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GloCal Vietnam final reflection

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I joined the GloCal Vietnam project last minute, after my other internship plan was unexpectedly cancelled, but the experience far exceeded my expectations in many ways. First of all, working in a big group – with 18 other students from three different faculties and 5 Vietnamese interpreters – was a huge challenge that turned into a sweet memory. In the first two weeks, we spent a lot of time in big group meetings debating questions to ask in the survey, what to teach in living value classes, and bonding over how tired and frustrated everyone was. It was a challenging period, but also a necessary learning curve where we got to know each other better and what we were to do in the field. I am truly grateful to have met so many kind and hardworking people who really wanted to learn from and make a difference with our work. It was a shame that during the last week, we were too occupied with deadlines to say a proper goodbye, but memories will stay, and reunions will hopefully happen.

What I learnt from the most during the internship was our most significant change story writing and need assessment interviews. Being in a completely new environment was hard enough, but we had to learn participatory methods, community development project details, and to produce promotional materials that World Vision can use. The work made us reflect on our position in the development project: what our role can be, what methods to use, and how to communicate with the local people, the NGO, and its sponsors. I could have made more preparations for the internship by reading up on participatory methods and development projects, but some things can only be learnt in the field through practice. And I am really glad that the work we did was helpful to World Vision, and that my team were able to reflect on our work and improve every time. I do believe that this internship is beneficial for my own development. Even though it is not as fancy sounding as some corporate jobs, it has sensitized me on the development discourse and helped me to develop skills such as writing, video making, group leadership, and interdisciplinary cooperation that will come in handy in the future.