



II UNISERVITATE Global Symposium

Service-Learning, Integral Education
and Transformative Spirituality

October 28 and 29, 2021

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II Uniservitate Global Symposium

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6. THE VOICE OF YOUTH

Africa

What personal, professional and/or academic learning did you gain from being part of a service-learning project?

Samuel Roba Huka – Tangaza University College - Kenya

The teacher in me makes me pass on what I learn in the classroom to the outside world by planting trees and empowering our society to help the neediest and poorest.

James Rogoncho - Tangaza University College - Kenya

I have interacted with many of our students and those who participated in our service learning projects. It is a form of passion for growth and interaction and a way to expand what I do on a daily basis.

Jane Mukambi Irungu – Tangaza University College - Kenya

I must admit that, through the service-learning projects, I have gained project management skills, which is part of my leadership and management classes, as well as of my work as a financial analyst.

What changes did you experience or discover in yourself, your study group, your link to the community, after participating in a service-learning project?

Michael Timonah – Tangaza University College - Kenya

Participating and performing in service-learning has taught me, as an individual, to work as a team. As a class, we work in small discussion groups, but in service-learning we work as one group, as a team, to achieve a specific desired goal.

Samuel Roba Huka – Tangaza University College - Kenya

I learned to interact with other people in many projects and to work with others in order to make our society a better place.

James Rogoncho - Tangaza University College - Kenya

Engaging in service-learning to the fullest was not easy at first. But over time, I learned to enjoy those activities, and it meant a big change for me.

What does service-learning mean to you?

Jane Mukambi Irungu – Tangaza University College - Kenya

Service-learning, to me, is a learning and teaching strategy integrated through community service.

Michael Timonah – Tangaza University College - Kenya

To take what I learned in the classroom, what I learned at home and be able to apply and update it for society.

Latin America and the Caribbean

What personal, professional and/or academic learning did you gain from being part of a service-learning project?

Pilar Castellani – Catholic University of Argentina - Argentina

We had to learn how to communicate concepts that we had seen throughout our entire course of studies, that is, for almost four years. We had to explain them in a series of meetings, so that they could be acquired by other people in a simple and easy way, allowing those people to benefit from this as well. Because, at the end of the day, the idea was that we could all benefit from it.

Diego Monsalva Ortiz – Pontifical Xaverian University – Colombia

That learning of “how can I—as an engineer, from my area—contribute to the improvement of the social aspect in some way?”

Almendra Aguilera – Pontifical Catholic University of Chile – Chile

The importance that my discipline can have within communities. The connection with service-learning allowed me to recognize that my field has an impact on real people, and I think that is a very important learning for the future and for my professional career.

The importance that my discipline can have within communities. The connection with service-learning allowed me to recognize that my field has an impact on real people, and I think that is a very important learning for the future and for my professional career.

What changes did you experience or find in yourself, your study group, your attachment to the community, after participating in a service-learning project?

Agustín Vivino – Catholic University of Argentina – Argentina

What is most relevant is having developed an attitude of collaboration, because—necessarily—when one carries out all the instances of the process, one has to agree on how to elaborate them, distribute the tasks, among many other issues which are part of the development of an integrative work such as this one.

Francisca del Valle – Pontifical Catholic University of Chile – Chile

The most significant change I discovered in myself is the possibility that we have to face unforeseen events, and still be responsible and comply with whatever you have to comply with. For the same reason, it is something in real life that one must be able to do and not disappoint other people. Because it is not a commitment like handing in a paper, an essay or something of the sort. It goes beyond that and has real effects on the person.

Abril Género – Catholic University of Argentina – Argentina

On a personal note, the most important thing was to realize how satisfying it is to be able to use one's knowledge, or what one has learned, to help someone else.

What does service-learning mean to you?

Pilar Castellani – Catholic University of Argentina – Argentina

It means a win-win process, both for the Organization and for the University.

Ana María Olmos García – Pontifical Xaverian University – Colombia

Putting into practice the knowledge I gained at the university.

Paloma Lucas – UNICAP – Brazil

Showing that, with effort and love, no one can get away with it. "Knowledge" is what sets the heart on fire. Giving knowledge is also receiving it. Learning and service are not disassociated.

Almendra Aguilera – Pontifical Catholic University of Chile – Chile

Even though we spend most of our time on campus, in the classroom or on Zoom sessions, there is a world out there and we should be focused on supporting it.

Asia and Oceania

What personal, professional and/or academic learning did you gain from being part of a service-learning project?

Blossom Hazarika – ASSAM Don Bosco University - India

This program enhanced my compassion, empathy, teamwork and understanding in the classroom.

What changes did you experience or find in yourself, your study group, your link to the community after participating in a service-learning project?

Blossom Hazarika – ASSAM Don Bosco University - India

Service-learning helped me to look at my learning as a student in a way that can be useful to society. It opened paths for me to explore, research and learn more about the problems of the people in my community and take initiatives to help them.

What does service-learning mean to you?

Ms. Teemee Lapuz – De La Salle University - Philippines

It is the cornerstone for building a better community. And experiencing distance service-learning has shown me that social connections and helping others have no boundaries. Students like me not only learn from books or presentations, but also apply this learning to address our social problems.

