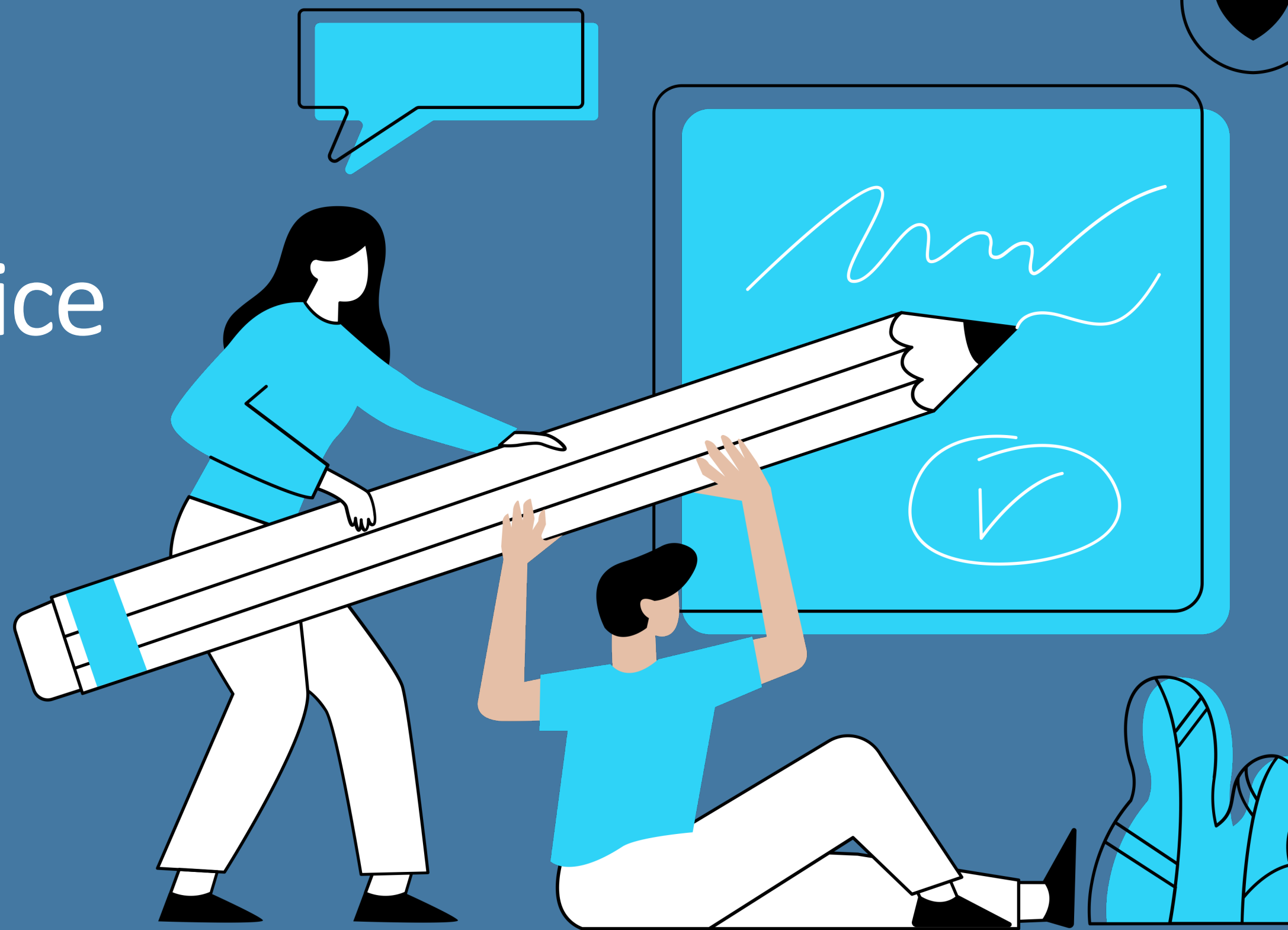


Module no. 1

Introduction to Service Learning





Content

1. Background
2. State of the Art & Advancements
3. Forms of service learning
4. Student development
5. Conclusions



Unit no. 1.1

Background

- Service learning - pedagogical approach

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- The origins of service learning

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- Service learning concept

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- Service learning opportunities

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Service learning - pedagogical approach

- Service learning is a **pedagogical approach** that integrates community service with academic learning, emphasizing experiential education, critical reflection, and reciprocal community partnerships.
- The transformation of service learning over the decades has been influenced by social and political movements, as well as educational trends and needs.





The origins of service learning

- One of the earliest proponents of service learning was **John Dewey**.
- Dewey's educational philosophy emphasized experiential learning, in which students learn by doing, and the integration of community service into the curriculum.
- Dewey believed that community service provided students with practical experiences that were relevant to their coursework, promoting civic engagement and fostering positive attitudes towards diverse populations.



John Dewey (born October 20, 1859, in Burlington, Vermont, USA; died June 1, 1952) was an American philosopher, psychologist, and educator.



Service-learning history

In the **1930s**, the National Youth Administration (NYA) promoted service learning to provide young people with practical experiences that would prepare them for successful careers and promote civic engagement.

In the **1960s**, service learning underwent a significant transformation, becoming more focused on social justice and community development.

