

Title of the Practice:

Service Learning Committee: Engaging Students with NGOs for Social Impact

The Context That Required the Initiation of the Practice:

In today's fast-changing world, it has become increasingly important for educational institutions to equip students not only with academic knowledge but also with a strong sense of social responsibility. Recognizing the need to bridge the gap between classroom learning and real-world challenges, the institution initiated the Service Learning Committee (SLC). This initiative was designed to provide students with opportunities to engage with communities through practical, hands-on learning experiences. By partnering with NGOs, the institution sought to encourage students to apply their academic knowledge in addressing real social issues while contributing positively to society.

Objectives of the Practice:

1. To instill social responsibility and empathy among students by engaging them in community service.
2. To provide students with an opportunity to apply their academic learning in real-life settings.
3. To foster a sense of community and encourage students to contribute to the welfare of underprivileged or marginalized groups.
4. To enhance students' problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills through practical social interventions.
5. To develop a long-term commitment to social change and sustainability in students.
6. To build relationships between the institution and NGOs, facilitating collaborative efforts for social good.

The Practice:

1. **Formation of the Service Learning Committee (SLC):**
 - The committee was established to oversee the organization of service learning activities, coordinate with NGOs, and ensure that students receive meaningful experiences.
2. **Partnerships with NGOs:**
 - The institution partnered with a variety of NGOs working in diverse areas such as education, healthcare, environmental conservation, and rural development. These partnerships enabled students to choose from a wide range of service learning opportunities.
3. **Structured Program Design:**
 - Students are assigned to NGOs based on their field of interest or academic specialization. The program is designed to ensure that students contribute to the NGOs' ongoing projects, which are aligned with the institution's educational objectives.
4. **Experiential Learning Activities:**

- Students participate in activities such as conducting surveys, teaching children in rural areas, organizing health camps, and assisting with environmental conservation projects. These experiences allow students to apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings, gaining firsthand insights into societal issues.
- 5. **Reflection and Integration with Academic Learning:**
 - After completing their service learning hours, students reflect on their experiences through structured debriefing sessions, group discussions, and reports. This helps integrate their service learning with academic learning and encourages critical thinking about social impact.
- 6. **Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation:**
 - The Service Learning Committee monitors the progress of each student's participation, ensuring that the activities align with their learning goals. Regular feedback from NGOs and faculty members helps assess the effectiveness of the program.

Obstacles Faced and Strategies Adopted to Overcome Them:

1. **Challenge:** Limited Awareness of NGOs' Needs
 - **Strategy:** The committee conducted detailed research to identify NGOs whose projects align with the students' areas of study and ensured that the students' skill sets matched the NGOs' requirements.
2. **Challenge:** Scheduling Conflicts with Academic Timetable
 - **Strategy:** The committee worked closely with faculty members to integrate service learning activities into the academic calendar, ensuring that students could balance their academic and service learning commitments effectively.
3. **Challenge:** Student Engagement and Participation
 - **Strategy:** Awareness campaigns, motivational talks, and success stories of past participants were shared to encourage student participation. Additionally, the committee offered incentives, such as certificates, for active involvement.
4. **Challenge:** Logistical Challenges in Reaching Remote Locations
 - **Strategy:** Transportation arrangements and partnerships with local NGOs helped overcome geographical barriers, ensuring that students could easily access the locations where the service learning activities took place.

Impact of the Practice:

1. **Social Responsibility and Empathy:**
 - Students developed a deeper understanding of societal issues and gained a sense of responsibility towards helping others, becoming more empathetic and compassionate individuals.
2. **Real-World Application of Academic Learning:**
 - The program enhanced students' ability to apply their academic knowledge in practical settings, bridging the gap between theory and practice.
3. **Skill Development:**

- Students honed various skills, including leadership, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, through hands-on experiences with NGOs.
- 4. **Positive Societal Impact:**
 - Students contributed to meaningful projects that benefited underserved communities, such as teaching children, improving healthcare access, and assisting in environmental preservation efforts.
- 5. **Strengthened Relationship with NGOs:**
 - The initiative helped foster long-term partnerships between the institution and NGOs, creating opportunities for future collaborations and internships for students.
- 6. **Increased Student Engagement and Satisfaction:**
 - Students reported higher levels of satisfaction with their academic experience, citing service learning as an enriching and transformative part of their education.

Resources Required:

1. **Human Resources:**
 - Faculty members to supervise and guide students throughout their service learning experience. Members of the Service Learning Committee to manage logistics, partnerships, and student engagement.
2. **NGO Partnerships:**
 - Collaborations with NGOs that have ongoing, meaningful projects in which students can actively participate.
3. **Transport and Logistics:**
 - Budget for transportation, accommodation (if needed), and other logistical support for students traveling to NGO sites.
4. **Training and Development:**
 - Workshops and seminars for students to prepare them for their service learning experience, covering topics such as community engagement, social responsibility, and ethical conduct.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation Tools:**
 - Tools for tracking student participation, performance, and feedback, ensuring the program's goals are met and evaluating the overall impact.

The Service Learning Committee has proven to be a successful initiative that enhances students' academic experiences while fostering a sense of social responsibility. By integrating service learning with academics, the institution not only prepares students for professional success but also nurtures future leaders who are committed to making a positive impact on society.



SAMPRADAANA - Blood Donation drive going on, Students and faculty donating blood and felicitation to the Doctors

NGO Visit



Fig-1-The Karnataka Welfare Association for the Blind, Fig-2-Vatsalyapuram Seva Sansthan Fig-3 – Navajeevana



Fig-1-Vishwaneedam Trust



Fig-2 – Sri Mahalakshmi Old Age Home