

Student's Reflections

1.

At the beginning of this term, I heard about this project from my teachers. I was very interested in it because I think this would be a great chance for me to enhance my capability in self-learning and independent thinking. Moreover, as an S4 student, I had never tried to organize an activity on my own while this project would give me a chance to be the main organizer of an activity. I thought I could improve my leadership, communication skills as well as gain actual experience about how to organize a service through participating in this project.

As the chairlady of our student core group, I had to be in charge of many things and always led the whole group to the right track. What I learnt in the process of organizing the service is more about leadership. Firstly, it is really important to have proper division of labour. I could never be the one to finish everything so I had to assign work to different group members. When I was assigning work, I had to consider that who would be the most suitable person to do the work. Secondly, I learnt that as a leader, I had to have a clear mind about everything that was done or was in progress. This is because once my group mates finished their parts, they would just hand in their work to me. I had to know what stage we were in and what we should do next so that we can move on to the next step immediately. Moreover, I learned that although the basic outline of the plan was important, but what really made the plan work are all the details. Even a small mistake during preparation may lead to huge consequence and destroy the whole programme. I learnt to be more careful about the details of the plan and plan every tiny thing beforehand. Last but not least, I understood that if I want to enhance my independent thinking and self learning capability, I should be responsible for what I have done and what I will do. I have to consider different aspects before I have made any decisions and once I have made the decision, I have to bear all the consequences no matter they are good or bad. I should not count on the teachers or wait for somebody else to give me suggestions or even make the decision for me, instead, I should always remember that I have to be responsible for all the things I have decided.

After I have finished the whole service, I think I really improved a lot in terms of leadership, communication skills, self-learning and independent thinking skills. Despite all the pain and frustrations I experienced during the preparation and carrying out of the service, I have become more mature and capable to be a student leader in the future. The reflections I got from this project help me to have a clearer understanding about my own strengths and weaknesses and become more confident when facing challenges in the future.

May Zeng-Chairlady

2.

At first, when I was informed about this activity, I immediately said “yes” to my teacher. Not because I wanted to learn anything from this activity, it was just because I was bored, and I didn’t want to disappoint my teacher. Although I hadn’t got any interest and incentives in participating actively in this project, I indeed have learnt a lot from the process of our cooperation.

During the project, I learnt the real skills to delegate tasks. In the process of our preparation, I needed to inform every core group member about their duties. Some of them were not quite as smart as the others, but with good sense of responsibility. Some of them were with good ability, but quite forgetful in some of the ways. However, we overlooked relationship between our group mates’ personality and the efficiency in our works, hence we had delegated the wrong tasks to wrong kind of people. This had quite an impact on our efficiency and effectiveness, and thus made our schedule quite rushy. Through this experience, I have learnt to delegate tasks according to every group mates’ ability and personality, and that I had to observe everyone carefully to find out capable ones that could really help in the whole project.

Moreover I have learnt how to manage tasks in a systematic way. At the beginning of our project, we had no idea of how to hold a real meeting, which should be systematic in discussing things, and records should be made. This made our work really messy. Sometimes we had no idea how to organize our ideas, as well as which task had been delegated to whom. However, as long as we gained the experience, we had learnt to keep records of every idea we had, and to keep track of tasks that had been delegated. We had also learnt to help each other when they needed our help, instead of just doing our own tasks.

This was the first time I led a group. I was very grateful that I had this opportunity in being a leader, that I was able to learn leadership. Through the process of reflection, I could reflect on the process and find out what I should improve. I think this was a good practice that every time I reflect the process of our project, I had learnt a lot. I was able to notice what I had done wrong, and changed myself. What I learnt shall contribute to my future school life as well as my career.

Sharon Lin-Vice Chairlady

3.

At the beginning, although I did not have a clear picture about what the LED project is, I still agreed to join it because designing and organizing an activity was completely new to me. I believed that after joining this, I could enhance my leadership and communication skills. Also, this was an opportunity for me to meet more new friends and learn to cooperate with one another.