In **1966**, the National Teacher Corps was established, which promoted service learning as a means of addressing social inequalities and promoting community development.



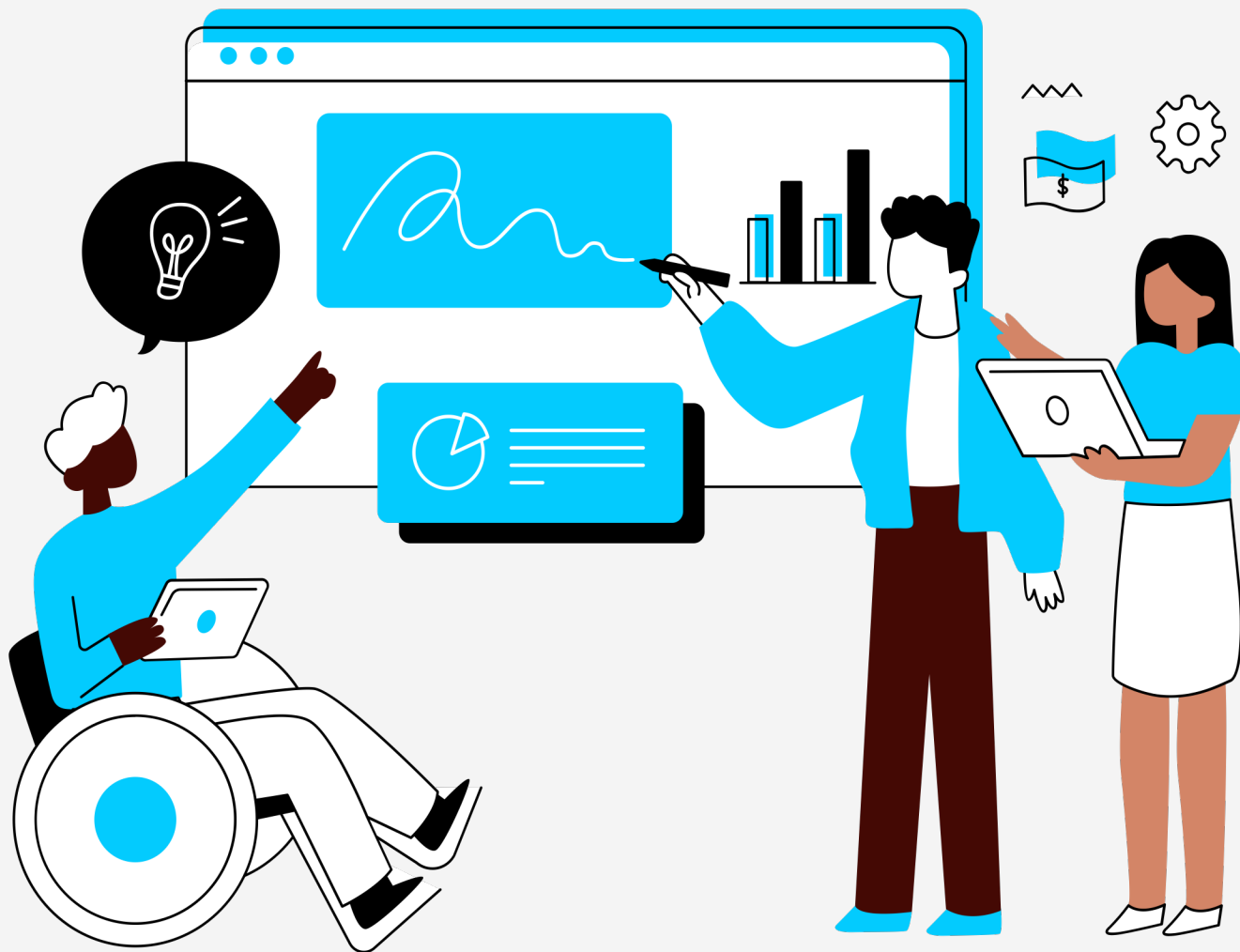
Service learning concept

The term "**service learning**" was coined in the 1960s by the American educator, **Robert Sigmon**, who defined service learning as

"a form of experiential education in which students engage in activities that address human and community needs together with structured opportunities intentionally designed to promote student learning and development."



Service learning opportunities



- **Since the 1990s, service learning has continued to evolve and expand**, with a growing emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches and the integration of technology.
- In recent years, service learning has also seen advancements in the use of technology, with the integration of online and hybrid courses, as well as virtual service learning opportunities.
- **In higher education, service learning is used to enhance students' academic experiences and to prepare them for successful careers by providing them with skills that are valuable in the workplace.** It is a valuable teaching approach that provides students with practical and real-world experiences that are relevant to their coursework.