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Southern Western Europe

What personal, professional and/or academic learning did you gain from being part of a service-learning project?

Jon Ortega – Deusto University– Spain

Personally, I acquired certain knowledge related to immigration law, refugee status and other branches of law.

Nerea Olarte – Deusto University– Spain

I discovered that I can combine my professional life with the social concerns I have always had. It helped me realize that there is a path I need to discover. And that, also, in order to have a complete vision of the problems we currently have in our society, it is necessary to look at them from a multidisciplinary point of view and consider other fields of study. In this case, not only International Relations.

What changes did you experience or discover in yourself, your study group, your link to the community, after participating in a service-learning project?

Jon Ortega – Deusto University– Spain

I put faces, names and surnames to all these people, to this reality that is much closer than we think. And then, of course, I also reflected on the privileges we have and the inequalities that exist, even in Europe.

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Nerea Olarte – Deusto University – Spain

The issue of innovation is something that has always been of concern to me, especially in my field of study, International Relations. It is true that after having become more personally involved, it has become a topic that I can no longer ignore in my day-to-day life and that also engages me as a citizen. The truth is that, after this experience, I know that I can be much more active in my city, and be part of the changes we want to achieve. I think that, besides the issue of relationships, it has been a turning point to be more engaged at a social level, in all senses, more widely.

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identifying attitudes marked by the acquisition of specialized, multidisciplinary and also effective social techniques. It is undoubtedly a very rewarding experience and one that any professional should have the opportunity to live.

Jon Ortega – Deusto University– Spain

In service-learning I discovered the social need thanks to what I learned at the university. For example, the need to learn more and reflect on this process.

Nerea Olarte – Deusto University – Spain

It means putting into practice the values I believe in and which have been instilled in me throughout my life. It also implies applying what I have learned, especially during my university years. So, it was a good first opportunity to—once graduated—realize that everything I had learned at university had practical significance. At the same time, it was an experience that equipped me with competencies that I can apply in my professional life, such as, for example, teamwork or communication skills.

What does service-learning mean to you?

Cláudia Lourinho – Catholic University of Portugal – Portugal

This service-learning takes place in a university setting and has as its main objective the provision of health care with a technical, scientific and humanitarian perspective. I was able to interact with people and professionals, thus demystifying certain less positive beliefs. In addition to enhancing service and

Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East

What personal, professional and/or academic learning did you gain from being part of a service-learning project?

Yustyna Boyars'ka – Catholic University of Ukraine

I realized that it is imperative because the war in eastern Ukraine has been going on for more than six years. Unfortunately, we are all tired of this war, but our defenders need us. I understood that this project is one of the opportunities to help them. I am thrilled to be a part of it and to continue working on this issue while preparing my course work.

Aleksandra Witkowska – The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) - Poland

Through action, I gained experience in establishing contact with other people. I took advantage of the knowledge acquired at university to help those in need.

What changes did you experience or discover in yourself, your study group, your link to the community, after participating in a service-learning project?

Alejandro Carreno – Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt – Germany

Even if they are not the most productive in terms of project objectives, it is vital to recognize what others have to say, because there is always more to it. And, eventually, it makes for a harmonious and productive collaboration. This is something I have learned both in my professional and private life. To face others without prejudice, especially when it comes to people who put forward views that are very different from my own, to know where they come from and to understand the individual behind the opinion. So, I would say that I have learned to be more empathetic.

What does service-learning mean to you?

Tomasz Bojarski – The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) - Poland

For me, service-learning means developing those social skills that would otherwise not be addressed in an academic environment.

For me, service-learning means developing those social skills that would otherwise not be addressed in an academic environment.

Aleksandra Witkowska – The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) - Poland

Service-learning allows us to help others while we are at university. What we learn in class is really beneficial, necessary and meaningful. It is worthwhile to participate in this kind of actions to achieve personal growth, but also, to help those in need.

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In support of the Global Compact on Education

Uniservitate is a global programme for the promotion of service-learning in Catholic Higher Education. It aims to generate a systemic change in Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs), through the institutionalisation of service-learning (SL) as a tool to achieve its mission of an integral education and formation of agents of change committed to their community.

“Only by changing education can we change the world”

Pope Francis

6 II Uniservitate Global Symposium

This publication brings together the proceedings of the II Uniservitate Global Symposium, held on October 28 and 29, 2021, in virtual modality together with Catholic University of Portugal. The texts respect the order of the presentations made during both days, and have been minimally edited to facilitate their reading. Featuring contributions from 30 prominent figures in the global service-learning arena, these presentations offer perspectives and reflections that reveal a multicultural and multifaceted approach, showcasing the potentiality of service-learning to bring about experiences of transformative spirituality that drive social change. This publication additionally includes 116 accepted abstracts and full papers, submitted by 257 authors from 5 continents, 24 countries and 57 institutions, spanning the three thematic areas discussed during the event. We encourage readers to enjoy, use and disseminate the contents of these proceedings and of the Uniservitate collection as a whole, in order to keep on strengthening and consolidating the achievement of an integral education that provides experiences of transformative spirituality for social change.

UNISERVITATE COLLECTION

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