ADOPTING SERVICE LEARNING IN UNIVERSITIES AROUND THE WORLD

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Overview of the paper

• What Service Learning is
• How it is consistent with the history of universities generally and U.S. universities in particular
• How Service Learning has developed in the U.S.
• Results of research on Service Learning
• Whether universities in other countries might adopt it as an educational method
A definition of Service Learning

Service performed by students, aimed at attending to a real need of the community and oriented to enhance the quality of academic learning
Characteristics of Service Learning

- Crosses all levels of schooling
- Is relevant to all academic and professional disciplines
- Is connected to a wide range of social issues
- Empowers students and educational institutions to become aware of and engaged in local communities
Common SL activities

• Middle school students clean up part of the city and then write essays about keeping the city clean or the importance of caring for the environment.

• High school students deliver meals to elderly or terminally ill people and then write essays on what life is like for people in different stages of life.
Graduate management students

• Work as consultants to NGOs, government agencies, or businesses improving a process and teaching process improvement methods
• Group projects are the “laboratory” part of the course
• The client is a second instructor
• Students observe additional organizations
A service experience should

- Be personally meaningful
- Be beneficial to the community
- Have clearly identified learning objectives
- Have student involvement in designing the service activity
- Integrate the service experience with the academic curriculum
History of universities

• Emerged in decentralized medieval society
• Were supported by city authorities and regional authorities because the development and dissemination of knowledge was seen as valuable
American universities

• Are said to engage in education, research, and service
• The Morrill Act in 1962 created land grant universities
• Universities did engineering and agricultural research and employed extension agents to be sure the results were used
Service Learning as a pedagogical method is new

• It arises when modern economies are becoming more knowledge intensive
• It is an effort to couple the knowledge creating activities of universities to the community
• Universities are helping to revitalize neighborhoods
Growth of Campus Compact Since 1985

Number of Members

Years


4 98 133 202 235 260 305 380 475 512 520 548 575 650 689 748 868 924 935 975
Service Learning

• An extension of a long-standing commitment in the U.S. to practical knowledge
• It provides a way of relating textbook assignments and classroom discussions to personal experiences
The nature of a liberal education

- Robert Hutchins, Mortimer Adler
- The works of the major thinkers would lead to a set of principles
- Won the debate in the 1930s and for 50 years

- John Dewey
- Do not separate intellectual study and practical study
- Apply knowledge to practical problems
- SL is a sign that Dewey has ultimately won
Current trends in pedagogy

• From an emphasis on teaching to learning
• From a focus on disciplines to problems
• From individual learning to collaborative learning
• Stating desired learning outcomes coupled with assessment of learning success
Issues in Research on SL

• Implementing SL in curricula
• Methods of implementation
• Establishment of collaboration with the community
• Benefits of SL for all parties (faculty, students, community and educational institution)
SL has a positive effect on

- Student personal development
- The ability to work well with others
- Sense of social responsibility
- A student’s academic learning
- An ability to apply what was learned
- Complexity of understanding, problem analysis, critical thinking
Colleges report SL has a positive effect on

- Stronger faculty relationships
- Student satisfaction with college
- Student retention
- The likelihood of graduation
- Good community relations
Stages in the development of service learning in the U.S.

• Students work in groups to complete a large assignment
• Students do group projects with clients in organizations
• The term “service learning” is invented and defined as a pedagogical method
• Books and articles on service learning begin to appear in the educational literature
• Articles on service learning begin to appear in discipline-oriented journals
The Evolution of Service-Learning Projects in the Field of Management

<table>
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<tr>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Other Countries</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Students</strong></td>
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<td>1. Students work together on academic projects</td>
<td>3. Students work via email with students overseas</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Students work on group projects with clients in U.S.</td>
<td>4. Students work via email with clients overseas</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Clients</strong></td>
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Two ways to transfer service learning to other countries

• Foreign faculty members learn about service learning and then use the method in their home universities

• U.S. students work with clients in other countries
Projects with foreign clients

• Somali Television: a journalistic code of ethics, examples of organizational structure, materials on process improvement
• Corruption in the hiring practices in the banking industry in Ukraine: legal advice on how to deal with corruption
Some obstacles to implementing service learning abroad (1)

- Low faculty salaries
- Students also need money
- Service Learning is not known or understood in many countries
- The curriculum limits what can be done
- The way courses are taught limits teaching methods
Some obstacles to implementing service learning abroad (2)

• Faculty have little time to experiment
• SL is sometimes confused with forced labor
• The curriculum (from the Ministry of Education) prescribes teaching methods
• The way courses are taught limits teaching methods (students decide to enroll at the end of the course)
Recommendations for removing the obstacles

• Adopt service as a mission in addition to education and research
• Offer training programs to explain SL
• Create incentives and rewards for faculty
• Create a positive image of faculty engaged in SL
• Modify the curriculum and requirements when necessary to enable SL
Conclusions

• Service learning can make an important contribution to the development of other countries
• SL is not widely practiced or even understood in some other countries
• SL is interpreted differently depending on the level of development of a country
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