

## **EXPERIMENT INVOLVING SERVICE USERS**

### **COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING**

#### **A PEDAGOGICAL ACTIVITY INVOLVING SERVICE USER FROM THE SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM AT ARTEVELDE GHENT UNIVERSITY**

##### **CONTENT**

Community-Based Learning (CBL) is a broad term that refers to a wide variety of teaching methods and programmes used by teachers and educators to connect what is taught in school with groups in society, with local organisations, with cultural heritage.

CBL is a pedagogical strategy that aims to integrate community service with classroom learning (Ibrahim, 2010). CBL helps students develop not only their academic skills, but also their personal skills and sense of citizenship.

CBL has a thorough scientific basis and demonstrates many benefits for students' personal development. The benefits extend across multiple domains including academic development, social and personal development, and civic engagement (Ibrahim, 2010).

##### **ORGANISATION**

In the second semester of the first year, all students have to volunteer for 38 hours in an organisation working with target groups. During and after the volunteer work, these experiences are discussed in learning groups on campus.

##### **AIMS FOR THE STUDENTS AND THE DEPARTMENT**

working in an organisation gives students the opportunity to engage with their fellow human beings. We find this basic attitude essential in the social work profession. In the lessons too, involvement is expected, but voluntary work requires a different kind of commitment. This offers added value.

through contact with a target group, the opportunity is given to practise all kinds of communication skills. CBL is a more active and experiential way of learning. Theory and practice are connected through the intervision moments in the learning groups.

students get to know various sectors/domains/organisations in social work during the exchange in the learning group.

students get the chance to orient themselves faster in social work

##### **AIMS FOR THE ORGANISATION**

Students give a different perspective compared to stakeholders and professionals.

During labour savings, students can offer a helping hand in activities and use their creativity in doing so.

##### **IMPACT**

Students come into contact with new target groups. This gives them a broader view and (pre)judgements disappear. They learn to act and reflect more professionally.

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