**Prompt 7: What have you done to make your school or your community a better place?**

Introduced to a community service in Kei Island, a remote island in Maluku, Indonesia by my dad, it was not a surprise that I willingly took up that opportunity. I was briefed by Dr Vanessa, head of the doctorSHARE compound, for an introduction of the island. “....and many locals are experiencing diarrhoea, possibly coming from their consumption…” stated Dr Vanessa. Being a water geek, I jumped at this chance to ask about the water condition there. Although she wasn't sure, she claimed that their water contained white residues.

It goes without saying that this information piqued my interest. Asking for several litres of water sample to be sent to Jakarta, I tested the water at the Indonesian Government’s water testing facility and discovered that it contained high calcium carbonate levels. “A water filter would definitely help to reduce the contaminants!”, my brain thought. I consulted with a water specialist to ask for his advice on the water filter’s layers.

I spent several weeks prototyping the water filter and testing it out on the Kei Island’s water sample. When the filtered water was retested in the lab, the percentage of contaminants did actually drop.

When I reached the island, I explained my findings and the effectiveness of the water filter to the residents of the doctorSHARE compound. Given the short amount of time I had there and the inability to build an actual water filtration system, I made the decision to conduct a demonstration on how to build a scaled-down model and then made and distributed a brief instruction manual on how to make the water filter. I also taught a few boarding school seniors on my water filtration system and encouraged them to teach it throughout the island.

In order to improve their quality of health, the locals were inspired to enhance the water quality on Kei Island. They grew more conscious of the water they’re using and are more motivated to start building their own water filter. In fact, the students are spreading this information around the island and the residents of the doctorSHARE area are currently building their own water filter.

Hi Victoria,

This is a great written essay, with a unique idea. Just a few fixes I’ve commented throughout and I think you need to shorten some things so the essay can be more concise and also try to reduce dialogue in the essay. More importantly for the last paragraph, I like how you have mentioned the impact your invention had in the community and how other people are using it for bigger projects but you also need to include how you will take this and delving into it deeper in a UC. What would a UC provide you to solve problems like these on a bigger scale? How does this work you do tie into your future aspirations? Additionally, at the start I think you should explain the problem a little more and your inspiration behind making this invention to fully round up your essay. Hope this helps, and if you have any questions let your mentor know! Good luck.

* Anushka