

Changing perspectives through a Multicultural Experience

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LDC - ICU

The programme was organized

- to expose the participants to different culture - People & organizations that serve people's different needs
- to provide opportunity to explore the 'self' - the talents, strengths, weaknesses... and how to overcome it
- to develop reflective skills and gain insights on dimensions of service, career and future plans



Orientation

Service Learning Key concepts / practice
Multicultural symbiosis through cross cultural experience
Social, Economical, Historical, Cultural and Religious aspects of Indian Society
Leveling of Expectations
Journal Writing and Reflection

Visits

Service Sites
Indian Families
Tourist spots

Placements

RTU - Children's Village (3)
Love & Care- Orphanage School (1)
DHAN Foundation Self Help Group Women (1)
SHIRISTI Mentally Challenged People (1)
RUSS Foundation HIV infected / Sex workers (2)

Week End Reflection Sessions

Oral and written
Pre Service Reflection
Final Feedback

The SL team analyzed the responses of the participants (both oral and written) and considered the major learning about



Culture



Skills

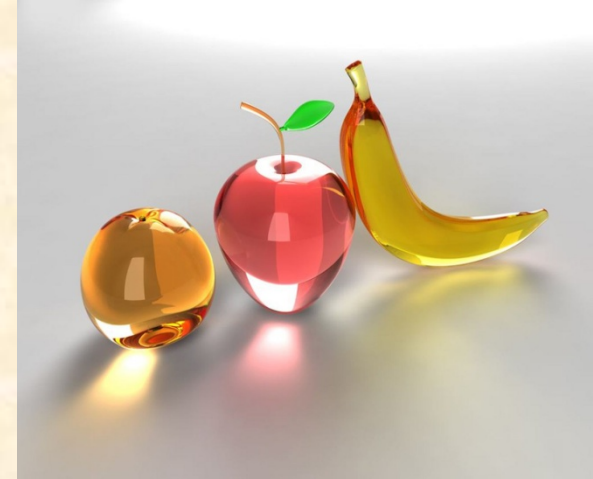


Dimensions of service and

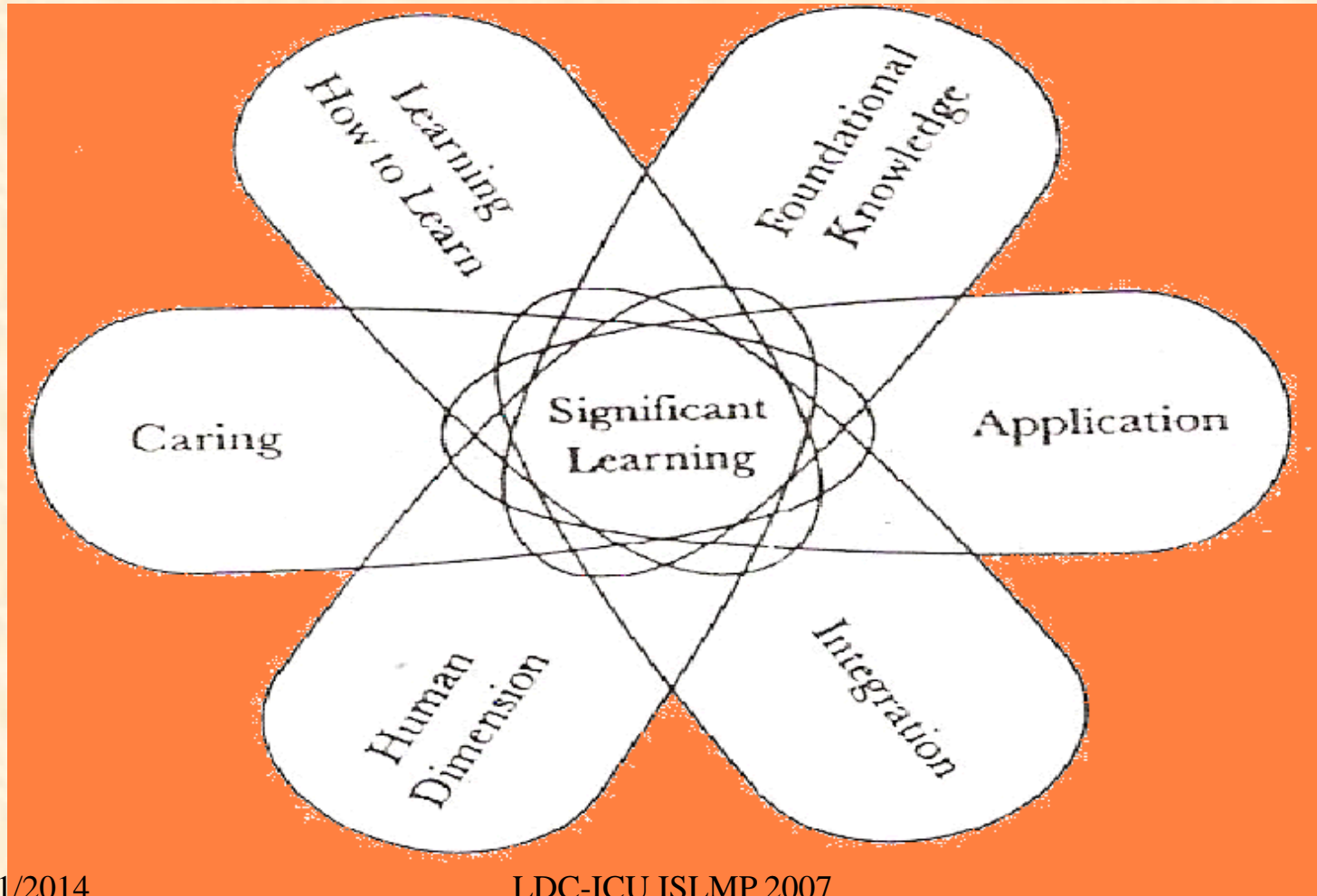


Career & Future for study

This paper focuses on the *changes in the perspectives* obtained through the multicultural experiences gained by **Indian participants and participants from other countries.**



J.Deer Fink`s model on the interactive nature of significant learning



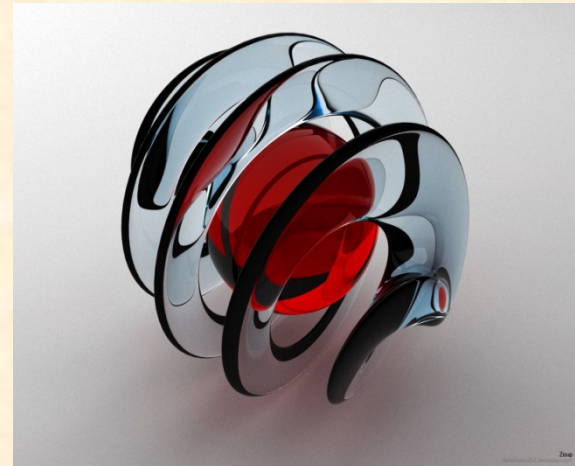
Cultural Learning

- To appreciate and respect Asian Countries' Culture (Cultural difference and similarities) religion and languages
- Different views about service from different cultural background
- About living together



PHYSICAL SKILLS

- Teaching
- Observation
- Creativity
- Teaching special children
- Learnt the dignity of manual work



INTRA PERSONAL SKILLS

- Self confidence
- Self aware ness
- Adaptation
- Enhanced Self esteem
- To overcome shyness
- To be independent
- Take new initiatives

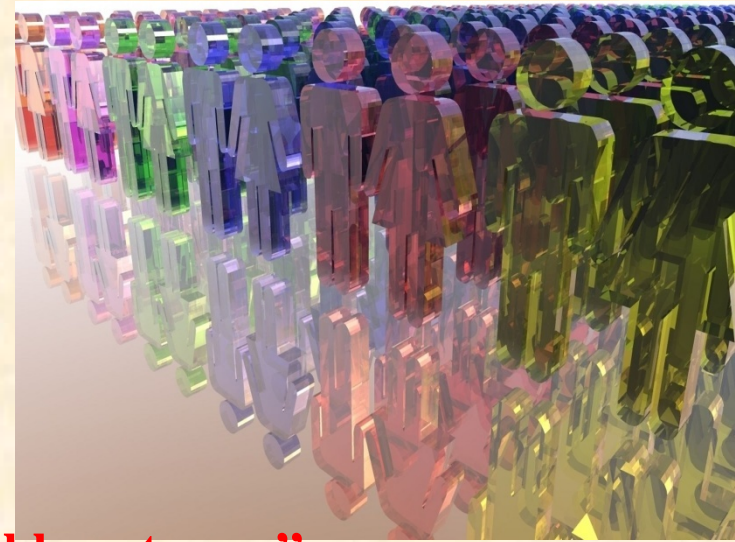


INTER PERSONAL SKILLS

- Problem solving
- Communication skills
- Team work
- Adjusting
- Leadership
- Organizing skills
- Dealing with children,
HIV infected and female sex workers
- Maintaining healthy relationships



