



THE GLOBAL TABLE

Weekly offline food meetups for lonely international students - UNSDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being



1

THE PROBLEM

The Tuesday Afternoon Silence

International students often feel very lonely in a new country. Language barriers make it hard to make friends. When students feel isolated, their mental health drops, and they may leave, esk university.

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OUR SOLUTION

Three Questions, Then Eat

Each week, students share food from their home countries. Phones are checked at the door, so people talk face-to-face. Before eating, each student asks their partner three simple questions about the food. It is a safe, easy way to practice relationship skills, with no app and no-Wi-Fi needed.

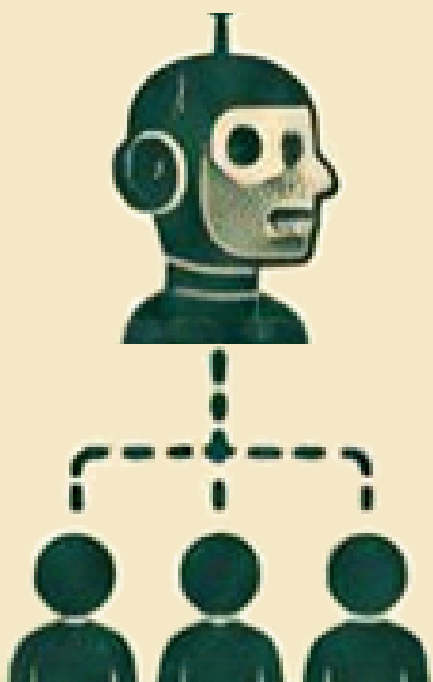


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THE AI BLIND SPOT

AI would match people who are the same

When we asked AI how to match 5,000 students, it suggested pairing people by the same language and hobbies. That would leave out shy students and speakers of rare languages, and create closed cliques.



4

OUR HUMAN CORRECTION

We match randomly, and no one has to speak first

Every week, partners are matched at random so students meet people from different cultures. Newcomers do not have to speak on their first day if they feel nervous.

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HOW IT PAYS FOR ITSELF

The university pays, not the students

This is a business, not charity. The University International Office pays a semester fee, because the program keeps international students happy and stops them from dropping out. Students do not pay high fees.

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AI can understand loneliness, but only humans can pull out a chair and invite someone to sit at a table.

