



Girl Powered - Ignite the fire in us

By Saina , Dhriti , Jivisha , Tanmana ,
Aalia , Arisha

HBS Ignite Team 37101x

Location: Hampstead Garden Suburb
, United Kingdom



BY HBS IGNITE 37101X



CONTENTS



The first thing that comes to mind when we hear the phrase 'Girl Power'



How does our team break stereotypical barriers?



Does our team try various roles and how have we learnt from this?



How diversity has altered our team chemistry and our ability to succeed?



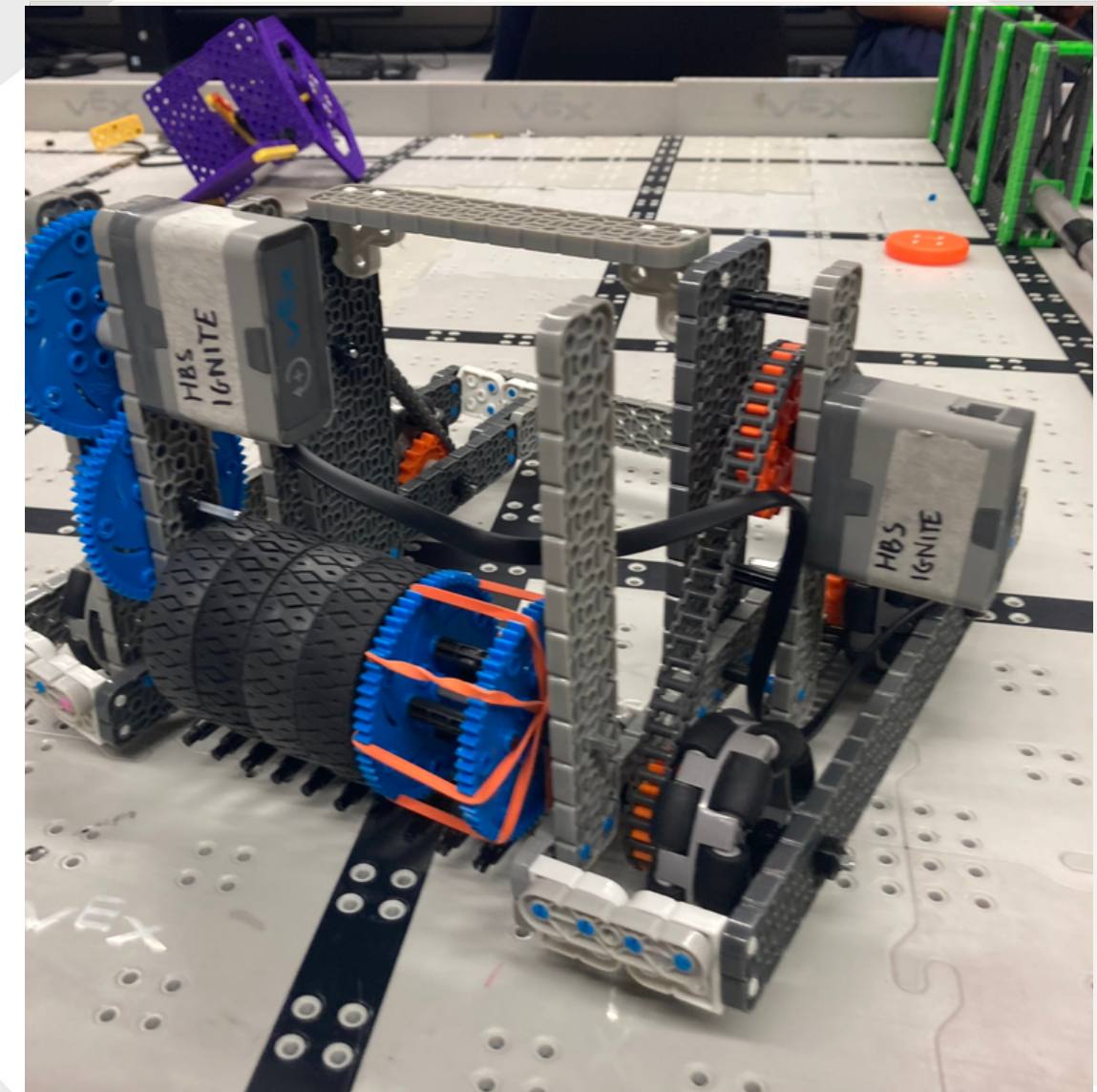
How we valued each other's perspectives to create conducive environments?

