Liberal Education with Chinese Characteristics: Service Learning Concept and Practice

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why we take the service learning as a significant role in liberal education?
The cultivation of “whole person” in Liberal education is in accord with objectives and idea of service learning.
HOW we implement liberal education program with Service Learning Concept and Practice
The service learning in liberal education program of Sun Yat-sen University.

1. Service Learning Program in Guangzhou community
2. Service Learning Program at Guangzhou Library
3. Service Learning Program at Wenchuan and Beichuan Library
In May.2011, we were united in Guangzhou Volunteers Union. Under their coordination, working in cooperation with six community volunteer service organizations in Guangzhou, more than 150 students in liberal education class had participated in the service learning for nearly 2000 times, only during the time from May.2011 to May.2012.
1. The Service Learning Program in Guangzhou Community

Arrangements for the implementation of service learning program in Guangzhou community:

- Announce arrangements: In May each year
- Service match
- Corresponding training: Basic training, Special training
- Spot service
1. The Service Learning Program in Guangzhou Community

- Visits to the elderly welfare
- Share the happiness
- News window in the community
- PHS in the community
- The elders university
- Spells
- Burst into laughter
- Hotlines for the elders and "Peace Bell"
1. The Service Learning Program in Guangzhou Community
1. The Service Learning Program in Guangzhou Community

"sponge plan" --- activities of caring the youth diverse in a different way,
1. The Service Learning Program in Guangzhou Community

Reflection and evaluation of the service learning program in Guangzhou community

- Experience sharing meeting after the activity.
- Submit service logs and service reports
- Lunch meeting of service-learning
- The annual recognition and experience sharing of Guangzhou city volunteers conference
- Exhibition of excellent service logs on the internet
1. The Service Learning Program in Guangzhou Community

**According to the service time**

- **50% of the total score**
  - 1 to 3 practice credits. Each of which should be based on 12 on-site service hours
  - Divided into three levels—excellent, good and common based on the length and service level

**Share service learning experience**

- students need to take the service log to share service learning experience at the lunch meeting once a month
- The scores will be given by teachers and tutors in liberal education class
- **30% of the total score**

**Assessment**

**According to the annual recognition and experience sharing**

- this part will be **20% of the total**
- the score of this part shall be determined by the ones in charge together
Inheriting and spreading culture is the original intention to found a university. When a university assumes the responsibility to serve our society, the function of Inheriting and spreading culture expands from students’ cultivation to community culture cultivation and building. Therefore, the liberal education program in Sun Yat-sen University cooperates with Guangzhou library to launch service learning program concerning culture heritage and spreading.

The program includes sessions such as application and matching, early training, reading and culture speech training, event planning and rehearsal, on-site service, regular exchange and summary, lasting for one year from December.
2. The Service Learning Program at Guangzhou Library

- Work concerning books
- Service work concerning readers
- Advertising slogan collection
- Inter-agency cooperation
- Characteristic activities

participatory activities
2. The Service Learning Program at Guangzhou Library

Planning activities

- Paint Books • Paint Heart • Paint World
- Cultural Salon
- Publicity Weeks
Six stages of Planning activities

1. Form a team
2. Chooses the project and drafted their project plans
3. Make workable general plans
4. Resubmit their detailed proposals
5. Prepare the materials, review, rehearsal
6. Carry out the plan
2. The Service Learning Program at Guangzhou Library

Some pictures for Paint Books • Paint Heart • Paint World
In 2008, Wenchuan and Beichuan were badly hit by the earthquake. In recent years, thanks to the great support from all over the country, the victims gradually resume normal lives. To some degree, they live better than before. We need to bear in mind that we should support them to recover both materially and emotionally. Disaster victims’ yearn for knowledge should not be ignored. In this context, since the summary vacation in 2011, we cooperated with the School of Information Management in Sun Yat-sen University and launched the service learning program in Wenchuan and Beichuan. Up until now, the program has worked for two terms and all together 54 students have participated into it.
3. The Service Learning Program at Wenchuan and Beichuan Library

Main Content of Wenchuan and Beichuan Library Service learning:

- Daily service and Promotion of the library
- Computer Training for The Elders
- Public Lectures
- Service for Teenagers
- The Construction of Rural Libraries
- Culture Exhibition
- Liberal Research
3. The Service Learning Program at Wenchuan and Beichuan Library
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Reflection and Evaluation of Service learning program in Wenchuan and Beichuan Library

- Service log
- Daily exchange meetings
- Interviews afterwards
- Series of Questionnaires
- Research report
- Exhibition
What we have achieved through service learning
Effects of Service learning in the liberal education of Sun Yat-sen University

- Enhance the sense of social responsibility
- Improve students’ comprehensive ability to solve problems
- Gain the satisfaction and enrich the life-experience
- Learn about empathy understanding and the joy of giving
- Learn the self-reflection and enhance the self-esteem
Conclusions

All the three years, we have achieved some results when implementing liberal education program with the concept and practices of service learning. But for reasons concerning experiences, staff, and organization structuring, the program still has many shortages, such as there is not enough participation from professional teachers, precise evaluation is still a problem, and the combination with professional knowledge is not close enough. These are aspects that could be improved in our future work.
THANKS