Unit no. 1.2

State of the Art & Advancements

- advancement in service learning

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- the integration of research into service-learning projects

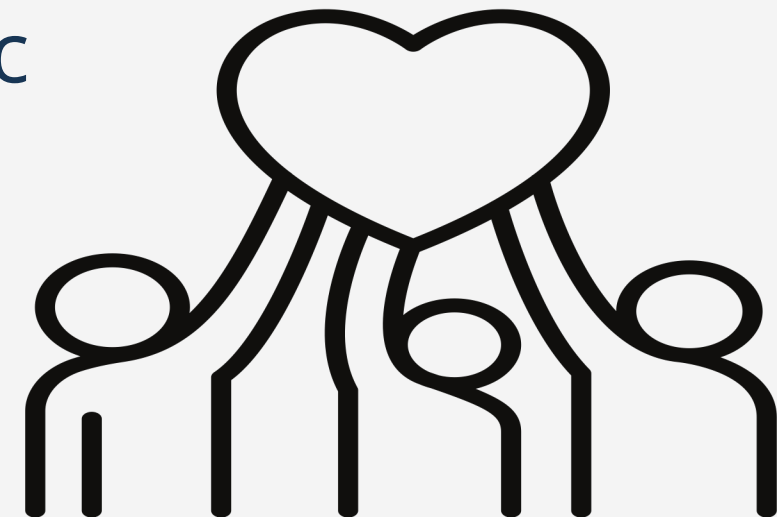
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State of the Art & Advancements

In recent years, service learning has seen several advancements that have made it even more effective and impactful.

- ✓ service learning had a significant positive effect on students' cognitive, affective, and behavioral outcomes
- ✓ service learning can enhance students' academic performance, augment their involvement in civic activities, and foster positive perceptions towards varied communities.
- ✓ service learning improved students' critical thinking skills and academic performance





The integration of research into service learning projects

- allowed for a more evidence-based approach to service learning and has helped to identify best practices.
- had a significant positive effect on students' sense of social responsibility, empathy, and citizenship.
- has seen advancements in the diversity of projects, which have traditionally focused on community service, such as working in food banks or volunteering at local organizations.





Unit no. 1.3

Forms of service learning

- Direct service learning

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- Indirect service learning

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- Advocacy service learning

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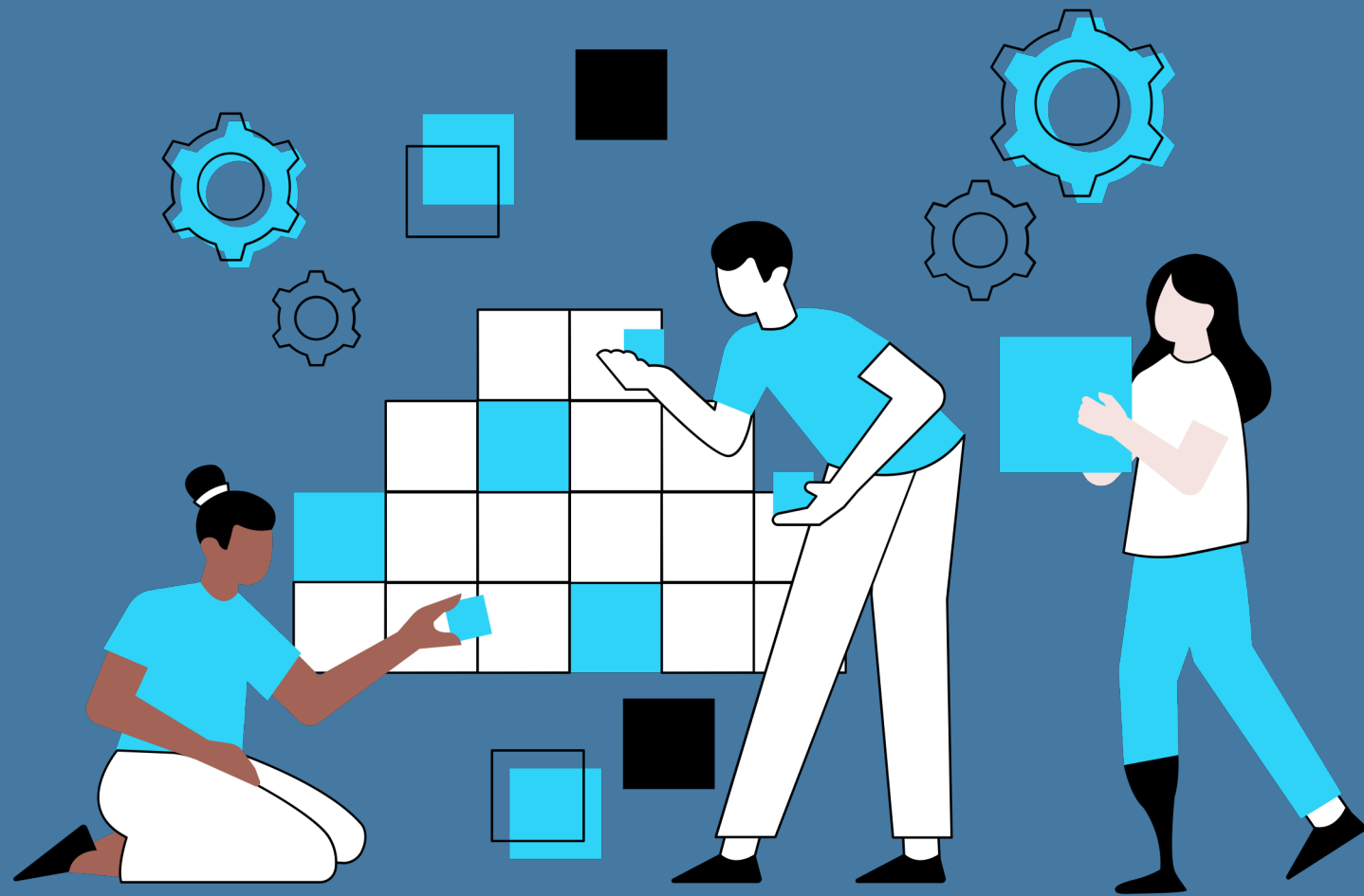
- Research-based service learning

.....

