

Proposal for a [Paper Presentation / Panel Presentation / Poster Presentation]

Tabujara, Dexter

Balayan Social Development Center, University of St. La Salle, Philippines
d.tabujara@usls.edu.ph

Abstract: University of St. La Salle CSLP: Responding to Local, National and Global Issues through Multi-disciplinary Service Learning

USLS as a Learning Institution in Service Learning

The University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental, Philippines, is an academic and Catholic institution owned by the Brothers of the Christian School and managed by them, together with their lay partners. It is inspired and guided by the charism of its founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle. The university has defined its three Lasallian Graduate Attributes which are being developed in the students while at school and these are critical thinking, effective communicator and socially responsible Christians. The service learning engagement of the university is geared towards especially developing socially responsible Christian Lasallians as it continues to make its educational offering and academic experiences socially relevant. The academic programs then are encouraged to have service learning as a pedagogy of teaching to provide a unique and meaningful journey for the students throughout the course which includes community engagements.

The University of St. La Salle has years of experience in managing service learning program. Even before this by-word caught fire among universities and colleges, the terminology used was “curriculum integration” where community engagement/service was made a part of the course which was then referred to as subject. Several classes from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Education used to have community immersion and service. Until, service learning was introduced to the university in the early 2000 by partners of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. In 2004, the Mass Communication Department started to integrate Service Learning into some of its subjects. Since then, it has evolved and more faculty and departments have been into Service Learning. A group of pilot faculty implementers were formed for support and learning exchange. As the faculty also went into reflection process, they were challenged to level up their service learning practice and create an impact for students and community partners. Thus initially in 2012, the faculty from Political Science Department started a collaboration through combining service learning classes for one community, the Gender and Law class and Political Parties and Civil Society. This started the collaboration of classes in their service learning engagements.

De La Salle Philippines Development Agenda

The De La Salle Philippines Lasallian-Justice and Peace Commission (DLSP-LJPC) has agreed on four development agenda which would provide as guide and focus on the thematic issues that various La Salle schools can work on for their advocacy and development initiatives. The following are the development agenda: Good Governance, Poverty Reduction, Youth at risk and Environment/DRRM. But, other issues can be addressed as well such as health depending on the needs of the community partners.

Sustainable Development Goals

Aware of the issues affecting not just of the country but of the world, the university is also cognizant of the Sustainable Development Goals which the United Nations agreed and propose to achieve by 2030. Specifically, the University, through its various initiatives would like to contribute in the following: Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 2: Zero Hunger and Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being.

LGU Partnership for Good Governance and other Development Agenda

The Local Government Code of the Philippines gives democratic space for civil society organizations including Academe, NGOs and People's Organizations to participate in governance. Civil society organizations play an important role in development starting at the smallest political unit, which is the Barangay. Public-Private Partnership is a step toward achieving greater impact in our communities.

The University of St. La Salle inked a Memorandum of Agreement with eight barangays in Bacolod City to formalize its partnership. The MOA allows for focused collaboration between the local government units and the university in various development issues and concerns that the communities seek to address. Community engagements of the University which includes its Service Learning program have been implemented with these local government units to a large extent.

Sustained Multi-Disiplinary Service Learning Engagement at Purok Bayanihan, Brgy. Villamonte

With the full implementation of Service learning in 2012, the Balayan Social Development Center looked for communities and institutions that were open for partnership with the University of St. La Salle Service Learning program. One of the recommended sites is the Day Care Center and the community in Purok Bayanihan, Brgy. Villamonte, which is also one of the partner barangays of the university.

The first class which engaged in the community was the Community Health and the Environment class of the Biology Department. Since then, with the heightened cooperation and active cooperation of parents and residents of the purok, more biology classes continued to provide their services in the community. This connects with the SDG # 7 which is on Good Health and Well Being.

Other departments also provided their services in the community through the Services Marketing classes under the Marketing Department which conducted various livelihood trainings like haircut, manicure, pedicure, training on the creation and production of wallets and belts. The marketing classes created livelihood opportunities for the members of the community. This connects with the DLSP thematic program for poverty reduction and SDG #1 which is No Poverty and SDG #2 which is zero hunger. The Hospitality Management class also joined in serving the community through its Domestic Housekeeping course. The students gave lectures on how to take care of their household to make it cleaner and more organized. The students did this through household demonstration with household members. This engagement connects with SDG #3 which is on good health and well-being.

During the first semester of this academic year, the Development Communication class was also engaged in the community. They were able to organize various sectors in the community such as the senior citizens or the elderly, youth, mothers and others. They also created programs and advocacies for the various sectors through tri-media which are print, radio and social media. One activity that was conducted by one group was the 4 o'clock habit where a community clean up every 4 o'clock in the afternoon was initiated. The students and community partners worked together for this activity.

Recently, the nursing class also engaged the community under their health education course. The engagement involves health profiling, taking of vital signs and weight.

Both engagements are connected to SDG #3 which is on good health and well-being.

Other Multi-Disciplinary Service Learning in Other Communities

There are also multi-disciplinary service learning in other communities but the engagements in the community mentioned are considered to be the most innovative and engaging especially with the participation of the faculty, students and community/institutional partners. The University also has an ongoing partnership with the Gawad Kalinga Lopue Legacy Village in Bago City which is supervised directly by the Balayan Social Development Center. This is the convergence site of all the colleges and units of the University. This engagement is more sustained through its community organizing and community development efforts. Another engagement is with Gawad Kalinga Village in Banago, Bacolod City. The latter is host to many service learning activities of various classes.

Future Directions of USLS Service Learning

The direction which the University would like to pursue is the strengthening of the integration of research in its service learning practice. Service learning will be conducted in areas where research has been done or vice versa so that the data can be optimized and can aid service learning classes and community partners towards a more purposive and scientific interventions to the issues and concerns of community partners.

Biographical sketch of each presenter

Please send the biographical sketch of the presenters together with the proposal using the following format:

Presenter:

- i. Tabujara, Dexter
- ii. Senior Administrative Assistant for Service Learning, Balayan Social Development Center, University of St. La Salle, Philippines
- iii. Mr. Dexter M. Tabujara, MBA is currently one of the Senior Administrative Assistants for Service Learning at the Balayan Social Development Center of the University of St. La Salle, Bacolod City, Philippines. He was one of the presenters during the 5th Asia Pacific Service Learning Conference in Fu Jen University in Taiwan in 2015. He presented and attended various national, regional and local conferences on Service Learning in the Philippines

Email: d.tabujara@usls.edu.ph

Website: None

Address: Balayan Social Development Center

University of St. La Salle

6100 Bacolod City, Philippines