



Week 2

What went well?

The progress I made; what was achieved and done

- I cleaned the garbage in the canals of Xochimilco on a kayak with other Laidlaw Scholars. We collected 15 full large bags of garbage
- We participated in an overnight leadership camp in Las Estacas. We built a river raft, had a raft rally, and completed challenging tasks as a team of five. It has strengthened the bonding among all of us
- We had a visit to an indigenous community called the Mazahuas. We had a workshop with the local Mazahua children, in which we drew a tree and created a poem containing the essential elements of this community. I learned about the difficulties faced by indigenous communities, and their need to be respected by the people from the urban areas
- I learned about the “define” stage in design thinking

What could have been done differently?

Things that did not get done and/or could be changed

- I could have been more confident in voicing out my ideas when we were brainstorming strategies for the challenging tasks in the leadership camp
- I could have been more courageous to overcome the language barrier with the indigenous community by asking others for help and communicating with them using my body language

What did I learn about myself when working with others?

Contributions, behaviours and values I exhibited

- I am optimistic. I can often stay calm and patient, bringing a smile to my face even if challenges and stress arise in the team
- I am resilient. Although many of the tasks were physically demanding, my teammates and I were able to put in all our effort and get through them eventually
- I prefer to be staying at backstage and support others in a team instead of being in front to give directions and delegate tasks

What did I learn about leadership?

Leadership attributes and insights I developed

- I learned one approach to leadership is to lead by action. Most people throwing away the rubbish into the Xochimilco canals are the local residents living nearby. If they see that someone is cleaning the canals for them, it might make them reflect on their own action and thus raise their awareness of this issue
- I learned a good leader has to be open-minded and adopt cultural differences. For example, although we do not know any of the languages spoken by the Mazahuas, we tried our best to use body language and asked for others to help with translations

What do I want to develop or focus on next?

What I still need to develop

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- The organization we will be working with is Bio-Eco, and Manuel is our contact person for this company. I should prepare the questions to ask Manuel during our meeting with him. It is crucial to match the expectations between Bio-Eco, make_sense, and us on this project
 - I should start brainstorming ideas based on the mission that Bio-Eco provided to us