OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES OF INTERNATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT

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Contents of presentation

• Introduction of International Service Learning Programme
• Opportunities for students to learn
• Challenges to students and teachers
• Teachers’ Commitment & Students’ attempts
• Evaluation of the project achievements
Empirical study of an International Service Learning Programme in Indonesia

- Yogyakarta Kampung Field School (YKFS) in Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- Jointly organized by
  - Duta Wacana Christian University (DWCU) in Indonesia,
  - Australian National University (ANU) in Australia and
  - Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU)
- Theme of the Programme
  - ‘Improving the Living Quality of the Rural Settlements as a Basic of Developing Tourism village in Banjaroya’
Opportunities for students to learn

• To be global citizens and
• To enhance their generic competences in a small global villages
  • To work closely with students from different
    • Country(Indonesia, Hong Kong, Australia)
    • Disciple(anthropology, environment protection, Geomatics, tourist development)
    • Mother Language(Bahasa, Chinese, English)
    • Class(student, farmer, small business merchant, teacher, officer)
• Home stay
  • adapted to a very different lifestyle for 3 weeks homestay in rural family,
  • learned about the local culture and wisdom,
  • surveyed on the needs of the local communities,
• To propose development plan to local officials with students’ professional knowledge
Challenges to students and teachers

- Culture shock,
- Unfamiliar serving community,
- Language barrier,
- Inter disciplines dialogue,
- Understanding in service learning …
  - Prior experience in voluntary services (Figures from Pre-project survey)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>PolyU students</th>
<th>International students (Australia &amp; Indonesia students)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Challenges to teachers

• Risks and uncertainty management,
  • Active earth quake and volcano eruption zone
• Responsibilities
  • Different safety factors
• Resource management
• Logistic support
• Collaboration between Universities
Teacher also learnt from students about reasons for joining this attempts

Data from pre-project survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>PolyU students (n = 21)</th>
<th>International students (n = 56)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Part of course requirement</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Want to help others in need</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>85.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Want to contribute to the society/world</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>95.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Like to do something meaningful and important</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>90.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Broaden my horizon on understanding the life of the underprivileged people inside/outside Hong Kong (living origin)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>95.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Invite by my friends/teachers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. To better communicate with others</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>71.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Develop my teamwork skills</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>66.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Develop my problem solving skills</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>71.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Without reasons</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teachers’ Commitments

- Required the orientation, adjustment and balancing of different supervision dimensions
  - Teaching,
  - Guidance,
  - Monitoring,
  - Consultant
Students’ attempts

- Did not only provide direct services to the villagers,
- Provided local community with the necessary skills for improving local living quality by themselves.
- Enlightened the villagers
  - about the way to seek funding and
  - make good use of their local community resources and traditional heritage
- Focused on six major directions for local development strategy
  - tourism development, health care, map production, education, water supply and economics
Evaluate the project achievements

Generic Growth

- Students’ perception from Pre and Post project survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Generic Skills (n = 21)</th>
<th>Pre Score</th>
<th>Post Score</th>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>p-value (Paired T-test)</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interpersonal Effectiveness</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>+ 6.91%</td>
<td>0.036</td>
<td>Sig.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problem Solving</td>
<td>75.6</td>
<td>79.6</td>
<td>+ 5.29%</td>
<td>0.094</td>
<td>Not Sig.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>+ 2.00%</td>
<td>0.428</td>
<td>Not Sig.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Responsibility</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>83.4</td>
<td>+ 2.71%</td>
<td>0.338</td>
<td>Not Sig.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluate the project achievements

Narrative Reflection

“I was able to apply the communication skills. As we all came from different backgrounds, communication was very important in order to get along well with each other.” – J@ Banjaran

“Hotel management study has helped me to develop into a very organized and welcoming people. I am glad to apply some soft skills such as settling the arguments between the group mates in a reasonable and convincing way.” – H@ Dlingseng

“The main aim of our Art Festival is to combine art culture, farming and tourism into villagers’ daily lives and let them experience what tourism is. We believe that it can also bring the villagers together to have reunion to discuss issues and directions in the hamlet.” – C@ Duren Sawit

“My profession, nursing, is universal that it is applicable to all people. I applied the knowledge and skills through taking care of health and safety issues of group mates, giving health education to villagers in my hamlet, giving suggestions to head officers of Banjaroya about providing more health services to people in Kajoran.” – P@ Kajoran

“We still wait to see the outcome of our effort so I cannot say whether I was satisfied with our product. But one thing we are sure that we have tried our best to solve their problems. We enjoyed the process so much.” – V@ Plengan
Evaluate the project achievements

