



## STEM for all women: PrepaTec student develops social project at Yale

During the summer of 2024, **Jorlen Moreno Soria** was selected for the [Yale Young Global Scholars](#) educational program at [Yale University](#) so that she could acquire **interdisciplinary skills** alongside other high school students.

What started out as a two-week **international experience** for the PrepaTec Mexico City campus student ended up **awakening a desire** to want to **change the society** currently surrounding her.

Together with other students from different parts of the world, Jorlen started a social project to promote **STEM education** for young people (mainly **girls and women**) in vulnerable situations.

The student shares how she aims to bring the project launched at Yale to different parts of **Mexico and Latin America**.



## From exact sciences to social sciences at Yale

Despite being an avid fan of **robotics** and **engineering**, Jorlen thought it was a good time to step out of her comfort zone and decided that her academic track for the Yale program would be focused on **Humanities and Social Sciences**.

*“In my case, the track I decided on was ‘**Solving Global Challenges**,’ in which you’re able to choose some of your classes. I chose two on **climate change** and another on **queer representation**,”* she explains.

It was during one of these classes that Jorlen and her team were asked to create an **NGO** focused on any one of the **UN’s [Sustainable Development Goals](#)**.

One of the **first challenges** she faced was that her three classmates came from different **cultural backgrounds**.

*“Since we came from different backgrounds, each of us presented a different situation. The team included someone from **India**, someone from the **United States**, one from*

*Nicaragua, and me from Mexico.”*

*“As I’m in robotics and I know how difficult it is to get into this, we decided to focus on this issue.”*

## **A project dedicated to girls and access to STEM education**

Something that Jorlen was clear about from the beginning was that she wanted to focus on something that she herself had had difficulty accessing: **STEM subjects**.

*“I decided that I was going to do it on **Education and Inequality**.*

*“We held a brainstorming session at the beginning, and I said, ‘Look, I’m studying **STEM subjects**, I’m in **robotics**, and I know how difficult it is to get into this.’ So that’s how we decided to focus on this issue,” adds the student.*

When developing the project, Jorlen **was worried** that their project wouldn’t work out, since they had to plan it well to present it to their teachers and it **could have been rejected**.

*“It was a fictional Shark Tank-type situation. They had a **certain budget** that they had to allocate to all the teams, but the money that was going to be assigned to us **depended on our proposal**,” she says.*

When the **eve of the presentation** arrived, her team was barely **50 percent finished**. Despite being tired and worried, they decided to stay up all night to get their proposal ready.

The next day, the team had **15 minutes** to present their project to the judges.



“When they were saying which team had won the largest amount of the budget, they announced my team and the **Access to STEM Education** project as the best, due to the fact that it was focused on **vulnerable communities** and **gender inequality**,” says the PrepaTec student.

## **Access to STEM education for vulnerable communities**

Although Jorlen has been involved in **STEM education**, she realized that **not all young people** have had that opportunity.

*“There are communities where the **socioeconomic situation** isn’t the best or some schools simply **don’t have support for STEM education**,” she says.*

One of the initiatives proposed by Jorlen’s team was to develop **science fairs** for students.

*“It isn’t easy for science to become part of people’s surroundings. Something we proposed in the project was that we first wanted to reach schools in **vulnerable communities** and hold **science fairs**.”*

*“And there would be different activities at these fairs and a **special fair for girls**. That’s when we’re going to have different women in science,” she adds.*

## **STEM education in Mexico and Latin America**

The Mexico City student shares that her project, initiated as a requirement for the **Yale program**, aims to **impact Mexican society** and in the long-term future in **Latin America**.

*“**My main goal is to reach at least 5 schools here in the city.**”*

*“My main goal is to reach at least **5 schools** here in the city. I have friends with the same dreams and the same visions in **Sonora, Monterrey, and Puebla**.”*

*“So, the plan is that we begin to implement it together **throughout Mexico**, and from there we’ll move on to other countries in **Latin America**.”*

Finally, Jorlen shares that even though there may be **obstacles along the way**, the important thing is to **believe in yourself**, even if the goal seems impossible.

*“Don’t limit yourself to what people think you can do. It’s hard not to be influenced by what other people tell you, such as simply saying that **you can’t do something because you’re a girl**.”*

*“The advice that I think is the most useful and the most difficult is **if you believe in what you can do as a person** and the impact you can have, you will achieve a lot of things,” she says.*

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