- International service learning



Direct service learning



- involve hands-on service projects that directly benefit the community
- provide students with the opportunity to see the immediate impact of their efforts, and to develop practical skills that are relevant to their future careers
- the ability to build relationships between students and community members

Direct service learning forms



Tutoring and Mentoring Programs are an integral part of educational and community institutions

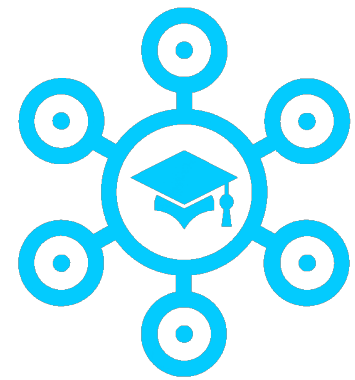
- students engage in direct service learning by working one-on-one with their younger counterparts.



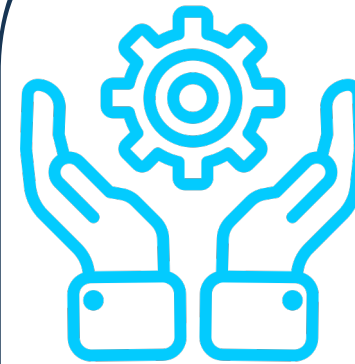
Environmental Cleanups as direct service-learning programs,

- students often collaborate with community organizations for cleaning up litter or eradicating invasive plant species.

Direct service learning forms



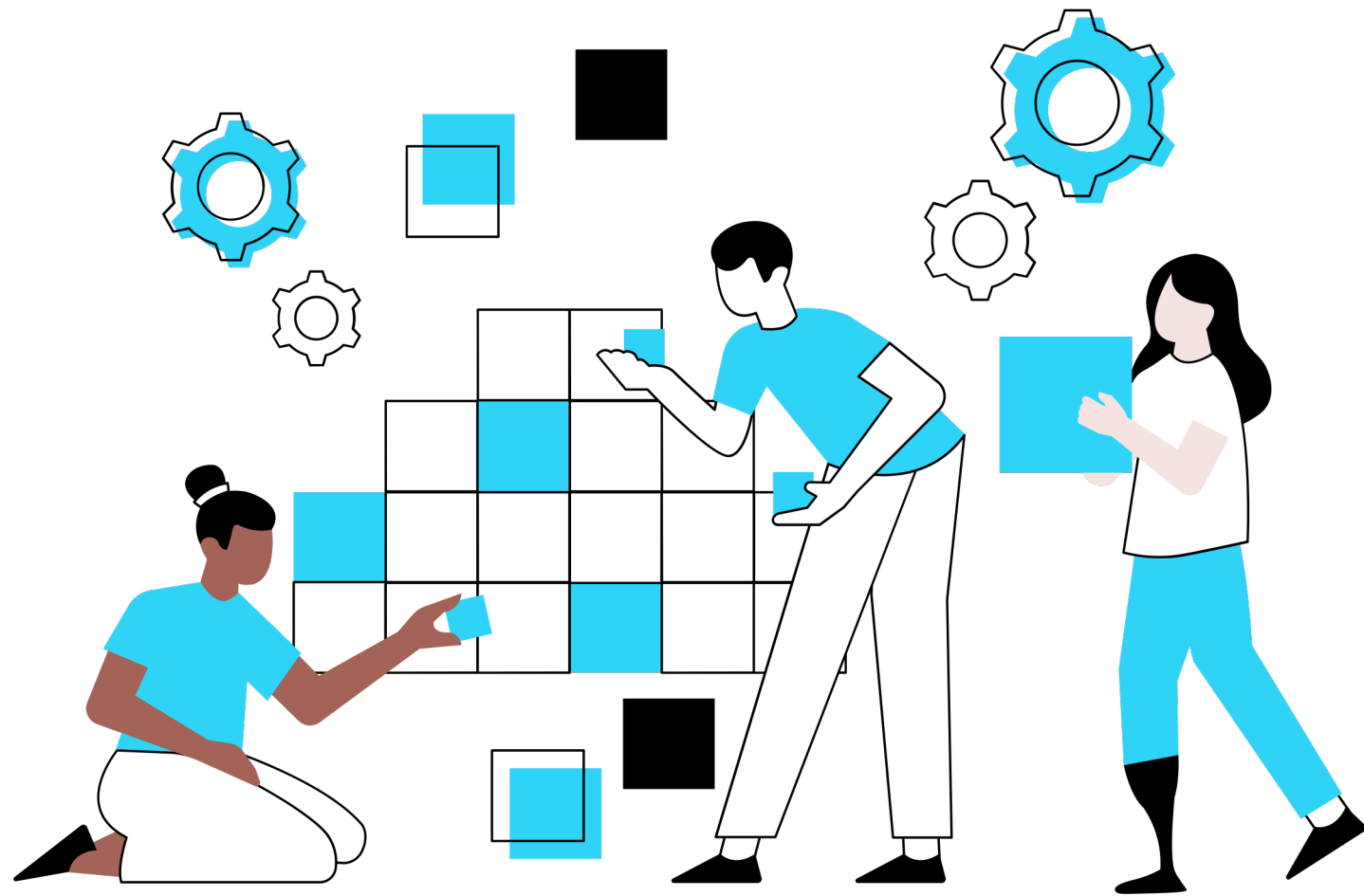
Community Health Fairs
- students might engage in organizing health screenings, disseminating health education materials, or even leading fitness activities.



