Trisha Prabhu

CHARACTER TRAITS  EMPATHY • RESPONSIBILITY

THE FACTS

1. BORN: 2000
2. LIKES: Singing
3. ROLE MODEL: Bill Nye the Science Guy
4. SUPPORTS: STEM education – especially for girls!

“I wanted to be more than just another person who felt bad.”

Photo credit: https://amysmartgirls.com/how-trisha-prabhu-is-curbing-cyberbullying-6535a9794f64 (Department of Defense, Marvin Lynchard)
SOCIAL ISSUE:  
Cyberbullying

Trisha felt angry and sad as she watched the news. She saw a story about a 12-year-old girl from Florida who was being bullied over and over again with hurtful messages. Other kids were sending these mean messages without thinking about how it would make this girl feel. Trisha’s empathy made her want to find a way to stop bullying.

She researched that many young people have access to technology and not everyone uses it responsibly. Her goal was to stop cyberbullying by making the bully rethink their words and actions. But this is hard. How could she convince people to stop texting rumors or stop posting mean comments on Instagram?

Trisha created ReThink, an app to make bullies think twice before sending a hurtful message on their phones or on the internet. Trisha says, “ReThink is able to detect when someone tries to post something offensive on social media, and then alert that person and go “Whoa. Hold on. Are you really sure you want to post that message? It could be offensive.”

She tested her app on many young people. She found that when the app told kids that what they wrote might be hurtful, they changed their minds 93% of the time and decided not to send the message! Trisha is helping people use their Freedom of Speech responsibly!

Trisha has no plans to make money off of her app. “No one should have to pay to be safe on the internet,” she said. However, Trisha believes that her work is not done. She continues to speak at many schools to raise awareness about cyberbullying.