Learning about Service



- “Service could have either **visible or invisible outcome**”
- “Service is to **help the needy to help themselves**”
- “Service is always **defined by the receiver**”
- “Service **needs patience, tolerance, organizing and problem solving skills** etc.”
- “Service is a **two way process** - benefits both - done to each other in a spirit of exchange and sharing”
- “Service’ is **not a choice**”
- “Service can be done by **anyone**”
- “Service **starts from small things** which can be done right now and right here - sometimes needs a collective effort”

Career / Future Plans

Insights

- Money is not important
- Lead a meaningful life
- Clarity in future plans
- Desire to join a service agency has become stronger

Plans

- Provide financial help to NGO
- Institute a charity fund
- Join a service agency
- To involve in more social work



Indians – Other Asians

Similarities

- Opinion about HIV infected, Mentally challenged have changed (they also have societal needs and they need to be treated specially and with more concern and care)
- Adjusting with the teammates
- Celebrating the cultural similarities and differences
- Future plans – joining/ supporting financially an NGO



Indians – Other Asians

Difference

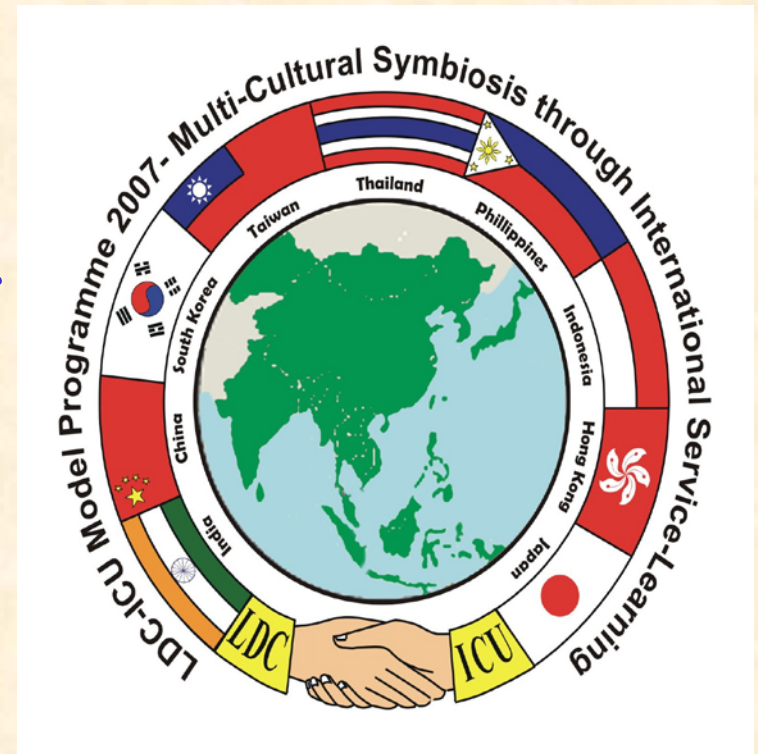
The learning of other Asian participants' is more than the Indian participants

- **Familiar environment** (especially language and culture at service sites)
- **Cultural inhibitions** in learning and expressing the feelings and excitements
- Initial shock to work with HIV infected persons showing the **protected family set ups** which **didn't expose them to realities of the world outside**.



Multicultural Symbiosis Through ISLMP

- The ISLMP has provided opportunity for the participants to move forward in developing **intercultural competence**.
- It is envisaged that the outcome of such multicultural learning will have a **long term impact** on the individuals.
- The programme has prepared them for **life long learning** through the various reflective sessions.



Changing Perspectives Through Multicultural Experience

Self:

- *Learning about the culture.*
- *Learning the different dimensions of service*

Others:

- *Developing new skills*
- *Ability to make proper career choices.*

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Thank You!!!