



USI2001 SOCIAL INNOVATION PROJECT

INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION JOURNAL

Entry 1

In week two to three of the start of the trimester, I was introduced to this module. At first, I was not certain about what is this module about, what I was supposed to do and what I should expect from this module. From my peers' words I understand that this is a student-led independent learning inter-disciplinary module. There are no traditional lectures or workshops given. We must do our own research and find out what is expected from this module.

This is the first time I experienced such module, and it puzzled me and lost my confidence since there is no lecture or instructor that normally will be teaching and guiding us on what to do. And we are given a deadline to form a team with people from a different degree program. All these challenges combined made me doubt if I am going to perform well in this module.

However, as time progressed, I met people from different degree programs through the collaborative effort with peers and we formed the team successfully. Through the hard work of self-learning this module I understand that this module creates opportunities for SIT students to address some of these multi-faceted issues and challenges in a multi-pronged, problem-solving approach, and through inter-disciplinary collaboration.

We are supposed to devise a solution from a problem statement that is targeted for a specific community in society, or society at large, and creating positive social impact. Each problem statement is to align with one of the UN SDGs.

Even though this module did not conduct any lecture or form of teaching, I have indeed learnt a lot from the process of forming groups with different disciplines, self-guided learning as well as exposure to global and local social challenges. This process not only built my confidence but also instilled a sense of anticipation and excitement about contributing to the community. The unique structure of this module, while initially confusing, ultimately proved to be an invaluable educational experience.

Entry 2

Reflecting on the ideation phase at the start of weeks 7 and 8, my team and I have chosen the problem statement "ComLink children tend to follow their parents' footsteps due to limited exposure and knowledge on the various career options. They end up not being able to maximise their full potential."

Our clarity on the problem statement has been a beacon, guiding us to create a platform—ingeniously termed "Future Paths"— to connect companies with these children so they could learn about different jobs through activities like job shadowing. This tool is designed to intersect with corporate willingness to illuminate the multitude of career trajectories through learning journeys, job shadowing, and mentorship.

We came up with two ways to bring this idea to life. The first is a roadshow called "Discover Your Path." We plan to take this roadshow to where the ComLink children live and show them stories of people who have done well in different jobs. We will also show them how to use the "FuturePaths" website and get their thoughts on it.

The website is the second part of the plan. It is going to be a place where ComLink children can always find information about careers, get advice, and find educational stuff to help them understand different jobs better. We want it to be full of chances for them to learn and grow.

I think back to how confused I felt at the start of this module, with no traditional classes and having to figure everything out on my own. It was scary, but it also made me excited to be a part of something that could really help people. Now, as we're making "FuturePaths," I see how that early confusion was good for me. It made me learn how to work in a new way and gave me the confidence to help others do the same.

We expected some challenges, especially communicating with the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) and the ComLink families. To deal with this, we started asking questions and sharing our ideas through the form that our resource personal sets up.

To sum up, my team and I are on a mission to build a platform that will broaden up new possibilities for ComLink children and support them in chasing their dreams. It reminds me of my own journey in this module, learning to find my way and grow in confidence. Now, we are ready to take on any challenges that come our way and make a difference for the children.

Entry 3

As we embarked on the creation phase, our team has continuously progressed in developing a substantial solution for the ComLink children. Following our meaningful consultation with MSF, it became noticeable that conventional roadshows hold little attraction for the youth; they are more attracted to interactive and tactile experiences that provide insight into career possibilities they seldom encounter.

In response to this revelation, we revolved our solution from the initial roadshow concept to "Future Innovators Day"—an experiential initiative aimed at bridging the gap between ComLink children and real-world industries. This venture is slated to offer a series of onsite visits to corporations such as Google and Mediacorp, where children can engage in hands-on activities and gain insight into diverse professional areas.

There have been obstacles in our journey. Coordinating schedules within our interdisciplinary team has been challenging, complying with the variegated backgrounds of the ComLink community. Moreover, we anticipate difficulties in engaging the children and their parents, who may not immediately recognize the value of our initiative or face technological barriers.

