

Global Enterprise Experience Journal  
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Team 63 – Kidz Tech

Being an Indian and an International student in Canada, I have a natural inclination towards exciting experiences that lead to global perspectives on the simple aspects of life. I tend to make friends who share my inclination and thus, Sampada Suryavanshi a.k.a Sam, who is also my team member in GEE become my friend at Centennial College, Canada. It is she who introduced me to this exciting venture "Global Enterprise Education". To be honest, it was not the first time for me to work in an international team. Though I have dealt and worked with people all over the world in my work experience for over 4 years as an IT business Analyst, GEE has shown a novel way of working with my counterparts around the world.

When Deb sent the bios of my team mates, their bios exhibited that they are energetic people with intriguing personalities. After I introduced myself to the entire team, we landed with the idea of communicating with each other through Whatsapp and carrying out our joint efforts in the project through Dropbox.

The first challenge was to come up with a lucrative idea that addresses a social issue of the youth on a global level. With our thinking caps on, our race to drill down to one idea began. In this first round, I was overwhelmed to see how team members contributed very simple ideas such as 3D printed tooth brushes to reduce the dental problems of under-privileged children in poor nations that could revolutionize the social issues all over the world. At the same, the uniqueness of each idea was rigorously tested and filtered by the counter arguments posed by my team members to get to that one best unanimously accepted idea of Kidz Tech, a super exciting gaming app to make children increase their physical activities and social skills through technology.

Once the unnamed idea of the fitness-inspiring gaming app was selected, our next step to develop the idea into a comprehensive business plan of a profitable business started. There was no requirement to divide the work as everyone volunteered to take their parts in the project based on their backgrounds. I did lose two of my team members which was a shame for not having worked with them. On the contrary, nothing stopped us from continuing the show because the energy and passion towards our conceived idea of Kidz Tech overshadowed any loss and kept us moving forward. I commend the continued efforts of Penny Gambistis, my team leader who gelled our team together till the end. I volunteered to take Technology and Market analysis as I have the work experience in technology and market research. Timothy a.k.a Tim, my team's Chief Financial Officer took over the finances. Penny and Harriet from South Africa worked on the working of our app, branding, partnership alliances and Value propositions of our idea. Sam and Nigel also contributed in their own ways to make this business plan a well-developed one. Every part of the contributions was reviewed by every member and the best thing is that everyone was open to get their work scrutinized and better the idea for the greater good. Thus, I realized that I was not an International Student and not a participant in a competition, but a Chief Technology Head and a Marketing Head of a firm that transforms a simple idea into a profitable business that addresses a global social issue.

After collating the entire information from every team member, we felt the need to validate our information from Industry experts as the idea of KidzTech involved online gaming industry which was vast and ever-evolving in its own traits. Thus, I contacted my tech savvy friends from U.S.A and India who acted as subject-matter experts and business consultants for my team's business plan. I got the validation of the working, market analysis, technology and financial aspects of KidzTech. My team and we received the much-needed confidence to proceed with the naming of our authenticated business idea. Because my team members and I work on different time zones, we often lose track of each other's timing and initially, we woke up each other at odd times and we joked about it too. Now I got practised to know by-heart what the exact time is in New Zealand, Hong Kong, South Africa and India.

Finally, our designers, Penny, Tim and Sam worked on the presentation of our report to give it a professional and interesting look. Every instance of this project,

I experienced though-provoking situations such as the KidTechz' slogan creation "**..less tech, more play..**", which shows how we manipulated the font size to show the reader that through our idea we have planned to influence the use of technology to increase the physical activities of the children. Therefore, I needed to bring my best from all my previous experiences and my team gave the global platform to think wild and not to be judged. I would say that my confidence level as a global student has increased ten folds by my team's unbiased appraisal of my contributions in the project.

In this journey, there were certainly ups and downs. It is evident that during the downs, one realizes the true nature of his/her counterparts. There were times when Harriet did not have access to power supply in her part of the world and my internet access went down during the crucial time of the project. Thus, my team members who have become my good friends helped me and Harriet to get through these tough times by taking over and making sure the progress of the project was uninterrupted. I learnt the professionalism of these young people from around the world with a nice touch of friendship. This was the exact moment I had come to know I have Penny from New Zealand, Tim from Hong Kong and Harriet from South Africa as my friends and if I ever get the chance to meet them, it will be a life time experience.

GEE has changed my perspective to see how small things can make big differences in life and it made me understand the concept of global citizenship and equity through this competition. I can now analyze and understand how a small change in one part of the world affects the rest of the world and how I can connect the small dots to see the big picture. I am indeed surprised to see how GEE has brought out my entrepreneurial skills and now I believe that I can eventually become a successful entrepreneur and be socially responsible to the world. Hence, as an International Business Management student, I have grown my professional and business expertise through GEE experience. In addition, it has also given me three wonderful friends from around the world. I have made friends and I hope to stay friends with these highly professional young thinkers to keep my life refreshing and productive. I will cherish this experience close to my heart and the only thing I regret is that GEE journey was too short and too great to end.