We have been holding meetings regularly to exchange ideas about organizing a service for the ethnic minority kids. However, it was quite difficult for all of us, the twelve core group members of the project to come to the meetings since each of us had different duties. This therefore created a great problem — we only concentrated on doing our own part of work and did not know whether the scheduled work of other students had been achieved. All of us did not have a same clear direction. So even though we started planning this service in the October, we failed to find the service target group in January.

At that time, I knew that we should not just solely rely on only one student to search for the target group because the scheduled service day is approaching. Although we had already planned other things, if there was no South Asian kids to attend it, all our efforts would become meaningless. So I took up the responsibility to contact the service target group with the help of the teachers.

This has showed us the significance of responsibility, communication and cooperation. Even we were very busy, to be a core member of the project, we should not miss out any meeting. This was our responsibility, to report what we have done to other students so that they could use the information to plan for the details of the service day and prepare a contingency plan. We should take the initiative to contact our partners.

When the service day came, we were in a great bustle because at the beginning of the service, we had decided that the service target group was primary school students. However, the service target group was out of our expectation. Some of them were even older than us. Therefore, the designed games were too simple for them to play. Luckily, we and the South Asian kids had spent a day happily together and this was the most important thing.

I have learnt that other than talking on phone and sending emails, we should also always ask questions to confirm whether others had received the right messages. By receiving feedback, we could check and spot the misunderstanding to avoid messages from being distorted.

Throughout the whole service, we played games and cooked dishes with the South Asian kids so as to have communication between the ethnic minority and the Chinese. Everyone is equal so we should not discriminate anyone. We should care about one another and give supports to the disadvantaged so that they could feel the love and care from the society.

As the ethnic minority kids have different culture from ours, sometimes they might face discrimination. This would hurt their self-esteem and they would be afraid of making friends with the Chinese. The service was a good opportunity to show our love to them and help them to rebuild the trust towards the Chinese.

Reflection helps me recall details of the service. This is a good way for us to recognize our mistakes in the whole process so that we will never repeat them.

Vanus Wong-Vice Chairlady

4.

As the secretary of this LED Project, my main duty is not only taking notes from other members but also see that my group runs in an efficient and organized manner, and hence to maintain proper files, having soft copies of documents is important. I need to organize and schedule meetings and make a detailed note of the proceedings of the entire meeting. Through this, I had improved my organize skills and interpersonal skills. As I need to contact everyone and make sure they know the date and the time of the meeting, I learnt the importance of communication. Two-way communication with multi methods to exchange information can enhance efficiency.

From the workshop, I understand the importance of setting goals. Without goals, we are not able to carry out this service. We always remember each other about our aims in order to achieve it through this service. We should not carry out activities just because our teachers requested us but to reach our objectives. Every stage of this project needs evaluation. Reflection is more important than the result of the service. Therefore, we have prepared a book to record our reflection after one stage. Reflection transforms experience into genuine learning about individual values and goals and about larger social issues.

Although we have faced difficulties during the project, we were able to solve it by ourselves and with teachers' help. I learnt problem-solving skills as well as leadership. We applied division of labor in our project. We assigned the most suitable person to do the right job to increase productivity so our activity can carry out better. I learnt to be more responsible and more willing to take up important roles.

This project had helped me a lot and give me a great impact. I gain a wonderful experience so I never regret that I have joined this project in the beginning of the school year. Organizing an activity is not an easy job. You will never know how much efforts and time of organizing an activity needed till you do it by your own. Cooperation and willingness to serve are very important to our project. A person is not able to do all the things by his/her own. With other people's help, an activity can be carried out easier and success. Therefore, our success of this project is mainly because of our cooperation.

Charmaine AuYeung-internal secretary

5.

Since the beginning of the school year, I've participated in the Learning Experience Designer project. Meetings were held every Monday at lunchtime since then.

I have participated in this project, because I think that it is a very valuable opportunity to organize activities for others, in order to provide them with learning experiences, as well as providing it to myself too.