Community Building and Outreach
- students work in tandem with community organizations to forge relationships and bolster community engagement.

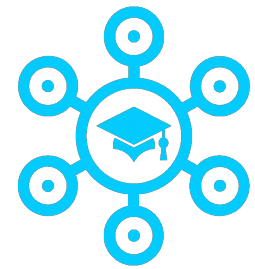


Indirect service learning



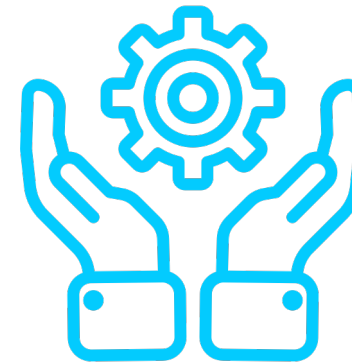
- involve service projects that may not have an immediate impact on the community but contribute to larger systemic change.
- provide students with a deeper understanding of the root causes of social and environmental issues and the systems that perpetuate them.
- Examples of indirect service learning programs include fundraising for a cause, advocating for policy changes, and conducting research on social or environmental issues

Indirect service learning forms



Research Projects - engages

students in an in-depth exploration of social matters such as poverty, racial disparities, or environmental decline. The process involves stages like data gathering, analysis, and synthesis. The findings are typically compiled into a comprehensive report or transformed into a presentation. These are then shared with the community, policymakers, or other parties with vested interests.



