

# 1<sup>st</sup> Asia-Pacific Region Service Learning Conference:

## Reflections on an Effective International Service Learning Program

by Dennis Lee

*“This is an exciting time. Hands-on experience in the community are essential for educating the next generation about human needs and for building among young and old a commitment to social responsibility in their careers and in their lives as active citizens. ”*

*- Jane C. Kendall*

“I read and I forget, I see and I remember, I do and I understand.”

- Confucius

# Service Learning

Service Learning is defined as “the union of structured intentional learning with public and community service.” It sees knowledge developed out of social practice.

1. Those being served control the service provided;
2. Those being served become better able to serve and be served by their own actions;
3. Those who serve are also learners, and have significant control over what is learned.

# Service Learning, Mentoring, And Leadership Development

1. Most (teachers) model their teaching styles on those of instructors they had when they were students;
2. We learn much of what we know how to do by watching and emulating people we respect;
3. Faculty who teach through lectures and other didactic processes do not provide good models for effective leadership behavior;

# Service Learning, Mentoring, And Leadership Development

4. Public service experience and mentorship opportunities enable students to observe and take note of the behaviors of effective leaders;
5. Service learning programs, with their emphasis on an action-reflection dynamic, have the potential to offer students the opportunity to observe and interact with enabling leaders through their service experience.

# Service Learning, Mentoring, And Leadership Development

6. Service learners are exposed to and learn directly from the mentor's trait of enabling leadership – i.e. an instructor who consciously strives to guide students to learn and grow from their experience.
7. Service learning develops in learners the ability to be self-directed in their learning and the cognitive, “reflection-in-action” skills necessary for intelligent behavior.

# Service Learning, Mentoring, And Leadership Development

8. Service learning provides an essential bridge for linking personal empowerment (and community empowerment) with cognitive growth. As such, it has a key role in leadership development.

- Timothy Stanton

# Principles Of Good Practice In Combining Service And Learning

*Ellen Porter Honnet and Susan J. Poulsen  
- The Johnson Foundation*



# An Effective International Service Learning Program

1. Engages people in responsible and challenging actions for the common good;
2. Provides structured opportunities for people to reflect critically on their service experience;
3. Articulates clear service and learning goals for everyone involved;

# An Effective International Service Learning Program

4. Allows for those with needs to define those needs;
5. Clarifies the responsibilities of each person and organization involved;
6. Matches service providers and service needs through a process that recognizes changing circumstances;

# An Effective International Service Learning Program

7. Expects genuine, active, and sustained organizational commitment;
8. Includes training, supervision, monitoring, support, recognition, and evaluation to meet service and learning goals;
9. Ensures that the time commitment for service and learning is flexible, appropriate, and in the best interest of all involved;

# An Effective International Service Learning Program

10. Is committed to program participation by and with diverse populations.

*“Great leaders are those who are servants first, i.e. who leads because of a desire to serve rather than to gain power or personal gratification”*

*- Robert K. Greenleaf*

# Rewards of Reflection

1. Academic Learning;
2. Personal Development;
3. Program Improvement.

*“I never teach my pupils, I only attempt to provide the conditions in which they can learn best”*

*- Albert Einstein*

# Challenges In A “International Service Learning” Paradigm

1. Inspiring the learner-volunteer;
2. Learning through mentor facilitation;
3. Curriculum based service learning;
4. Engagement with communities in different socio-cultural settings;

*“If you give people fish, they can eat for a day.  
If you teach them how to fish they can eat for a lifetime.  
If you teach them to learn, they don’t have to eat fish all  
their life.”*

*- Tom Smith*

*“The first responsibility of a leader is to define reality.  
The last is to say : “Thank you.”*

*- Max Depree*



*“THANK YOU”*