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Three weeks is no time at all to come up with a viable business concept and when I first heard about the challenge on my University’s competition page website, I did think it sounded a bit crazy to do so much in such a short space of time. However, I am so proud to have been part of creating such a well-rounded concept with my fellow team mates, that would really make a difference if it was to come to fruition.

At the beginning of the challenge, I felt that we were going at quite a slow pace to come up with ideas as all team members offered such a variety of different industries and concepts to concentrate on. We used WhatsApp and created a private Facebook page to communicate on, as well as using Google Docs for the actual report. All of these technological tools were really useful for communicating with each other and once we our idea seemed to click together, we made progress much faster than previously. This may be an English thing to make decisions quickly and I was mindful that my other team mates may have wanted to take a longer amount of time to make the correct decision for us as a team.

We worked well as a team for the most part and listened to each other’s opinions and tried our best to incorporate as many ideas from the team members into the overall concept as was possible. The most challenging part of the challenge was when some team members submitted work that was less than the standard expected. I made the effort alongside the team leader, to help these team members to elevate their work. However, it had to be redone as they didn’t make the effort to complete it themselves. This was disappointing but it has taught me that it is worth giving people the chance to change something first rather than just re doing the work straight away. I am happy that we dealt with this in a fair and polite manner. The time difference was also quite difficult to manage and was hard at times but the choice to communicate via WhatsApp did make these easier because messages could be viewed by multiple people at the same time which sped up the process at times.

I think that I was a good peer leader within my team (I’m very British, we don’t like to say we are good at things!). I introduced myself immediately and always tried to foster creativity, productivity and generate collaborative ideas whilst including all team members. Udhai, our team leader, was really involved but did a really good job to not step on anybody’s toes and delivered some really good ideas to our concept. Danielle and Chet also contributed to the scientific side of our concept with some really interesting and valid insights which made our concept more credible overall.
I have gained several valuable insights from this experience:

• Creating a concept that is valuable and life changing for the proposed societal group isn’t as difficult as you might think- it just needs some thoughtful ideas to spark a real development in shaping the overall concept
• Working in a team can be enjoyable- most of my team working experiences at university have been stressful as grades have ridden on the success of the group. Be friendly to other team members and offer your help to the group whenever an opportunity arises, this is what teamwork is all about!
• Thoughtfulness and creative thinking are important factors to consider when developing a concept- the best ideas are from the heart!
• There is often the one team member that doesn’t contribute anything- always remain polite to them and offer your assistance always, you don’t know what difficulties they may be facing!
• Sometimes I accidentally used English slang without thinking and nobody understood me- it is important to speak clearly to other team members and to be mindful that some people will be speaking English as a second language!

I am proud of myself for helping my other team members and can’t wait to carry on my journey to become a global leader- this experience has only made me more determined to gain a position that allows me to make a positive difference in the lives of others!