

SERVICE LEARNING

Service learning refers to learning the service policies, procedures, norms, and conditions, other than ‘the technical trade practices’. The service learning includes the characteristics of the work, basic requirements, security of the job, and awareness of the procedures, while taking decisions and actions. It helps the individuals to interact ethically with colleagues, to effectively coordinate with other departments, to interact cordially with suppliers as well as the customers, and to maintain all these friendly interactions.

Alternatively, the service learning may be defined as the *non-paid activity*, in which service is provided on voluntary basis to the public (have-nots in the community), non-profitable institutions, and charitable organizations. It is the service during learning. This includes training or study on real life problems and their possible solutions, during the formal learning, i.e., courses of study. In the industrial scenario, adoption, study, and development of public health or welfare or safety system of a village or school is an example of service learning by the employees. The engineering student analyzing and executing a socially-relevant project is another example of service learning.

The service learning is a methodology falling under the category of experiential education³. It is one of the forms of experiential learning and community service opportunities. It is distinguished in the following ways:

1. *Connection to curriculum*: Integrating the learning into a service project is a key to successful service learning. Academic ties should be clear and built upon existing disciplinary skills.
2. *Learner’s voice*: Beyond being actively engaged in the project, trainees have the opportunity to select, design, implement, and evaluate their service activity.
3. *Reflection*: Structured opportunities are created to think, talk, and write about the service experience. The balance of reflection and action allows the trainee to be constantly aware of the impact of their *work*.
4. *Partners in the community*: Partnership with community agencies are used to identify genuine needs, provide mentorship, and contribute input such as labor and expertise towards completing the project.

VIRTUES

Virtues are *positive* and *preferred* values. Virtues are desirable attitudes or character traits, motives and emotions that enable us to be successful and to act in ways that develop our highest potential. They energize and enable us to pursue the ideals that we have adopted. Honesty, courage, compassion, generosity, fidelity, integrity, fairness, transparency, self-control, and prudence are all examples of virtues.

Virtues are tendencies which include, solving problems through peaceful and constructive means and follow the path of the golden mean between the extremes of 'excess and deficiency'. They are like habits, once acquired, they become characteristics of a person. Moreover, a person who has developed virtues will naturally act in ways consistent with moral principles. The virtuous person is the ethical person.

Civic Virtues

Civic virtues are the moral duties and rights, as a citizen of the village or the country or an integral part of the society and environment. An individual may exhibit civic virtues by voting, volunteering, and organizing welfare groups and meetings.

The duties are:

1. To pay taxes to the local government and state, in time.
2. To keep the surroundings clean and green.
3. Not to pollute the water, land, and air by following hygiene and proper garbage disposal. For example, not to burn wood, tyres, plastic materials, spit in the open, even not to smoke in the open, and not to cause nuisance to the public, are some of the civic (duties) virtues.
4. To follow the road safety rules.

On the other hand, the rights are:

1. To vote the local or state government.
2. To contest in the elections to the local or state government.
3. To seek a public welfare facility such as a school, hospital or a community hall or transport or communication facility, for the residents.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

This is a basic requirement for nurturing friendship, team work, and for the synergy it promotes and sustains. The principles enunciated in this regard are:

1. Recognize and accept the existence of other persons as human beings, because they have a right to live, just as you have.
2. Respect others' ideas (decisions), words, and labor (actions). One need not accept or approve or award them, but shall listen to them first. One can correct or warn, if they commit mistakes. Some people may wait and watch as fun, if one falls, claiming that they know others' mistakes before and know that they will fall! Appreciate colleagues and subordinates on their positive actions. Criticize constructively and encourage them. They are bound to improve their performance, by learning properly and by putting more efforts.
3. Show 'goodwill' on others. Love others. Allow others to grow. Basically, the goodwill reflects on the originator and multiplies itself on everybody. This will facilitate collinearity, focus, coherence, and strength to achieve the goals.

LIVING PEACEFULLY

To live peacefully, one should start install peace within (self). Charity begins at home. Then one can spread peace to family, organisation where one works, and then to the world, including the environment. Only who are at peace can spread peace. You can not gift an article which you do not possess. The essence of oriental philosophy is that one should not *fight* for peace. It is oxymoron. War or peace can be won only by peace, and *not by wars!*

One should adopt the following means to live peacefully, in the world:

Nurture

1. Order in one's life (self-regulation, discipline, and duty).
2. Pure thoughts in one's soul (loving others, blessing others, friendly, and not criticizing or hurting others by thought, word or deed).
3. Creativity in one's head (useful and constructive).
4. Beauty in one's heart (love, service, happiness, and peace).

CARING

Caring is feeling for others. It is a process which exhibits the interest in, and support for, the welfare of others with fairness, impartiality and justice in all activities, among the employees, in the context of professional ethics. It includes showing respect to the feelings of others, and also respecting and preserving the interests of all others concerned. Caring is reflected in activities such as friendship, membership in social clubs and professional societies, and through various transactions in the family, fraternity, community, country and in international councils.

In the present day context, caring for the environment (including the *fauna and flora*) has become a necessity for our very survival. If we do not care for the environment, the environment will scare us.

SHARING

Primarily, caring influences 'sharing'. Sharing is a process that describes the transfer of knowledge (teaching, learning, and information), experience (training), commodities (material possession) and facilities with others. The transfer should be genuine, legal, positive, voluntary, and without any expectation in return. However, the proprietary information it should not be shared with outsiders. Through this process of sharing, experience, expertise, wisdom and other benefits reach more people faster. Sharing is voluntary and it can not be driven by force, but motivated successfully through ethical principles. In short, sharing is 'charity'

OBSERVE OPTIMIZE OUTSPREAD