Ethnic minority groups are often neglected by the society, but it is still important that we, as citizens of Hong Kong, respect them and consider them a part of our society as well. In order to help our volunteers respect and accept ethnic minority groups, we have come to the final idea of organizing an activity for our schoolmates to experience a day with a group of South Asian children who live in Hong Kong.

A lot of learning was in process both during the preparation and the implementation of the activity.

Firstly, I was in charge of finding an organization outside school that could help us find our service target group. It was one of the difficulties I faced. Although I proposed to many different voluntary organizations such as Caritas, most of them didn't reply and others rejected. However, I am glad that with the help of the other members, another organization was successfully found that is willing to help us find the suitable service target group for the event. From this experience, I have learnt that although there might be failures, I should not give up, but should seek help from others.

Secondly, I was the M.C. on the service day. The difficulty of being an M.C. is that I had to take control over the situation, when the participants were over excited and the situation was in a chaos. Also, ensuring effective communication was a problem since the South Asian children might not understand English that well. Fortunately, I managed to overcome this difficulty and tried to give clear instructions to all the participants of the event.

From this learning activity, my leadership has increased through being the M.C. on the day. Moreover, through communicating with the South Asian children, I have learnt a lot about their religion and culture, therefore most importantly, I have learned to care, respect and accept people of different races, cultures and religions. I am also very delighted to have contributed in the project and provided my schoolmates with an opportunity to do cultural exchanges with and show respect to ethnic minorities as well.

Melody Chul-External Secretary

6.

I have participated in the Student-LED project because my teachers selected me as one of twelve members to organize a service. I wanted to learn how to organize activities and challenge myself. This was my first time to organize a service. I was glad to have the chance to be one of the twelve members to serve the South Asian Kids.

After we have finished the service, I think organizing activities is not easy. It is because we have to consider and think of different aspects. We should be brave to face reality and all difficulties. We should not escape from our responsibilities. We should not just ask one person to do all the work because he or she must not be able to make everything perfectly. He or she may suffer lots of pressure and burden. Besides, I think all the teammates should care and actively participate in all meetings. Meetings are very important even though the group just has two group members. We should let all the teammates know and follow the rules and hand in the work well before the deadline. The schedule should not be delayed. The most important is that all the teammates should have direct communication with each other. We should also tell each other what are their mistakes and what should they correct.

I think this project has really taught me how to organize an activity or service these days. I was the treasurer in this Student-LED project. I needed to be responsible for financial aspect and calculate the balance carefully and accurately. It was because our school subsidized \$3600 to support our project. Moreover, I needed to prepare a budget report and a financial expenditure report to our school after we finished this service. I have learnt many things through this service. I need to thank my teachers to give me a chance to be one of the Student-LED project organizers. Thanks for their support and advice.

Rachel Lee-Treasurer

7.

To me, being promoted to Secondary 4 is a remarkable event. I was paid attention to this student LED project by my class teacher. One day at school, my class teacher promoted the student LED project event to us. The message I had received was I could take charge of an event. Students were taking control of everything and creating an activity all by themselves, teachers were only to assist us. I thought it was a great challenge. I had no idea and experience on making an activity. When I was still a junior secondary student, I felt carefree and lighthearted as my teachers helped and guided me all way through. On the contrary, I have to be in Secondary 4. I admitted myself that I became more mature after being a senior secondary student. Should I take part of it? Should I accept this challenge and train my leadership? These questions were banging on my head. At the end, I asked my class teacher for participating the project. Here now, I am a PRO of this student LED project.