Narrative Reflection

“In my hamlet, the water quality is bad which remain oily and milky. However, as we were lack of transportation and time, I had to use that water for bath. I think it is not easy for a city girl to accept, but I did. After the trip, I treasure the clean tap water I have.” - K@ Promasan

“Through getting in touch with the villagers, Australian and Indonesian students, I know more about the specialties of their cultures, including food, holidays, TV programs, education system, wealth, politics, history......” - A@ Slanden

“I am a lucky student, not only because I have the chance exposing to different cultures but also the opportunity to apply my discipline (Land Surveying) related knowledge. My hamlet leader asked me to invite more Surveying students to join future programs had surprised me and I feel honored that my job was appreciated.” - M@ Pantog Kulon

“One day, the hamlet head of my hamlet gave us over one hundred pieces of official land lots record. It scared us at first. He said he would like us to help him to finish a map of integrating all land lots record... I have learnt a lot more in doing the map which have enrich my knowledge by working together with another senior student. It is a valuable experience for me to learn and to service.” - A@ Pantog Kulon
Evaluate the project achievements
Transition of Reflection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student P</th>
<th>Student A</th>
<th>Student U</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Before going to Indonesia</strong></td>
<td>I expect myself to be more active in voicing out my ideas during discussion, assisting the teammates and learning during the service learning trip. I will do my best to make use of the knowledge learnt from my discipline and from the training lectures when carrying out the service tasks and to take care of health issue of others. I also expect myself to be strong and healthy enough to adapt to the living environment in Indonesia. Therefore, I will start some exercise such as running to train up my physique. I also expect myself to be more outgoing to get along with Hong Kong, Australian and Indonesian teammates and villagers in Indonesia. Hope I can build a good relationship with them.</td>
<td>Giving service to the needy is not easy, particularly when it starts from scratch... we are culturally different from the needy. All of the members in the trip could build up a strong relationship and trust within the group so that the atmosphere is good, members enjoy being together, plans and activities can be run smoothly... I hope that with my best effort I can well explore the problems of the needy and think of ways that can help them practically with my own knowledge and skill. All I hope is that with our effort, we can make a change and impact on their life, and together we can go through an enjoyable and rewarding journey.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>After going to Indonesia</strong></td>
<td>I was able to apply my knowledge and skills of my profession. Because my profession, nursing, is universal that it is applicable to all people. I applied the knowledge and skills through taking care of health and safety issues of groupmates, giving health education to villagers in my hamlet, giving suggestions to head officers of Banjaroya about providing more health services to people in Kajoran.</td>
<td>It was a special experience to get in touch with many people in different social levels... I have learnt that the way of talking with others should depend on their own cultures... To Australian students, the way we chat should be more sensible and reasonable, while to Indonesian students, they prefer a more perceptual way of free chatting... when teaching the local children, the way of speaking should be more funny and tuned to be like a real teacher... there is a lot of “first time” for me to know myself and others better.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluate the project achievements

Comparable standards

- PolyU service learning award
- Gold award
- Students complied project findings with a systematic templates in their report
  - Reports from different projects reviewed by a selection panel
  - Member of selection panel come from staff of different facilities
Evaluate the project achievements

Sustainable impacts

- We can involve more service learning activities in Pantog Kulon with our map application
- Teach them more
- Empower the locals with our professional knowledge

Knowing the importance of accurate/precise map of the Hamlet based on the land record, we would like to ask the Department of Land Surveying & Geo-Informatics, Hong Kong Polytechnic University to consider continuing the Service Learning Program for the next batch of 2013.

Due to the time constraint and limitation of the GPS device, this program couldn’t be finish by the Service Learning 2012 batch.

If it is allowed, we would like to ask for the software and training on how to use the software so we can update the map if there is change on the territory.
Evaluate the project achievements

Pilot service learning programme >

Credit-bearing International service learning subject

- Experience in service Learning
- Close Partnership with Office of Service Learning
- Network with NGO and the local communities
- International network with oversea partners
- Opportunity to encourage more colleagues committed to service learning

- Proper selection of the service theme
- Importance of the course framework design

- Subjected was validated by University Management
- Funding approved for next going
- PolyU service learning subject in Indonesia 2012>2013….
Evaluate the project achievements

Ascertain our identity

• It let us
  • taste the sourness of failures,
  • sweetness of human interaction and
  • nutrition of knowledge

• It enlightened us about
  • our limitations,
  • the benefits of professional knowledge application and

• It motivated us to solve problems
Our achievements come from

• Seeded with a meaningful theme,
• Germinated with ambition to dialogue
• Grew with effort to become a fulfilled dream

• Fruit appreciation
Thank you