Elder Academy as a Service-Learning Platform to cultivate LifeLong Learning in Schools

Prof. Chan Cheung Ming, Alfred
Dr. Ma Hok Ka, Carol
Ms. Wong Lai Kuen, Stella
Agenda

- Elder Academy and Elder Academy at Lingnan
- Service-Learning
- Lifelong learning
- Projects with Platform of Elder Academy
  - Elder Academy and Lifelong learning
  - Elder Academy as service-learning platform for lifelong learning
- Learning Outcomes
- Conclusion
Elder Academy (EA)

- **What is Elder Academy?**
  - Model of university of third age, supported by the HKSAR which echo with the situation of aging society
  - In 2007, Labour and Welfare Bureau and Elderly Commission started EA over Hong Kong
  - 108 school-based Elder Academy
  - Stakeholders: School, NGOs, elderly, teachers and students

Website: www.ln.edu.hk/osl   Tel: 2616 8066   Fax: 2468 4807   Email: osl@ln.edu.hk
Why Elder Academy?

- Echo the needs of the community: Aging Population around 26% of population are elderly in 2033
- Promote active aging and lifelong learning
- Foster intergenerational communication solidarity
- Enhance students’ whole person development
- Enhance the learning and teaching mode
Elder Academy at Lingnan

Features:
- Lingnan “Through Train” Learning Model
- Extended Alumni Network
- Intergenerational Harmony Enhancement
Through Train Learning Model

- “Through Train” Learning model to provide different levels of learning opportunities

  - **Tertiary Level**: Sit-in programs, intergenerational summer camp, leadership training & advanced level of courses
  - **Secondary Level**: Computer, language courses and field trips etc
  - **Primary Level**: Interest classes & courses with basic knowledge
Extended Alumni Network

- Elder Academy: School + NGO(s)
- Elder Academy at Lingnan: Lingnan University, connected with 2 Primary and 2 Secondary Schools under Lingnan Education Organization
Elder Academy at Lingnan

- Lingnan Dr. Chung Wing Kwong Memorial Secondary School + 2 NGOs
- Lingnan Primary School + 2 NGOs
- Lingnan Hang Yee Memorial School + 1 NGO
- Lingnan University Alumni D.S.S. Primary School + 1 NGO
- Lingnan University Elder Academy: OSL + APIAS

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Intergenerational Harmony

- Link up with Service-Learning to promote Intergenerational Harmony as well as students’ values of serving the community
- Echoes with the University motto: Education for Service
- Platforms:
  - Service-Learning Projects in Elder Academy
  - Elder Academy as a platform for Other Learning Experiences (OLE) in Secondary School, a manual has been published in April 2010
What is Service–Learning?

- Service–Learning (S–L) refers to a pedagogy that combines academic study with community service.
- It is an “exchange of learning” in same level instead of “helping” with hierarchy.
Service–Learning

- Service–learning emphasize on the process of serving and learning.
- Learning includes both formal (lectures) and informal (experiential) learning as which fits in one of the characteristics of life long learning.
- Both parties (serving and to be served) would benefit through process of reflection and further serving.
Lifelong Learning

- A process of individual learning and development across the life-span, from early childhood to retirement – UNESCO Institute for Education (UIE)
- It orientates towards the “demand side” of education and training rather than the supply of place
- Correlated to day-to-day experience in the changing society
Characteristics of lifelong learners

- Learning to do: acquire and apply skills
- Learning to be: promote creativity and fulfillment
- Learning to know: flexible and critical learning
- Learning to live together: exercising tolerance, understanding and mutual respects
EA as a Platform of Lifelong Learning—Example 1

- Elder Academy Intergeneration Camp 2010
- Theme: Environmental Protection
- Number of participants:
  - Elderly: 123
  - Students: 40 (including university, secondary and primary schools students)
- Objectives of the camp:
  - Raise the awareness towards the environmental protection issue
  - Encourage intergenerational communication and harmony
Content:
- Sharing by Dr. Rebecca Lee & Mr. Lowell Lo
- Intergenerational project presentation
- Booth and funfair (organized by students and elderly)
- Field visits to related industries in Tuen Mun district
- Workshops and lessons (hosted by students) with world’s environmental protection policy with service-learning element
Feedbacks:
- Participants have learned concepts of environmental protection and positive impression towards each other.

Promotes lifelong learning through:
- Elderly Academy Council help organize the camp and participants learn according to the changing society and which is demand driven by users.
- Elderly and students learn in the same platform [(1) presentation; (2) workshops] promotes inter-generation harmony.
Lifelong Learning under Service-Learning model with EA platform

Step 1: Teaching: Knowledge & Skill (formal Learning)
Step 2: Serving
Step 3: Learning (informal learning)
Step 4: Feedback → new teaching method & content

Professor
Students
Other Elder Academies
Elder Academy

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Service–Learning on EA platform—Example 2

- **Course:** Leadership and Teamwork
- **Form of study:** Lectures + Service–Learning (out of classroom learning)
- **Service–Learning Program:** Elder Academy at Lingnan: Strive to be an Elder Leader
- **Course Outline:**
  - Leadership
  - Teamwork
  - Communication
  - Managing Conflict
  - Learning Skills
Lingnan Elder Academy Council

- Elderly in the Elder Academy at Lingnan
- Objectives:
  - To organize activities and plan the development of the Elder Academy
  - To promote the Elder Academy to the community and our 4 sister’s schools
Characteristics:

- Elderly, age 55 or above
- Different education levels / expectations / financial situations and career backgrounds
- Involved in different centers and voluntary work
- Enthusiastic and passionate about the work at EA Council, but with different skills, level of confidence and pace
S–L Program Objectives:
• To equip elderly with skills in handling the council’s work
• To help elderly in building a strong team
• To improve various type of skills, like communication skills, presentation skills and conflict resolution

Tasks:
• To organize and implement 3 to 4 sessions of workshops for the elderly
• To write proposals and report for the program
Students’ Project Plan

- Students plan for the lessons with knowledge from lectures → consult the elderly for their needs and level → adjustment on the plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Date &amp; Time</th>
<th>Teaching Model</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture 1</td>
<td>Management Skills</td>
<td>25/10/2010 10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Video+ Theory+ Discussion</td>
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<td>Lecture 2</td>
<td>Communication + Interviewing skills (Part 1)</td>
<td>1/11/2010 10:00-12:00</td>
<td>Game + Theory</td>
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<td>Interviewing Skills (Part 2) + Presentation skills</td>
<td>15/11/2010 09:00-12:00</td>
<td>Role Play + Theory</td>
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</tbody>
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Future Development of Service-Learning in Elder Academy

Step 1: Teaching: Knowledge & Skill (formal Learning)

Step 2: Serving—Help set up EA in the community

Step 3: Learning—through experiences

Step 4: Feedback

New teaching method & content

Step 4: Teaching & Learning (another cycle of S-L)

Set up of Elder Academies

Community & Students: set up EA in Schools

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Learning Outcomes (young-old generation) with Service-Learning Model

- **Adaptability**
  - Communication Skills
  - Social Competence

- **Brain Power**
  - Subject-related Knowledge
  - Organization Skills

- **Creativity**
  - Problem-solving skills
  - Research Skills

Outcomes of our Liberal Arts Graduates
**Conclusion**

- EA as a platform for Service-Learning as a learning model benefits both students and elderly.
- With Service-learning, both parities learn and are more curious which better achieve lifelong learning.
- Youngsters learn elder’s lifelong learning attitudes due to (1) enjoyable learning experiences; (2) increase of perceived self-competence.
Thank you