The first thing that comes to mind when we hear Girl Powered?

1

When we hear the phrase 'Girl Powered' we feel like we have a sense of belonging. Being one of the few all girls teams in VEX, we always felt like the underdogs. We felt as if they had a head start on us. The disparity in the gender based ratio in vex can make it difficult for us girls to keep up hope of doing the best and standing out.

FIRST TEST RUN WITH
BASE



How our team takes initiative to break stereotypical barriers?

OUR EFFORTS TO FIGHT AGAINST STEREOTYPES

Our team has people from different cultures and backgrounds in order to create an interesting and varied atmosphere which helps us develop as individuals and as a unified group. Growing up, most of us weren't expected to contribute to a project as dignified as STEM, and a big part of that ideology was based after going to places as simple as after school clubs. It's hard not to observe the fact that we were the only girls: we would face comments such as you can't do this, you're a girl and we would generally get the notion that STEM is a male-dominated field. This causes an ample amount of girls to not look deep into their abilities and hopes and dreams. It can cause actions and reactions that are sometimes exclusive and unjust, whether it's due to unconscious biases, a lack of knowledge, the media's impact, or lessons learned through our cultural and social beliefs and we do not want them to influence our decisions.

WORKING TOWARDS AN EQUAL COMMUNITY

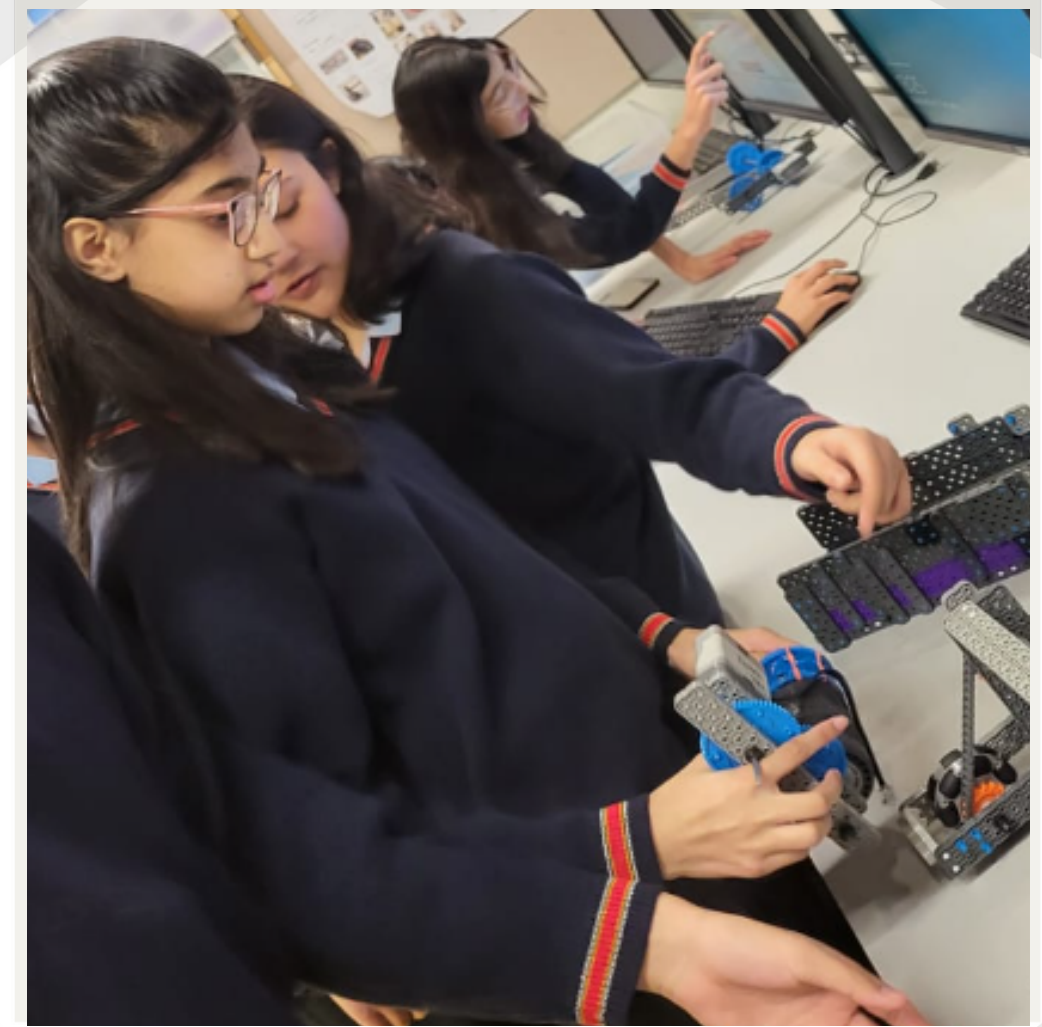
We noticed that not all girl schools seemed to do VEX but most boys schools did. Our team fights against this idea and helps everyone around us know that girls are more than just their gender, they are people just like everyone else and can do anything and achieve amazing things if given the chance. Therefore we take initiative to be more inclusive as a whole team, be our own authentic and special versions of ourselves and make sure other teams around us feel that they can express themselves. Most importantly we always try our best to battle and challenge stereotypes. Stereotypes don't allow people to have their free opinion as it is almost always prejudiced.

