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Office of Service-Learning, Lingnan University



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

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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



► 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

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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



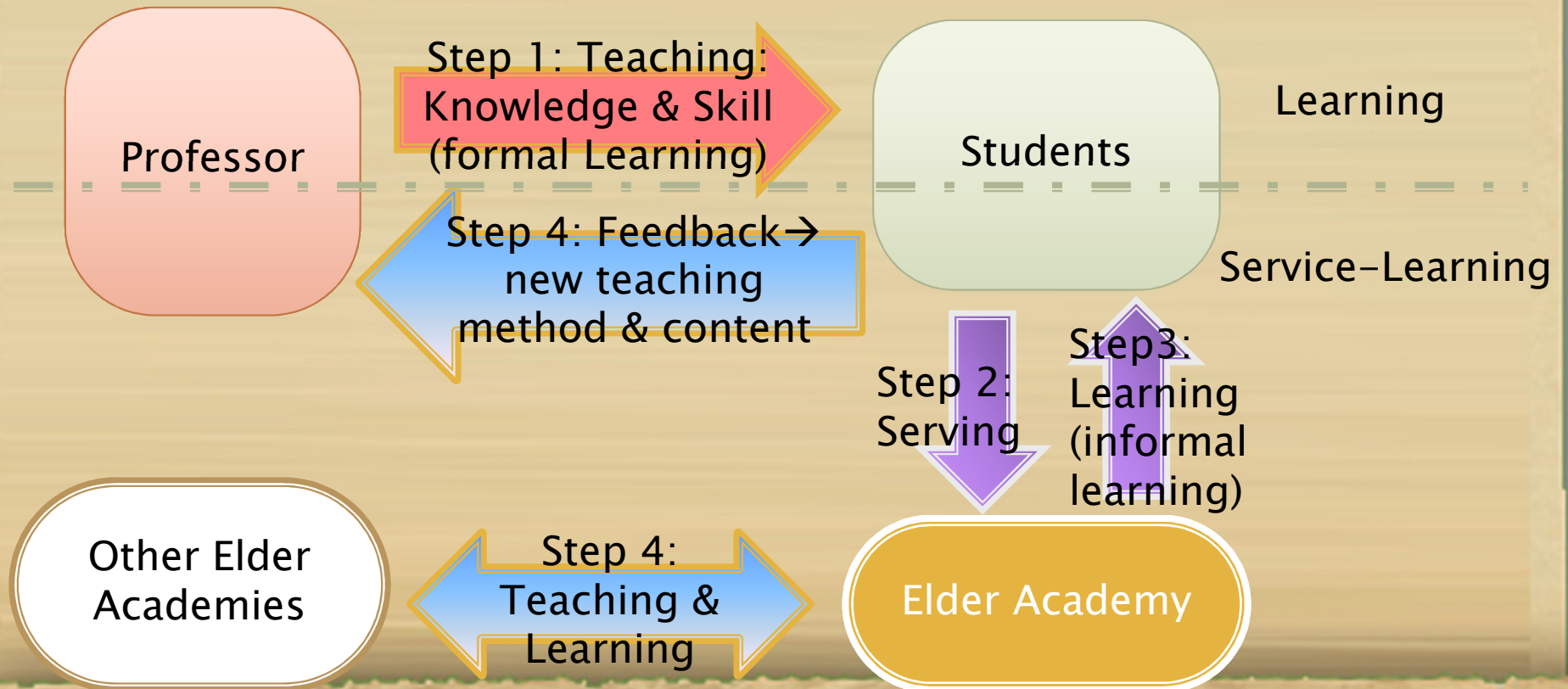
► **Feedbacks:**

- Participants have learned concepts of environmental protection and positive impression towards each others

