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

“These families possess no property rights to even live by this river. But their kids have a dream, and I want to help them pursue that dream with education.”

I vividly remember the determination Mr Lukman Siagian had when we were in a meeting discussing future plans regarding SASUDE after the massive flood destroyed their library. Growing up in a developing country has exposed me to the various facets of life Education inequality has long been an evident issue in Medan, with numerous kids lining up the streets during school hours, selling products from traditional snacks to quick car-cleaning services.

But it was that encounter when the gravity of this disparity struck me. Not only that, it fueled my motivation to be part of the solution. As the Vice-President of the Student Council last year, I proposed we organized a fundraiser, where we sell student-designed T-shirts. I wanted to inspire my juniors and convey the significance of this fundraiser.

Alongside a team of 8, we carefully planned our operation, from the organization of the design competition to select 3 winning blueprints to the marketing of the t-shirts. Alas, it was not possible to accommodate the wants of each stakeholder. I knew the support from teachers in marketing the t-shirts was crucial. However, the lack of clarity in our catalogue created a rift of misunderstanding between my supervisor and other teachers.

Although I initially felt this rift was not only inefficient but frustrating, I come to realize how it has benefited me. Communicating with different parties with strikingly different wants and opinions has taught me the merit of empathetic communication and understanding. Furthermore, I grasped the fact that inspiration and motivation can only take you so far. It is your meticulous desire and volition for success that will propel you 2 steps forward for every step back.

It has been nearly a year since I delivered the 63rd order and a couple of months since my junior concluded their painting workshop fundraiser. It warms my heart they came to me for advice and likewise, the theme of their fundraiser was education inequality.