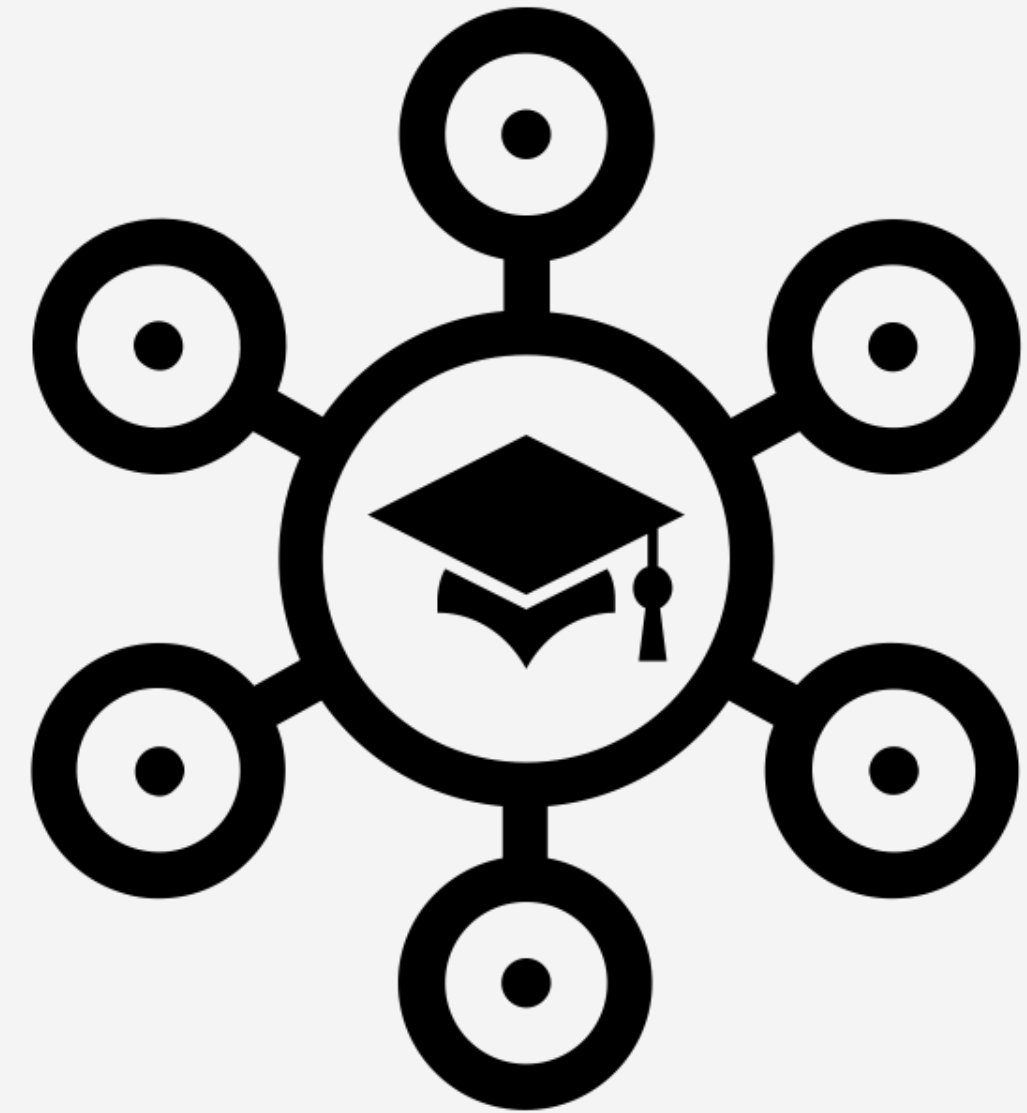
Policy Analysis -

students critically assess existing policies or conceive novel policies tailored to tackle societal challenges. This variant of indirect service learning might necessitate thorough research on potential policy alternatives, crafting policy briefs, or drafting comprehensive reports.

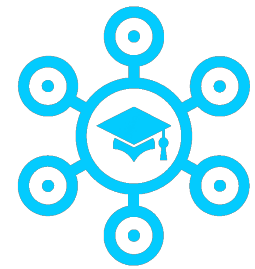


Advocacy service learning

- **Advocacy service-learning** programs focus on raising awareness and promoting action on social, economic, or environmental issues.
- **Advocacy service-learning** programs allow students to engage in meaningful dialogue and activism around issues that are important to them.
- **Examples of advocacy service-learning** programs include organizing rallies or protests, creating social media campaigns, and writing op-eds or letters to elected officials.

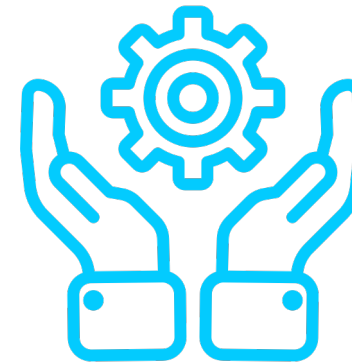


Indirect service learning forms



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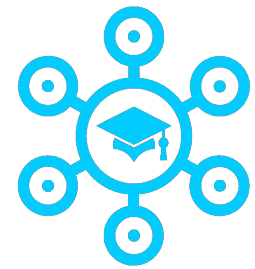
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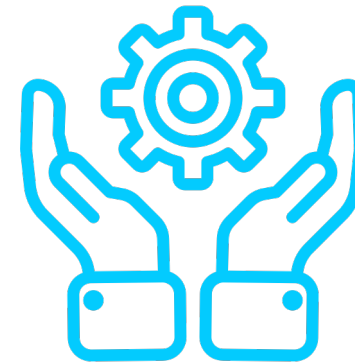
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Advocacy service-learning forms

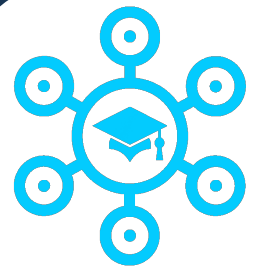


Community Organizing - entails students collaborating with members of the community to pinpoint and tackle issues related to social justice. Students actively reach out to the community, orchestrate meetings, and devise strategies to cater to the community's needs.



Advocacy Campaigns - direct student efforts toward public advocacy to escalate awareness concerning social justice issues and garner support for policy amendments or institutional alterations. Such initiatives could address the root causes of social issues.

