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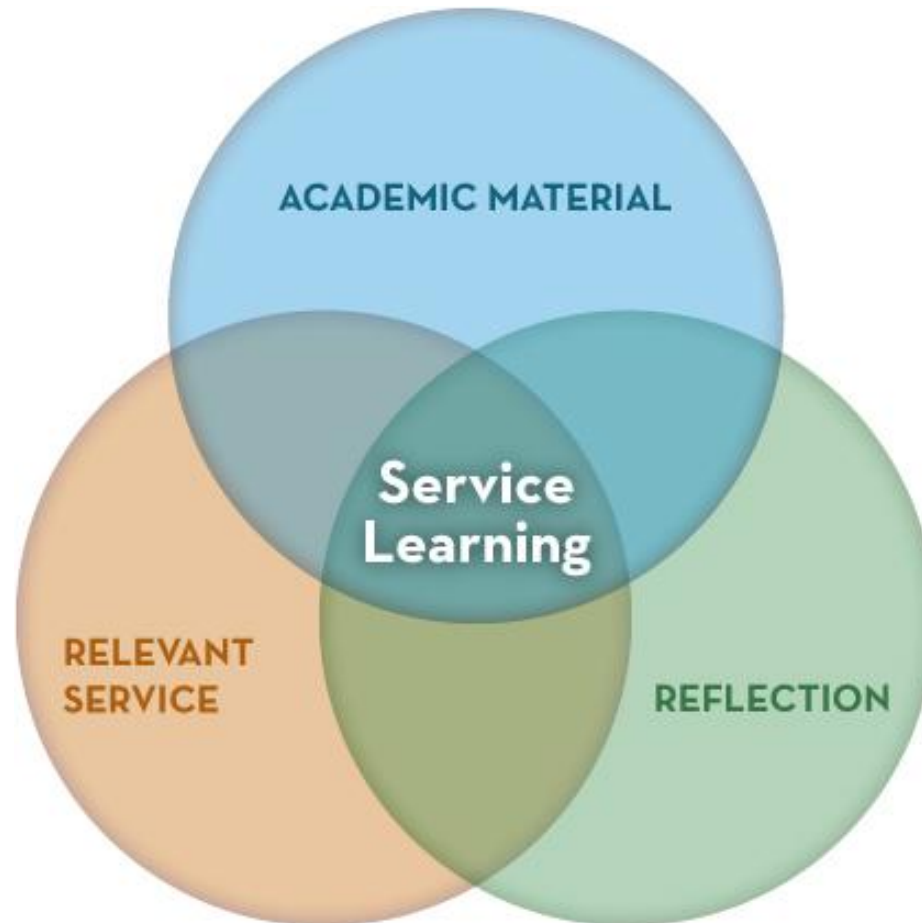
Ollscoil Átha Cliath | The University of Dublin

An exploration into an inclusive mutual learning environment for occupational therapy students and their community partners using a service learning approach

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Service-Learning



Research Aims

To explore the nature of the relationships between the occupational therapy students and their community partners.

To explore the personal and professional development outcomes for both groups.

To explore the potential for occupational engagement and participation as a result of the inclusive learning environment using a service-learning approach.

Methods

Qualitative data was collected from focus groups post a service-learning module.

Participants

First and second year occupational therapy students

Two cohorts of community partners

Analysis

Data was analysed using Braun and Clark's (2006) thematic analysis.

Results – Occupational Therapy Students



Results – Community Partners



Conclusion

Students and community partners appear to have experienced changes in personal development and in learning new skills

The relationships were key to many outcomes and overall experience

Students developed improved attitudes towards disability and the community partners experienced social inclusion as a result of working with the students.

Several unexpected outcomes (spin-off) emerged; peer advocacy, new occupations, change in persona circumstances

References

Braun, V. and Clarke, V. (2006) Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology*, 3 (2). pp. 77-101. ISSN 1478-0887

Flecky, K. & Gitlow, L. (2011). *Service-learning in Occupational Therapy Education*. Sudsbury, Ma: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.

Questions?

