

Week 3: Environmental Education NGO Visit | Bali, Indonesia



WHAT WENT WELL?

This week I had the chance to visit an environmental education NGO that focuses on waste management. I met their interns, learned about their initiatives, and even got invited to join a workshop for local teachers on sustainable and healthy food practices. It was eye-opening to learn about the country's unique struggles with pesticides, fisheries, and composting. On the second day, I watched the teachers create sustainable, balanced meals at three cooking stations—it was such a fun and practical way of connecting theory to action.

WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE DIFFERENTLY?

I realized I could have asked more follow-up questions during the workshop. I was taking everything in but sometimes stayed in the “observer” role instead of engaging actively with the teachers or facilitators. If I could do it again, I would try to step in more to learn directly from their lived experiences and perspectives.

WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT MYSELF WHEN WORKING WITH OTHERS?

I noticed that I really enjoy working in educational settings, even when I am not the one teaching. Supporting others, listening, and learning from their context felt very natural to me. I found myself motivated by the enthusiasm of the teachers and their creativity, which reminded me that collaboration is often about creating space for others to shine.

WHAT DID I LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP?

Leadership in this context looked like creating opportunities for others to lead. The facilitators empowered the teachers to design and present sustainable meals themselves, which made the workshop much more impactful. It reminded me that effective leadership doesn't always mean being at the front of the room—it can mean structuring a space where people take ownership of learning.

WHAT DO I WANT TO DEVELOP OR FOCUS ON NEXT?

I want to practice engaging more actively in group workshops, even when I'm a guest or participant. Instead of defaulting to just observing, I'd like to lean into asking questions or making small contributions that show curiosity and support.