4th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service-learning
Service-learning as a bridge from local to global:
Connected world, connected future

Colours of Dementia

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Dementia and Ageing

~ 24 million people living with dementia worldwide (Label, 2013)

In Hong Kong

~ 103,433 (2009)
~ 332,688 (2039) increased by 222% (Yu et.al, 2012)
Coping with Dementia and Ageing

promote active ageing
maintain a healthy brain

Measures in preparing society to accept and care for the elderly

Colleges students are the future leaders
Service-learning
Service-learning

“A competency-based service learning is a credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in mutually identified service activities that benefit the community”.

(Bringle and Clayton 2012, pp. 114-115)
Service-learning

credit-bearing
specific knowledge (rectification, application)
identified needs in community
unconventional learning environment
unexpected intellectual and emotional challenges
learning experience – unique and personal benefits all parties involved
An integrated Service-learning Research Scheme

Art and Well Being –

Subject knowledge: the intrinsic nature of art
- Art as a language
- Art for expression and communication
Art and Dementia

- Art making relies on senses that transcend cognitive and intellectual limitations.
- Emotional memory and cognitive memory.
- Heightened visual perception and deprived cognition.

Clinical findings

- Creative ability remains in dementia.
- Images produced are revelation of memory and imagination.
- Visualization of thoughts and feelings.
- Recognized by relatives, appreciated by carers.
- A connection between the dementia and others.
- Individuality and personhood.
梵高婆婆
四季颂
Hung Tung
The old man painter
Taiwan
Memories in the making
Alzheimer’s Association
Art Companion in Alzheimer
Colours of Dementia

Colours refers to the images produced

- traces of the individuality

- a non-verbal channel that connects the world of dementia when words and language are increasingly failing to communicate
Objectives

- encourage **behavioural activation** in persons with early dementia through artistic creativity;
- improve the **quality of life** of persons with early dementia through the joy and fun of art making;
- forge a **better alliance** between persons with early dementia and their relatives and carers through recognition of the images created;
- enhance the **students’ understanding of dementia**;
- promote **communication and connection** between the students and the elderly;
- improve the **students’ social awareness** of the social issues related to ageing;
- promote the **students’ sense of civic engagement** and social commitment.
**Intended learning Outcomes**

For the *dementia*, they will gain:
- **joyful experiences** of art making; and
- a **better expression** of their feelings and thoughts through creativity.

For the *relatives and carers*, they will attain:
- a **better understanding** of the feelings and state of mind of the service clients;
- a **better connection** to the service clients through better knowledge (or rediscovery) of the dementia.
Intended learning Outcomes

For the students, they will achieve:

- the realisation of art as a language for expression and communication;
- an actualization of using art as facilitation to help people in need;
- a better understanding of dementia;
- a better connection to elderly people;
- a greater awareness of the social issues related to ageing;
- an experience of great satisfaction through teamwork;
- a greater flexibility and ability to solve problems.
Structure

Specific service group – NGOs, early dementia

Training and pre-service preparation
- 10 to 12 hours of art facilitation training by professional artists
- pre-site visit (concerns of space and constraints)
- basic research about dementia

Service sessions
The students are required to design, conduct, review, evaluate a series of 6 to 8 well structured creative workshops based on a clear theoretical framework and identified objectives.
Assessment

• pre- and post-service questionnaires designed by the Office of Service-Learning;

• well-documented session plans;

• students’ feedback and reflections gathered during two consultations with the faculty and staff of the Office of Service-Learning;

• a group report-back presentation;

• an individual reflective essay submitted at the end of the service.
Conclusion

Colours of Dementia

is to provides college students a personal and emotional experience with early dementia, and connects them to elderly people through joyful creativity.

• art connects
• service-learning engages
• a natural, unique learning experience outside classroom
“Education should foster students’ natural desire to give out, to do, to serve.”

(Dewey, 1990, p.15)
Thank You!