Empowerment Technologies [E-Tech]: What I Have Learned

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Nearly a whole year of two semesters is almost over. A whole year of stressful deadlines, new group members, and assigned tasks is coming to an end. My first thought about the overall projects are mostly positive because while there were times that in the process of finishing the projects, it felt excruciating and I was about to crack under the pressure, it thought me more about myself that I could actually accomplish what I set myself out to do.

The positive thoughts that come to mind specifically are that through MIL (Media and Info Literacy) and E-Tech (Empowerment Technologies), my group members and I were able to encounter new experiences and tasks that were given to us. When it comes to negative thoughts, I felt really pressured by my group members to perform well in the first semester.

One of the most interesting discoveries I made while working on my projects are that even though a deadline is fast approaching, I can adapt to such short notice and get the task done on time. But, while working on my projects, I met with some problems. Those problems were mostly the lack of time to complete the task and the difficulty in doing so. And lastly, the most interesting discovery I made about others was that my group members have their own certain expectations on the outcome of our collaborative work. Some group members had normal while some had high expectations.

Some of the most powerful learning moments were from when we gave out multiple surveys throughout grade levels that we were assigned in. It was a powerful learning moment for me because through the surveys, I found out what the participant's opinions/answers really were. Their answers were fairly unexpected, and we wouldn't have found out what they would have answered if it weren't for the surveys that we conducted.

The most important thing I learned personally is that I learned that I had to adapt to the different attitudes and expectations of my group mates. Because, some of my group mates expected a lot from me, while some expected that I would complete the task in a normal pace. Some group mates also expected that I would use my common sense while some kept reminding me of the tasks and matters that needed to be attended to.

For me, the greatest problem I encountered was having the lack of time to complete a project/task. The solution I came up with to solve this is to sacrifice the time that I would normally use to sleep. I consider this as the best possible solution because if I had slept that night and didn't stay up to complete the task, I'd have insufficient time to complete it in the morning and it would have definitely affected our group's output.

My solution relates to real world situations or problems because sometimes, in order to solve some issues, one needs to sacrifice. Whether it would be sleep or time spent with friends or family, sometimes our work needs to be pushed on the top of our priority list so that we avoid becoming a disappointment to our colleagues/group members.

There were times where our team communicated well, to a point where each member's thoughts were heard and understood. But there were times were their ideas and thoughts were not clearly communicated because they had assumed that I should have already known by then, what I had to do.

Our collaborative communication fell short of the group's expectations when some of the members of our group refrained in speaking out on what they wanted me to do because they thought that I would have already known what to do, when in fact, I didn't. In result of that, tasks were not completed because they did not explicitly order for me to do them. And I do admit that it was my fault because I failed to use my common sense in doing tasks that should have been done already.

But overall, through all of the hardships and adversities that my group members and I went through in order to complete tasks for the subjects *Media and Info Literacy* and *Empowerment Technologies,* we were thought that success in life didn't come easy. You had to work for it. In the process, you may shed some blood, sweat and tears, but that only makes the taste of success a lot sweeter.