2

Does our team try various roles and how have we learnt from this?

For us, our roles were never set in stone and were only there as a formality. We all signed up for this to learn and the only way we can learn is if we expose ourselves to everything. We embrace the fact that this is a huge learning opportunity and that we need to wield it. This is the message we are trying to pass onto all other teams in vex. Whether they are boys or girls, whether they are young or old, whether they are friends or acquaintances, they all have the basic rights to learn and grow from each other. They all need to understand the true meaning of VEX by exploring all their options and most importantly never being afraid to try new things such as the various roles and skills VEX has to offer.

EVERYONE TAKING PART
IN BUILDING:



How do you believe diversity of perspective changes your robot design, your team chemistry, and even your ability to succeed?

We confidently work together and have a democratic approach on every decision we make for our robot. We were off to a rough start but as soon as we learnt to use our varied strengths for our benefits, it was like fitting puzzle pieces together and we managed to tackle all the challenges aimed towards us. Our mothers, grandmothers and many other female figures who have been impacting our lives from a very young age were not given this opportunity. The opportunity to pursue their dreams and make a difference to this world so we are here today to fight for those who were told they can't and to fight for those who were denied merely due to their gender. That is what makes us girl powered. Truly and totally girl powered. This community that we are helping create is what makes us girl powered and we hope to share it with the generations to come.



How we valued each other's perspectives to create conducive environments?

Our team's diversity of perspective has made a positive impact on our robot design in so many ways: enhancing its efficiency and our different approaches not only improve our design but improve each other which is what inevitably makes our team stronger. We accept and embrace our differences in choice and perspective and use them to effectively work together to push our ability to succeed. Our diversity makes us a lot stronger in numerous ways and we love that about our team. We have had a huge learning curve ever since we joined VEX.





Being girl
powered not only
makes us
an extraordinary
team but allows
us to ignite the
fire
in each other. That
is our definition of
girl power.



Thank you!