A very important thing that I have learned throughout this project is getting well prepared. Other core group members and I tended to create a service, to get along with the South Asian kids. As the PRO, I was responsible for promoting our service to our schoolmates. We designed some posters and had a sharing to all the schoolmates during the morning assembly. At first, we were not aware of whether the schoolmates' enthusiasm to become a volunteer of our service. However, they exceeded our expectation. The ones who signed up for being as a volunteer were about 4 times than the number of volunteers we wanted! We wanted 40 volunteers originally and so we encountered a difficulty because we had to pick 40 people among all applicants. We decided to draw lots at the end. Recalling to this problem, we should have asked teachers to nominate some of the well-behaved students from their class. We should be prepared for any contingency and solutions to the problems. If we had done these, then we would not engage to this problem earlier.

Another thing I have learned is being cooperative. We have 12 core group members in this LED project and basically everyone were just nodding acquaintances when we met each other on the corridor. For this reason, we did not have trust among our core group members and rarely said how our part was going. Even the time when we were having regular meetings, we just said, "Okay, I'll do it," and that was all. Until we found out that we still had not found our target group, we had not settle down the things we needed for our service... things had already become a mess. We then realized how important cooperation is. We should report our progress to everyone regularly and help others if we had already finished our job, not just sitting alone and said nothing. Taking the initiative was therefore important. Based on leadership, in my opinion, if we did not cooperate with others or just went on your own way, you could not be a good leader. Good communication with your group mates was the first thing you should do to train your leadership.

Throughout this project, I have found that a lot of effort was needed to organize the activity lasts for one day or simply for a few hours. I start to appreciate the effort which put by the organizers of each event and cherish every moment of the event since it is not an easy task to do as it requires a lot of time and creativity. Furthermore, the project has caused me a great impact on

doing plans and projects in the future. I now try to keep the working routine, to ensure every part of the work is completed and will not become a mess. By the interaction with the South Asian kids in our service, I learned to respect them. The kids were humorous and cheerful, and I could get along with them easily. We just have different skin colors and mother tongues. Then why there still have sorts of discrimination such as racial discrimination? Caring through respect, we should not discriminate and push others aside, but should accept them and bring them into our society. Learn to respect, learn to love every single person beside us. That is a practice of sisterhood.

Coco Tam-PRO

8.

I was interested in participating in this project because this is the first chance for me to organize an activity which the contents and all the other details are designed by students. Though I was not so sure about what we were expected in this project and the exact aims of this project at the beginning, I stepped out and I am not regretting in joining this project.

We have organized a service. The proposed aim of this service was basically to let the South Asian kids feel the warmth and narrow the gap between different races. However, after the service day, I have gained something which was unexpected. We thought we were serving the kids but in fact they have brought us more than we gave. That was not a service. It's a cultural exchange. We learned from each other. We seldom get in touch with ethnic minority groups in Hong Kong, some of us might afraid to communicate with them. In fact, everyone hold different values and we cannot urge people to change for you. That's why the world is colourful and interesting. Both the ethnic minority groups and Sacred Heartists enjoyed the day very much. The happiness we gained is irreplaceable and valuable.

This project has given me a taste of "bitterness" of organizing an activity. Loads of hard works have to be done before we reach the goal and make the activity is being worked out. We thought we would have sufficient time to settle all things. At the beginning, I was not devoted to this activity, I admit it, because I thought the time left are more than enough and everything would go smoothly. When we found out the service target was still not yet confirmed but there was only less than two months to go. Everyone was worrying and hurrying. With the help of our teacher advisers, we could finally solve this problem. However, when one problem ends, another arose. This was not a really big challenge in fact, but we were shocked by the number of applications of our schoolmates for being volunteers in this service. We originally decided to hold interviews to select volunteers. Nevertheless, we had insufficient time to hold so many interviews. Therefore, we can only choose the participants by drawing lots. We know it is not the best way but it should be the fairest and the most efficient way in this case.

Throughout the whole project, what I think the most important is cooperation. There is no "failed" project as we could always learn from our mistakes and gain experience. Yet I believe that cooperation could make things be done better. With good communication and cooperation, tasks could be finished in a faster way with higher quality as different ideas and comments could help to improve the product. Good cooperation could also ease one's burden. We have not only worked out the plan but also make the process fun and delighting. Cooperation makes this.