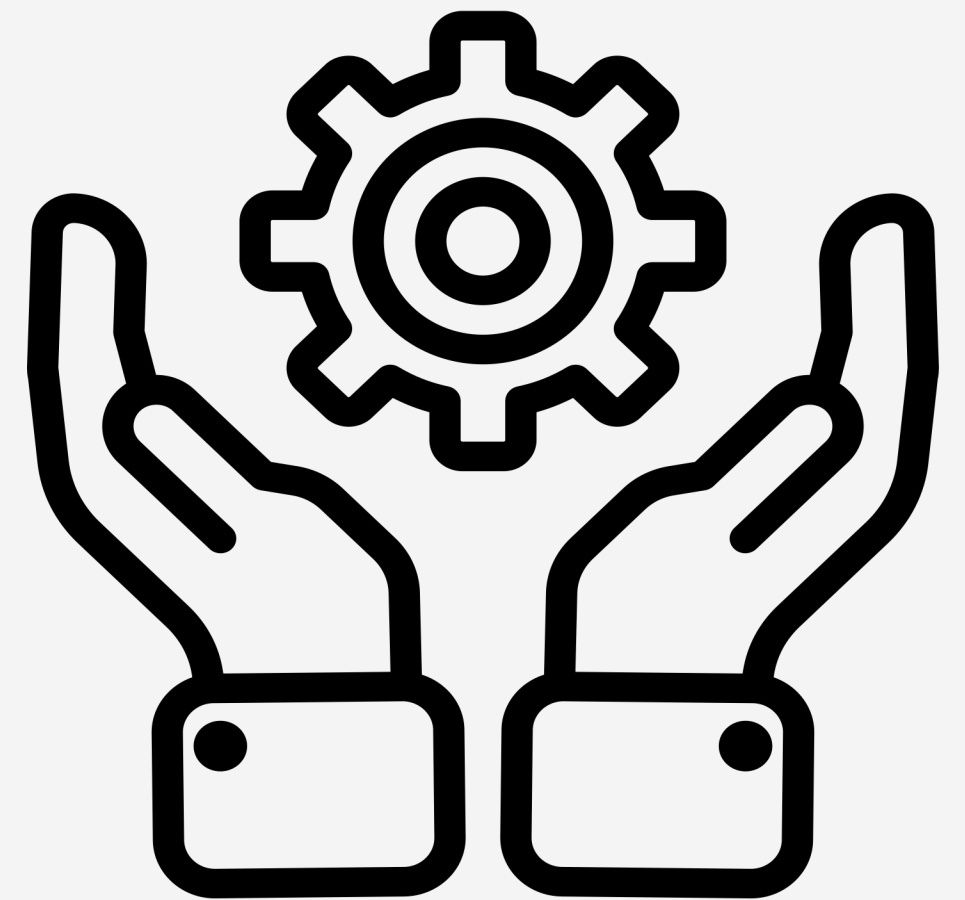
Advocacy service-learning forms



Coalition Building - students are given the opportunity to collaborate with a plethora of organizations and community groups with the goal of forging a more substantial movement for social justice. Students might work alongside community organizations, labor unions, and other entities in this capacity to craft joint campaigns and advocacy approaches.

Research-based service learning

- involve students conducting research on social, economic, or environmental issues in collaboration with community organizations.
- helps to bridge the gap between academic research and real-world issues and provides valuable data and insights to community organizations.
- Examples of research-based service-learning programs include conducting needs assessments, evaluating the impact of community programs, and collecting data on social or environmental issues



Research-based service learning forms

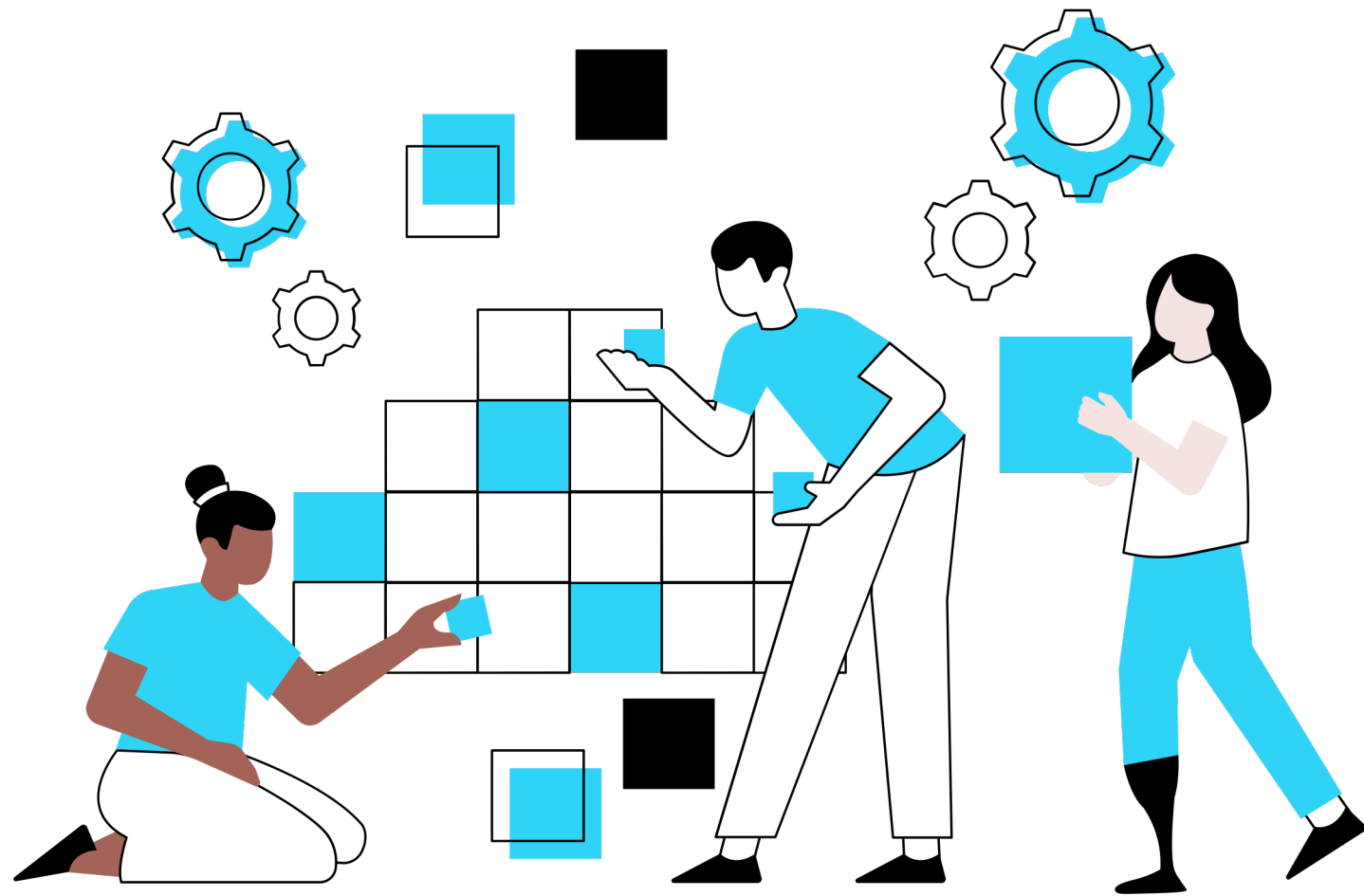
Needs Assessments

students undertake research initiatives aimed at discerning the requirements and priorities of a specific community. To collect pertinent data, students might employ various data collection techniques such as surveys, focus groups, interviews, and observations.

