



FS 3002: Service-Learning Programme

Career Guidance Unit
Faculty of Science, University of Colombo

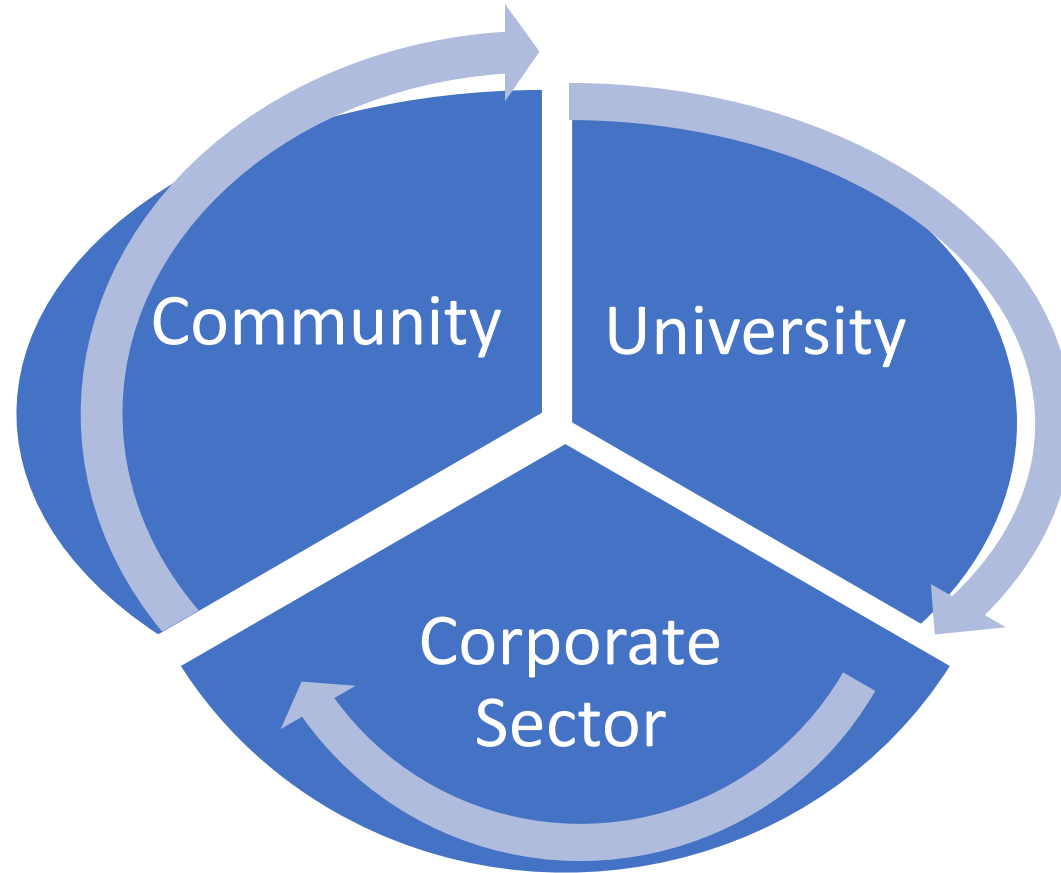
The Service Learning Programme

- A unique experience that combines academic coursework with meaningful service activities and critical reflection on that service.
- Under the Career Guidance Unit, Service Learning was started in 2012.
- We were the **first university** to implement such a programme in Sri Lanka.

WHEN? Second semester of the 3rd year
TO WHOM? General Degree students
DURATIONS? 5 - 6 months

- An academic programme with 8 academic credits
- Projects are supervised by volunteer academic mentors of the faculty

Service Learning Programme is a **Triple Helix** model where 3 parties work together



Triple Helix Model



Types of Service Learning programmes

Direct service: Students' service directly involves and affects recipients

Indirect service: Students do not directly see any specific recipients. Student actions benefit the community as a whole.

Advocacy: The intent of advocacy is to create public awareness on an issue of public interest.

Research: Finding, gathering, analyzing and reporting on issues of public interest.