To navigate these challenges, we have adopted a detailed approach to planning and the integration of digital management tools, ensuring that our team can operate effectively despite conflicting academic commitments. The "FuturePaths" website is being precisely crafted to be user-friendly, culturally sensitive, and multilingual, avoiding potential linguistic and digital issues. Further, we intend to partner with local organizations to mitigate internet accessibility issues, optimizing the website for varied bandwidth scenarios.

The aspiration of "Future Innovators Day" is to cultivate inspiration and reveal practical skills to the ComLink children, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to explore beyond their parents'

pathways. By removing physical barriers such as distance, and providing virtual participation alternatives, we are committed to helping them in achieving what they want to.

When writing this entry, I reflect on our own adaptation and growth throughout this module. It is a testament to our resolve to devise impactful solutions and an echo of the transformative journey we imagine for the ComLink children. Our mission extends beyond project completion; it is a pledge to enlighten the potential within these young minds, empowering them to envision and pursue a future as boundless as their dreams.

Entry 4

During the consolidation phase of our project, we refined the key elements of our initiative for the upcoming poster and video. Our principal endeavor, the "Future Innovators Day," is designed to expose ComLink children to a spectrum of career paths through interactive experiences with companies like Google. The accompanying website aims to serve as a comprehensive resource, offering career guidance through quizzes, videos, and personal success stories.

Our interviews with ComLink children revealed a significant insight: an overwhelming majority, 93%, are eager to consider alternative careers if given the resources. This finding underscores the necessity of our project and forms a crucial point for our presentation.

Despite our enthusiasm, we recognize several challenges. Scaling "Future Innovators Day" to include children from more remote areas requires careful planning and resources. Virtual learning's impact varies across demographics, and sustaining corporate partnerships for internships is another hurdle we must navigate. Additionally, determining the long-term effects of our initiative on the children's career choices is a complex task that demands consistent evaluation.

We also need to address the issue of social stigma, which may lead families to contribute meaningful feedback due to embarrassment about their financial situation. This challenges us to create an environment where honest communication is crucial and valued.

Looking forward, we intend to expand our network to incorporate diverse industries and explore the potential for global collaboration through virtual exchanges. Implementing mentorship programs and skill certification could provide ongoing support and valuable credentials to the participants. Cultivating an alumni network and reaching out to underserved communities through strategic expansion are also part of our vision to empower the next generation.

In summary, the consolidation phase has sharpened our focus on delivering a compelling poster and video that demonstrates the potential of our initiative. We are committed to overcoming the challenges to empower ComLink children to envision and pursue expansive career possibilities.

Entry 5

In the review phase of our project, I have reflected on the learnings and growth experienced throughout this module. This self-learn module, without traditional lectures, has taught me the importance of self-motivation and initiative. Diving into global social issues has opened my eyes to the persistent challenges people face, emphasizing that despite the global developments, some problems remain deeply entrenched in society.

Working in a multidisciplinary team has been a new experience. It offered me a chance to collaborate with peers from different backgrounds, leading to a richer, more diverse approach to problem-solving. I

have also developed my time management skills, learning to synchronize with various schedules, which I see as a crucial ability for my future career.

Initially, I believed that ComLink children were simply following their parents' paths due to a lack of alternatives. This module has reshaped that perception; I now recognize that these children are not empty in their creativity or ambition. Instead, they are filled with ideas but lack the opportunities to engage with different industries. Our role is not just to provide options; it's to expand their horizons so they can navigate towards these possibilities themselves.

Personally, this module has instilled in me a deeper sense of social responsibility. As a university student, I have learned that my contributions to society can take many forms, including participation in projects and events aimed at community improvement. This realization has taught me that regardless of our roles, we have the capacity to make a difference.

If given the opportunity to re-engage with this module, I would focus more on interacting with our target audience—the ComLink children. The challenges of connecting with them, primarily due to their scattered living situations, have made me recognize the value of data collection. Having more direct engagement would likely reveal more understanding of their needs, aspirations, and the barriers they face. This in turn would provide us with a more tailored and effective approach to our initiative.

In closing, this module has been transformative. It is not just about academic growth, but about personal and social development. As I look back, I see a journey marked by enhanced teamwork, broadened perspectives, and the drive to contribute meaningfully to society. Moving forward, I will carry these lessons with me, applying them both in my professional pursuits and in my ongoing efforts to serve the community.