed for the most awaited Desert Safari with dinner. We saw some cultural dances performed by amazingly talented dancers.

On day 6, we had our final presentations of the Dubai Business Challenge, wherein we had to make a vlog on the places we visited. It was the time we could see the group work being displayed. The skills of photography, videography, vlogging, and editing were displayed via this challenge. The best group was awarded a gold medal.

Day 7, was hard as we had to say goodbye to the amazing memories we built during this visit. This visit taught me how to make new connections, work in a group, and procured photography skills.

I am very much thankful to the IR council of SRMAP for giving me this amazing opportunity to visit a country of dreams to explore new things. A special thanks to UREKA GROUP for making the visit so comfortable.