**Reflective Report**

**Introduction**

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) provides an essential bridge between academic learning and real-world industry practice. Its purpose is to give students hands-on experience that mirrors their future professional environments. Through WIL, I gained exposure to practical applications of theoretical knowledge, allowing me to hone my skills and better understand industry-specific challenges. The value of WIL lies in its ability to develop critical workplace skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and communication, which are all vital for career success.

**Skills Learnt**

During my WIL experience, I acquired and developed various skills across three key areas:

* **Industry-Specific Practices:** I learned teamwork, which I applied during the entire project,This experience allowed me to understand industry standards and processes, which was instrumental in providing practical exposure.
* **Interpersonal Communication Skills:** My communication skills improved significantly through various group activities, such as brainstorming sessions, feedback meetings, and debriefings. I actively participated in team meetings, which honed my ability to articulate ideas clearly and collaborate effectively with colleagues.
* **Management Skills:** Effective time management was crucial during my WIL experience, particularly when meeting tight deadlines for the entire project. Additionally, I developed problem-solving skills during crisis situations, where I had to respond quickly to unforeseen challenges, ensuring minimal disruption to ongoing projects.

**Role in the Team**

The team dynamic during my WIL placement was collaborative, and I reported to Chad (our group leader). I was part of a 4-person team that worked closely on the Empowerment project. My role involved making sure everything went smoothly, as well as contributing to the overall success of the team by assisting Ashfaaq with the design and functionality of the app. I also played a key role in resolving conflicts within the team, addressing concerns constructively to maintain a positive work environment. This experience taught me how to manage group dynamics effectively and ensure that every team member’s voice was heard.

**Research, Technology, and the Presentation of Information**

One scenario where I had to gather information involved testing the app and gathering real time information. I used various forums, websites etc. to find the necessary data, ensuring accuracy and relevance. The information was then compiled and presented to the team in the form of a report, which facilitated decision-making and planning.

**Personal Strengths and Weaknesses**

Throughout my WIL experience, I identified both my strengths and areas for improvement:

* **Tasks I Excelled In:** I was particularly effective at managing time-sensitive projects, leading brainstorming sessions, etc. . My ability to stay organized and meet deadlines consistently was a strong point.
* **Strengths:**
  1. Effective communication
  2. Time management
  3. Problem-solving
  4. Adaptability
  5. Collaboration
* **Tasks I Struggled With:** One area where I faced challenges was handling unexpected technical issues. I believe my lack of experience in coding contributed to this difficulty.

To improve in these areas, I plan to dedicate more practice time to mastering the skill.

**Stakeholder Relationship**

My relationship with my WIL leader was largely positive. We maintained open lines of communication, and I benefited from their guidance. However, there were moments where clearer expectations could have been set to avoid misunderstandings regarding project timelines. To strengthen this relationship, I could have proactively requested more feedback or scheduled regular check-ins to ensure we were always aligned on objectives.

**Impact**

During my WIL placement, I believe I made a meaningful impact on the organization. My contributions helped streamline processes. I believe that my proactive approach and willingness to take on additional responsibilities enhanced the team's overall efficiency.

**Conclusion**

Overall, my WIL experience was invaluable in shaping my professional development. It not only provided me with practical industry knowledge but also helped me recognize my strengths and areas for improvement. I leave the experience feeling more confident and prepared to tackle the challenges that lie ahead in my career.