**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 there are experiencing diarrhoea, which may be from what they're consuming…” 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 piece of information piqued my interest. Asking for several litres of water sample to be sent to Jakarta, I brought it to the Indonesian Government’s water testing facility for a complete analysis. It turns out that the water contains relatively high levels of calcium carbonate. “A water filter would definitely help to reduce the contaminants!”, my brain thought. I consulted with a water specialist and asked for his advice on the layers that should be included in the filter.

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. In order to distribute it to the locals when I get there, I made a brief instruction manual on how to make the water filter.

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 distribute the water filter guidebook. I also taught a few boarding school seniors on my water filtration system and encouraged them to teach it throughout the island.

Currently, the residents of the doctorSHARE area are building their own water filter and the students are presenting this idea starting from their school and their nearby areas. The proverb "If you are planning for a year, sow rice; if you are planning for a decade, plant trees; if you are planning for a lifetime, educate people" comes to mind when I think of their enthusiasm for helping me in spreading the filtration system.