

Enhancing students' graduate attributes through a general education service leadership course

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The Hong Kong Baptist University emphasizes Whole Person Education, to nurture our students and develop them as whole persons, which is manifested in attainment of generic capabilities of graduate attributes (GA) namely citizenship, knowledge, learning, skills, creativity, communication and teamwork. In the past two years, we have developed and run a General Education course on service leadership, namely 'Paths to Service Leadership in Health Services', as we believe service learning is an important teaching and learning model to cultivate Gas in our students. Through serving the elderly in the community, students could have an opportunity to actualize what they learn concerning the ethos of service and leadership from lectures. In the Service Leadership course, the students were able to serve the elderly from different community centres on two occasions, in which the first one focused on health and the second one on care. The students need to understand the needs of the elderly, applied massage and tui-na in the first service, then planned and provided activities deemed beneficial in the second service. Afterwards students had to share their experiences through a group presentation and also submitted an individual report reflecting on the impact the services had on themselves and the elderly. Direct and indirect evidence was collected from the students in the first and last week of the course in a questionnaire-based survey adapted from Beach and Cox (2009), focus groups and reports based on reflection of students on the services. Our results indicate that the service learning model had tremendous impact on our students, in which there are significant changes in the GA such as citizenship, teamwork, communication skills in our students before and after the course. This presentation will detail how the course was designed and run, and the results demonstrating the impact service learning on the whole person development of our students, particularly in subcategories of GA including social responsibility, ethical reasoning, teamwork and health awareness.