Benefits for the Students

- Exposure to the corporate sector and communities
- Connects theory and practice
- Opportunities to provide valuable services to the needy community
- Strengthens analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking skills
- Development of soft skills (Eg: communication, teamwork)
- Enhance leadership skills

Benefits for the community and corporate partners

Community:

- Getting their problems solved by university + corporate sector partnerships
- Energy, enthusiasm and perspectives of students applied to community work
- Links developed with the university and corporate sector

Corporate Sector:

- Improved institutional commitment to social responsibility
- Getting services of valuable human resources (students, academics)

Our Corporate Sponsors



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இலங்கை நிலைபெறுதகு வலு அதிகாரசபை
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Education



Health and Nutrition



Environmental conservation



Fields of Service Learning

Leadership

Innovation and Capacity Building



SIHINA NIWASA (2013)

A low cost house for a needy employee in line with Echo – housing concept
(Location – Anuragama, Kandy)

How project was completed successfully

- Select a needy employee
- Design a house fulfilling predefined criteria
- Undertaking construction
 - Provision of material
 - Labor controlling/supervision



Our corporate partner

SLT Human Capital Solutions
(PVT) Ltd

Root Causes for Human Elephant Conflict in Maduragama and Nelumewa villages in Puttalam (2014)



Project location - Maduragama and Nelumewa villages in Puttalam

Project objectives

- Finding the nature of the conflict through the years
- Seeking root causes for Human Elephant Conflict
- Investigate the damage occurred because of the conflict

What we did in Puttalam

- Gather information through
 - Field visits
 - Interviews with resource persons
 - Interviews with villagers
- literature surveys
- Data Analysis
- Suggesting short and long term solutions

Sponsored by Holcim Lanka (Pvt) Ltd

SCHOOL TO OFFICE PROGRAM (2015)

Objectives of the project

To train and develop school leavers/job seekers, enhancing their skills enabling them to get employed

To whom – Young job seekers/ school leavers

Where the projects were conducted

- Colombo
- Galle
- Kandy
- Kurunegala

What they have done/specific activities

- Regional workshops
- Inauguration and conducting one month program
- Outbound training program

Corporate partner - HNB Assurance PLC



LIFE SAVING PROJECT(2017/2018)

A project conducted in collaboration with the Life Saving Association of Sri Lanka

A program aimed at providing training and skills related to water safety

What we conducted at the Benthota beach for 12 weeks

- Educational sessions on water safety
- Training on water safety
 - Use of floatation devices
 - Rescuing
 - CPR & First aid
- Survey to analyze participants satisfactory

Participation of over 70 school children

Corporate partner - South Asia Gateway Terminal (Pvt) Ltd



Project 'EARTH WATCHMAN 2018'

Project objectives

- Creating awareness about adverse effects of losing trees and coastal pollution
- Conducting programs to enhance green cover (two million trees are to be planted district wise)
- Conducting beach cleanup programs

Students participated in various activities aligned with the objectives of the program

- Participating in a beach cleanup projects(Galle face to Moratuwa)
- Tree planting program in Colombo city area
- Conducting a survey to analyze people's opinion on increasing green cover and their contribution for it.

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PROJECTS

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INFORMATION

YOU ARE HERE: Home → President briefed on the "Earth Watchmen" tree planting programme

President briefed on the "Earth Watchmen" tree planting programme

PMDNews.lk Monday November 26th, 2018



Our corporate partners



One Child – One Tree 2019



Objective of the program
“Celebrating every child who is born into this world by gifting a tree in his/her name”

This program was conducted in two phases,

- Plants distributing in Puttalam district covering 11 Primary schools
- Plants distributing in Anuradhapura district covering 16 primary and secondary Schools

Sponsored by INSEE Cement Sri Lanka In partnership with Ministry of Education, Colombo Plan, Childfund Sri Lanka, TARANA Foundation and VOICE as Community Partner.

Sustainable business development: in an eco-friendly manner (2019)

Target group - Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Main objectives of this programme were,

- Taking steps to avoid investments that are harmful to the environment
- Make it easy for their customers to make sustainable living and investments
- To play an active role in achieving the global sustainable development goals

What did we do?

- Conduct workshops for the SMEs
Locations – Embilipitiya, Negombo, & Galle
- A survey to identify the obstacles that SMEs are facing when developing their businesses in an eco-friendly manner

Nations Trust Bank was sponsored the programme in collaboration with National Cleaner Production Centre Sri Lanka (NCPC), Environmental Foundation Limited (EFL), Biodiversity Sri Lanka (BSL) and Janathakshan GTE Ltd.