Program Evaluation - students take part in assessing the efficacy of prevailing community programs or interventions. This involves the formulation of evaluation instruments, data accumulation, and rigorous analysis to gauge the impact of the program or intervention under study.

Action Research - students engage in investigative activities with the goal of informing the creation of new community programs or interventions.

International service learning



- involve students participating in service projects in another country.
- provide students with a global perspective and the opportunity to learn about different cultures and customs.
- Examples of international service learning programs include building schools or homes, teaching English, and working on community development projects.

International service-learning forms

Community Development - engages students in undertakings that cater to the needs of communities in foreign countries. Additionally, students might work on initiatives related to health promotion, educational outreach, or environmental sustainability.

Cultural Immersion - involves students residing with host families in a foreign country, which acts as a conduit for them to deeply engage with and understand the local culture, traditions, and customs.

Humanitarian Relief - students participate in addressing urgent needs in foreign countries, which could include disaster relief efforts or support for refugee populations



Unit no. 1.4

Student development

- civic engagement

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- critical thinking

.....

- interpersonal skills,

.....

- personal growth

.....

- career readiness, global citizenship, and social justice



Student development



- Through service, students often encounter real-world challenges that require critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills.
- These experiences help in honing not only their practical abilities but also in instilling values such as empathy, integrity, and civic responsibility.
- Service learning promotes civic engagement, critical thinking, interpersonal skills, personal growth, academic achievement, career readiness, global citizenship, and social justice, making it a valuable tool for promoting positive social change and creating a more just and equitable world.



Civic engagement

- students can learn firsthand about the challenges facing their community and the different ways in which organizations and individuals are working to address these issues.
- students develop a sense of social responsibility and become more aware of the ways in which their actions can impact their community. students learn the importance of teamwork, leadership, and effective communication.
- students can explore issues of concern to their community, and work to identify potential solutions.
- students can develop a deep understanding of the complex social issues facing their community and develop the critical thinking and problem-solving skills necessary to address them.



Civic engagement

- Students learn to engage in respectful and constructive dialogue with community stakeholders, including elected officials, non-profit leaders, and other community members.
- students can deepen their understanding of the social issues they are working to address and the role they can play in creating positive social change
- students can also develop a sense of social responsibility and a commitment to making a positive difference in the world.



Critical thinking

- Students are encouraged to ask questions, seek out information, and engage in discussions with peers and community partners to deepen their understanding of the issues at hand.
- Students are typically tasked with identifying a social issue that affects their community and developing a plan of action to address it. This process requires them to engage in critical thinking at every step, from conducting research to designing and implementing their project.
- Students are taught to break down social issues into their component parts, consider the factors that contribute to them, and identify potential solutions .



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Interpersonal skills

- Students learn to work collaboratively with others from diverse backgrounds and to communicate effectively with a range of stakeholders, including community members, service providers, and other students
- students can develop their ability to listen actively, express themselves clearly, and respond appropriately to feedback and questions.
- students learn how to work collaboratively, divide tasks effectively, and support one another in achieving a common goal.
- Leadership is another important interpersonal skill that service learning helps to develop.



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Other benefits

- **Academic Achievement** - students are exposed to hands-on, experiential learning opportunities that bolster what they have learned within the confines of the classroom. Students engaged in service learning often experience an upsurge in motivation and become more actively involved in their academic pursuits.
- **Career Readiness** functions as a bridge that equips students for their eventual professional life by offering them avenues to amass practical experience in their chosen domain.



Other benefits

- **Global Citizenship** is an indispensable facet that service learning fosters. In an increasingly interconnected world, it is imperative for students to have an understanding of the diverse tapestry of cultures that make up the global community.
- **Social Justice** is integrally woven into the fabric of service learning. One of the salient features of service learning is its capacity to be a catalyst for social change by empowering students to be proactive in addressing social issues they are passionate about. Through service learning, students are encouraged to identify, question, and confront systems that perpetuate oppression and inequality.



Conclusions

- Service learning is a teaching and learning methodology that has been shown to be effective in improving student outcomes.
.....
- Service learning is likely to continue to be a popular teaching and learning approach in the future, as educators seek to provide students with real-world experiences that are relevant to their coursework.
.....
- Service learning encompasses a myriad of forms, namely, direct service learning, indirect service learning, advocacy service learning, research-based service learning, and international service learning. Each category is distinct in its approach and objectives, yet they are cogent in their commitment to facilitating student involvement in community development.
.....
- Additionally, service learning acts as a harbinger for career readiness. By facilitating the acquisition of practical experience and transferable skills, it prepares students for the professional realm, enhancing their employability.
.....
- Through service learning, students are not merely recipients of education but become catalysts for change and ambassadors for a better future.



EXERCISE

- For the Service-learning forms please provide examples of service-learning programs and identify the benefits for students





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Thank you for your attention!

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