**Prompt 7- What have you done to make your school or community a better place? (350 words)**

Recently, I have been noticing more stray animals roaming through my neighborhood. Seeing Rimba, my golden retriever, at home made me feel heart-broken for strays. Rimba is provided with food and protected from any dangers unlike strays, who faced the deadly threat of getting shot by the police due to laws in Oman. With so many strays roaming around, I yearned to find a sanctuary for them. I opted to build an automatic animal feeder since it would feed them whilst eliminating human presence so they would not feel threatened. The feeder was practical since it led them to the outskirts of the city, thus decreasing the chances of police reports. I finally found a purpose because I could help countless strays.

The first prototype I constructed was capable of withstanding the blazing Middle Eastern weather. It even boasted a solar panel that took advantage of the abundant sunlight. After a trial run with Rimba, I pondered whether the machine was being optimized as the amount dispensed each time was sufficient for just one dog. I got in contact with Qurum Vets to try and look for solutions to address this. With their guidance, I developed a plan to build a new prototype. I designed the second prototype by incorporating a rectangular shape for stability and increasing the food capacity.

After days of intensive labor, the feeder was finally working. Bursting with joy, I put the feeder to the test. I was proud that I completed it, yet anxious to see how the strays would react. A sense of relief washed over me when I saw that the strays were not fighting over the food. Their wagging tails lifted a huge weight off my shoulders. With a new milestone for these Omani animals , I strived to do more. I plan on replicating this product to be used in other parts of the world.

Hi Abian,

Great cause and invention! Your project has a clear goal and addresses a critical issue in the community. The essay can be strengthened by showing long term results for the strays. What did the feeder project look like after a week? A month? How often did you refill the feeder and finding money for it? Are other parties involved to keep this project running? Did the police find less strays around? Did this raise any conversations about animal protection? In order to truly help a community, the effects must not only last temporarily.

C.G.