Introduction of smart classrooms for the enhancement of digitalized education system in government schools in Sri Lanka and encouraging teachers for online teaching(2020)

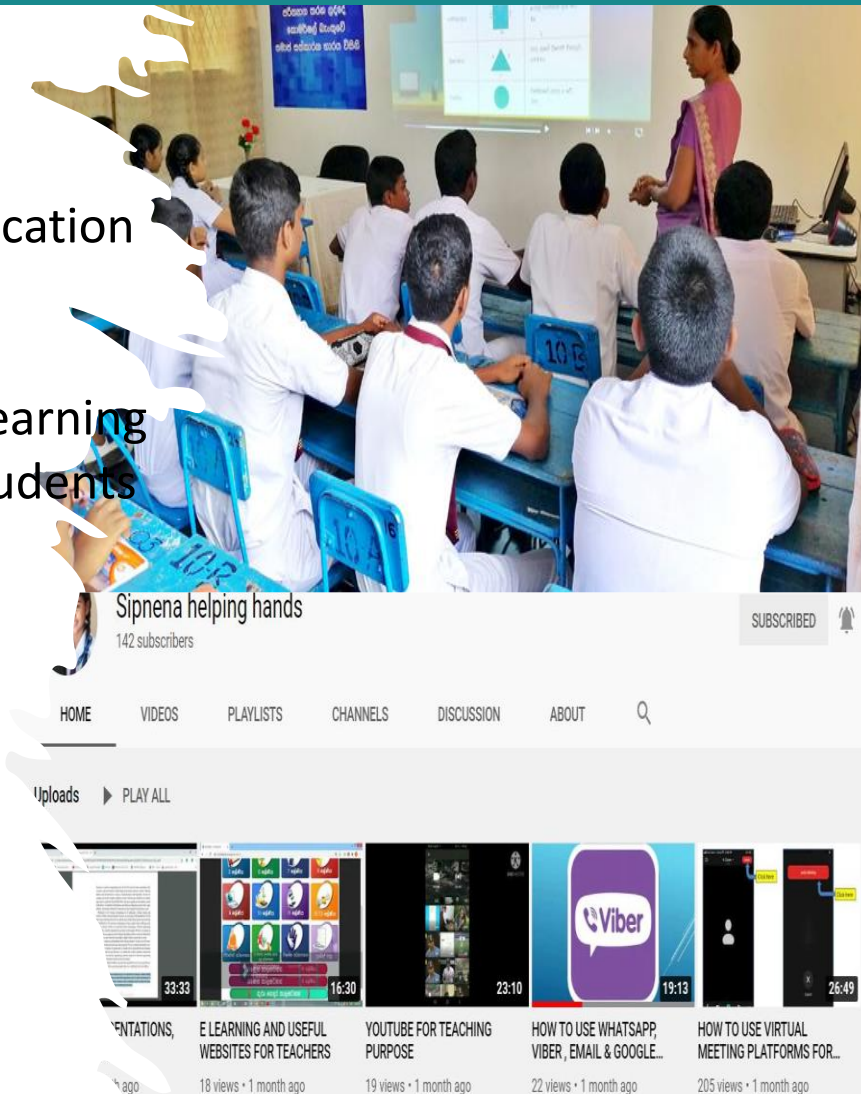
Project objectives

- To provide schools with required facilities for digital technology base education
- To promote the adoption of digital education environment in schools
- To improve the teachers' digital education skills
- To help both teachers and students to effectively utilize digital tools for learning
- To use technology to make learning more engaging and motivating for students

How project objectives were achieved?

- Sipnena helping hands website
- 65 Smart schools by providing Smart Classrooms in Colombo district
- Teachers Training Programme

Corporate partners - Commercial Bank, Headstart software company



A STUDY ON WASTE PICKERS AGGREGATED AT EXPORT ZONES TO IMPROVE THEIR HYGIENIC PRACTICES AND LIVELIHOOD(2021)

Project location - Export Zone- Katunayake

Two main objectives

- To evaluate safety and hygienic situation of waste collector communities
- Propose to the corporate partner how to uplift their livelihood

How those objectives were achieved

- Preparing a questionnaire to collect information from waste collectors
- Collect information for the questionnaire by observing and interviewing the workers
- Analyzing the data collected
- Making suggestions to Siam City Cement (INSEE) (PVT) LTD to improve the working conditions of the waste collectors

Corporate partner

Siam City Cement (INSEE) (PVT) LTD



Awards and Recognition

UNESCO Wenhui Award for Educational Innovation, 2019

Awarded for the "Service Learning as an innovative educational initiative to help underprivileged schools" project.