► **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





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

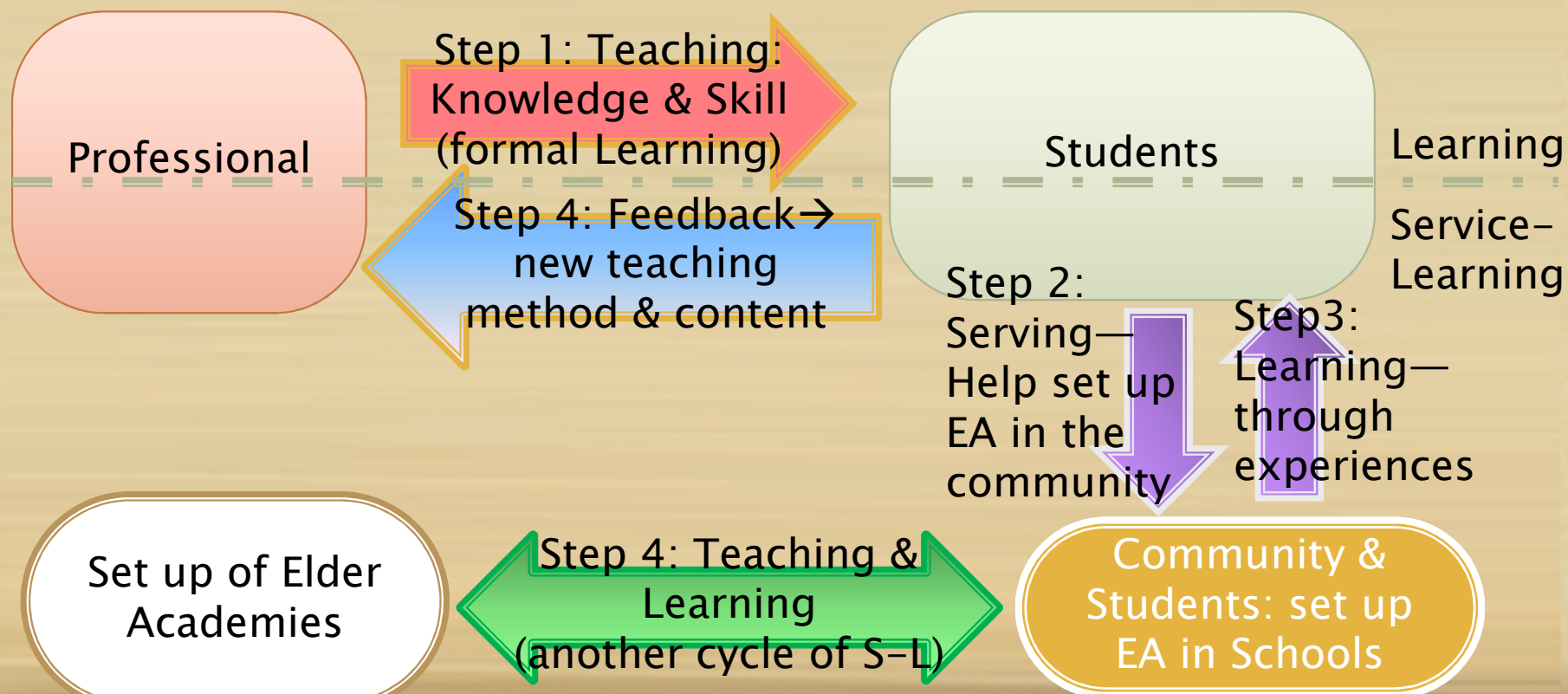


► Students' Project Plan

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

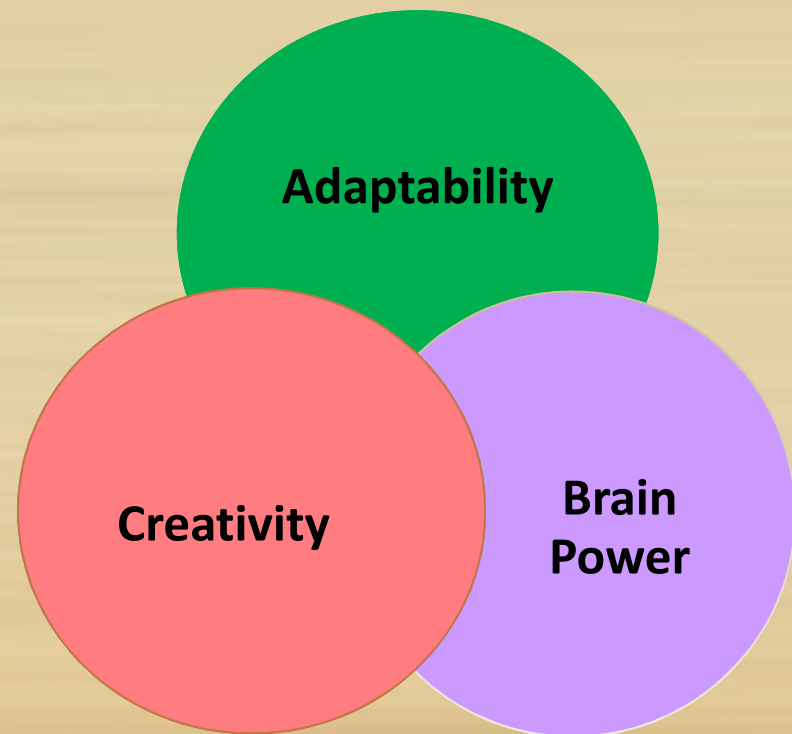
	Topics	Date & Time	Teaching Model
Lecture 1	Management Skills	25/10/2010 10:00-12:00	Video+ Theory+ Discussion
Lecture 2	Communication + Interviewing skills (Part 1)	1/11/2010 10:00-12:00	Game + Theory
Lecture 3	Interviewing Skills (Part 2) + Presentation skills	15/11/2010 09:00-12:00	Role Play + Theory

Future Development of Service-Learning in Elder Academy



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





Conclusion

- ▶ EA as a platform for Service-Learning as a learning model benefits both students and elderly
- ▶ With Service-learning, both parties 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

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► Thank you

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