International Service Learning as Academic Social Responsibility: An analysis of value-assets and engagement-needs of DePaul University’s international service learning practices

Marco Tavanti, *DePaul University*
Marisol Morales, *DePaul University*
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Marco Tavanti, Marisol Morales, Daniel Pasquini–Salasar

What is International Service Learning (ISL)?

“International service–learning (ISL) combines academic instruction and community–based service in an international context. Objectives of linking international travel, education, and community service include increasing participants’ global awareness, building intercultural understanding, and enhancing civic mindedness and skills”. – Crabtree, 2008

“ISL refers to a variety of experiences common in U.S. higher education today: faculty/staff–led co–curricular “mission” and service trips, academic courses with international immersion that include service experiences, study abroad programs with service components, and international programs with formal service–learning curricula” – Crabtree, 2008
International Service Learning at DePaul is a course-based form of experiential education, organized by the Steans Center and linked to a Study Abroad program where students are exposed to the various levels of the society in which they are immersed by assisting in the local responses to social issues by engaging in service projects with community partners. Students are supported in this international service experience by the University, local community partners and institutions in the host country through intentional partnership development that is mutually beneficial and situated within the context of DePaul’s Vincentian mission and linked solidly to social Justice.
The Steans Center for Community–based Service Learning provides educational opportunities grounded in Vincentian community values to DePaul students. The Center seeks to develop mutually beneficial, reciprocal relationships with community organizations in order to develop a sense of social agency in our students through enrollment in CbSL courses, community internships and placements, and community–based student employment.
Case Study: Puerto Rico

- Transnationalism: The Connection between Puerto Rico & Puerto Rican Chicago
Course Design

- History
- Challenges & Opportunities
- Impact
Mérida, Mexico is the state capital of the Yucatán, located in southeastern Mexico. DePaul University has had a program in Merida for over 21 years, but began its service learning program there in 2004.
Community Partners

Marista University

- Marista’s model for engagement is Ver–Juzgar–Actuar (See, Analyze, Act)
- Worked with local government to bring in resources such as a community center, water, electricity, roads, and transportation into the area

Emiliano Zapata Sur

- Created almost 15 years ago as a direct result of globalization
- High rates of poverty: Out of every 100 families, 85% earn $9–50 per week
- 800 families, 85% Mayan
- Only recently incorporated into the city of Merida
CSS 395: Community Internship

- Bilingual (Spanish/English) course
- Organized as a hybrid course where students engage in 100 hours paid internship in the community of Emiliano Zapata Sur II
- Focus is on globalization and its effects on real people
- Created on a Freiren foundation of critical pedagogy and the concept of “consientisation”
- Learning goals and objectives based on an Asset Based Community Development model
- Students co-design projects with Marista
THE MANILA PROGRAM

http://manilaprogram.blogspot.com/
MANILA PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- **URBAN POVERTY RESEARCH**: To continue support of the ongoing efforts that Adamson University and the Vincentian Center for Social Responsibility have in relocation, settlement and livelihood improvements initiatives for North-Ville and South-Ville communities (formerly informal settlers) on the outskirts of Metro Manila.

- **SERVICE LEARNING CAPACITY**: To offer consulting assistance and technical training for the service learning initiatives and capacity building at Adamson University. This effort is sponsored by Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider and carried on by the Steans Center of DePaul University.

- **URBAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**: To recognize challenges and opportunities for sustainable urban development. Rediscovering the values and vision of inclusive and functional urban planning as exemplified by the 1909 Daniel H. Burnham’s Plan of Chicago, and also the 1905 Plan of Manila.
Pedagogy & Methods

Teamwork: DEPAUL & ADAMSON VINCENTIAN CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & COMMUNITY

Urban Poverty Service: INTERCULTURAL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPANIMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DEVELOPMENT OF GLOBAL & SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE LEADERS

Participatory Research: APPRECIATIVE COLLABORATIVE SYSTEMIC CHANGE

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Pedagogical Journey of the Manila Program

PHASE 1: DISCOVER
Understanding the Manila research development context

Prep–classes
Readings
Monday and Tuesday

PHASE 2: DISCERNMENT
Analyzing the poverty, assets, partnerships and sustainability of the programs

Immersion week

PHASE 3: DESIGN FOR ACTION
Developing a feasible, adapted and sustainable research design benefiting VCSR and the communities

Post–program sessions
The Manila Program is about urban poverty research...

1. Learning about global inequalities
2. Urban community development
3. Research as action and participation
4. Assessments for social change and capacity building
Metro Manila:

- Northville, Bulacan
- Adamson University
- Southville, Laguna

Urban poverty reduction & urban sustainable development
The Adamson – DePaul Collaboration
Click to watch images on the life of children among informal settlers in Metro Manila
The dimensions of academic social responsibility (ASR)

(i) VALUE EDUCATION for accessible quality education

(ii) ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP for service-learning and action research

(iii) INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT for adequate support

(iv) PARTNERSHIP PARTICIPATION for capacity building
Lessons on the ISL programs

1. Beyond academic tourism
2. (International) community development
3. Long term impact through institutional partnerships
4. International academic social responsibility
The Living Vincentian Heritage... worldwide
Thank you!
Maraming salamat po!