Triple E award for the best University - Community project of the Asia Pacific region 2020

- Placed 2nd for the program "Service Learning as a community engagement initiative to assist underprivileged schools" under the category of Community Engagement Initiative of the Year at the 2020
- This was one of the top 5 entries along with the applications of top universities around the world namely Charles Sturt University and Southern Cross University (Australia), Oxygen University (Turkey), and University of Nicosia (Cyprus).

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Community Engagement Initiative of the Year

PROJECT-LEVEL



UNIVERSITY of NICOSIA


MENTOR Youth Guidance Programme

REALIZING YOUTH POTENTIAL THROUGH MENTORING

*** LEARN MORE ***

CATEGORY WINNER

★★★★




Service Learning Programme, Career Guidance Unit

FUTURE LEADERS: ENGAGING, EMPOWERING, TRANSFORMING

*** LEARN MORE ***

1st RUNNER-UP

★★★★



Charles Sturt University


Girls in Cyber Security Advancing (GiCSA) project

'YINDYAMARRA WINHANGANHA' (AN INDIGENOUS (WIRADJURI) PHRASE THAT MEANS THE WISDOM OF RESPECTFULLY KNOWING HOW TO LIVE WELL IN A WORLD WORTH LIVING IN)

*** LEARN MORE ***

2nd RUNNER-UP

★★★★



ÖZYEGİN -ÜNİVERSİTESİ-


Center for Energy Environment and Economy (CEE)

NEXT GENERATION NEAR FUTURE

*** LEARN MORE ***

FINALIST

★★★★



Southern Cross University

Farming Together Program

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN FARMS AND COMMUNITIES THROUGH COLLABORATION

*** LEARN MORE ***



Publicity and Outreach

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The launching of the “Sip-Nena” online platform 2015

Entering the world beyond lecture halls

Sunday Times (Sri Lanka) 13 Dec 2013 By Kumudini Hettiarachchi



Prof. T.R. Ariyaratne



Prof. Preethi Udagama



Dr. Deepthi Wickramasinghe

Three young men -- vocal, confident, passionate and rational - representing many others.

Kasun Silva, (23) from Kottawa, Laksan Yasaratne (25) from Balan-goda and Abdul Malik (24) from Slave Island, are talking enthusiastically about “life-changing” experiences.

Two projects relating to the water crisis faced by many people across the country and the third linked to mal-nutrition have opened their eyes to the world beyond the lecture halls of the Faculty of Science of the University of Colombo. (See box please) In a first in Sri Lanka's university system, these are not merely life-changing experiences, but experiences which have helped them to become “employable” graduates.

With universities grappling with the perennial problem of churning out graduates whom many employers - especially in the private sector - shun,

“This is an important programme to increase employability of graduates in the current scenario of an economy mostly based on knowledge,” explains the retiring Dean of the Science Faculty, Senior Professor T. R. Ariyaratne.

Retiree he may be but “extremely passionate” he is about the faculty's career guidance commitment to ensure that his graduates find suitable jobs, says Prof. Preethi Udagama who helped initiate the module last year.

“We are the providers of knowledge and our task is not only the development of intellectual ability but also the enhancement of subskills including entrepreneurship and attitudes,” reiterates Prof. Ariyaratne.

Delving into science, Prof. Udagama is quick to cite the example of DNA (linked to our genes) being depicted as a double helix, with “Service Learning” being like a triple helix -

The paper article on the concept – “Service Learning” – Sunday Times, December 2013

Disseminating knowledge - Publications

Abstracts published:

- Wickramasinghe, DD, Ranwala. SWM, Mahanama, Kaumal, MN, Kathriarachchi, H and Hettiarachchi, C. (2013). University, Community and Corporate Partnership: A Case Study of Service Learning Projects in the University Of Colombo. Proceedings of the Sri Lanka Association for the Advancement of Science (SLAAS). Sri Lanka. pp 62
- Wijayanama, C. and Wickramasinghe, D. (2017) Integrating Service Learning Programs of universities and Corporate Social Responsibility projects: evidence from four projects of a Sri Lankan university. Asian Human Resources Development Conference, Ahmadabad, India. Pp 45

Survey on soft skills of Service Learning students

- At the beginning and the end of the Service Learning and Internship program students' skills were analyzed using **27 questions on 9 categories**.
- Significant enhancements on the questions, "*Disciplined and courteous to others*", "*Continuously improve quality in services and processes*" and "*Open to learn from both success and failure*", were evident after the statistical analysis of the responses.
- Above observations depicts the categories of **Leading self , Problem solving and Innovation, Adopt and Learn** skills of students are tend to be highly influenced & developed throughout the programme.



Good luck!