Michelle Ho-PRO

9.

I have participated in this project because I found it a reflective learning experience. It is very often that we have chances to do voluntary work serve others, but it is indeed my first try to organize a service for volunteers to participate in, which is would be far more meaningful and interesting. Therefore, I decided to participate in the project.

Obviously, it is known from the name of the project that participating students are learning experience designers. In another words, our mission was to organize a service. Although it was not a major event, it was, certainly, not an easy task. In other voluntary work, I did not have to do anything related to proposal writing or publication. This project gave me a taste in how organizing an event was like. Also, it allows me to learn to be brave. I was actually quite shy to talk in front of many people. As an MC of the service, scare could not take a place at all – as the host of the event, the guests would be even more frustrated if my scare stood.

Also, the project allows me be more considerate. When participating in other voluntary work, it is inevitable that there is room for improvement. Sometimes, as a participant, I would blame those responsible for organizing the voluntary work, such as over-running of schedule. However, the experience in organizing the event allows me to be more grateful. I now understand how challenging it is to hold event as there are always variations during the event. The focuses should be on helping others and being grateful that I was the one doing voluntary work, instead of how the event was held.

The reflection after organizing the event allows me to improve next time. Although the event we held was not a perfect one, we can identify the problems and difficulties faced during planning and holding of the service through reflection. This will allow us to achieve higher.

Janice Tam-PRO

10.

I am really glad that have taken part in this meaningful and unforgettable project. I have learnt a lot throughout the whole project and through the cooperation with my teammates.

In late September, my teacher introduced me to this project, I agreed to join without hesitation. Since the Student-LED project aims at letting students plan their own activity for the whole school, I found this was interesting and I had never tried it before. I am in Secondary 4, a senior secondary form. The Student-LED project will be a great opportunity for me to develop leadership and sense of responsibility. As I had only been a participant in school activities, I was curious about my new role as an organizer. Therefore, I chose to participate in this Student-LED project.

The activity we held was a service for South-Asian kids focusing on cultural exchange between them and our schoolmates. As we had planned several activities in the service, we needed to cooperate with each other well in order to carry out the service effectively. The whole process has gone through a long period of time, I have learnt different things in different stages of the project.

First, as we were working as a group of 12 people, we needed to each of our roles clearly and communicate well with each other to follow up the process. I have learnt importance of responsibility and communication. Since we had to find an organization which is serving South-Asian kids, we assigned one of our group mates to contact the organization. We supposed that the groupmate would take her responsibility seriously because it was the most important duty of our service. However, we discovered after 2 months that her meaning of smoothly was not as what we had expected. She actually was not able to find an organization successfully, but we had already prepared other things for the service! Through this experience, I have learnt that we should always take up our responsibility seriously and always ask about the progress of work to make sure everyone reaches the same goal.

I have learnt how division of labor can help in a group project. We have defined different roles clearly for the activity. This really helped a lot in the service when there was any sudden occurrence or chaos, we could reach out to the right person immediately to solve the problem efficiently. As everyone knew their duty well, we were able to keep the activity under our control.

We have divided the activities into three sections: game, cooking and painting Chinese fans. At first, I was afraid that the volunteers from our school would be too passive to communicate with the South-Asian kids. But I found that most volunteers chatted happily with the kids after the game section. This has not only reached our goal of cultural exchange successfully, our students have also learnt that everyone can cooperate harmoniously despite the differences in skin color and religion.

Different challenges in the project have helped me to take the leading role in the future. This project always requires reflections. This really helps me to observe what I have done wrong and be conscious to every detail in the project. Reflection helps me to avoid repeating the same error again in the future.

The Student-LED Project is totally meaningful and educational to let students learn beyond books by experiencing by them!

Sabrina Ng- Activity Coordinator

11.

I have participated in this project because this project can train my leadership which I lack. I think I have time for me to try something new in my secondary school life and maybe it is the last chance for me. Our school always encourages us to take up responsibility to be a student leader. This is a good chance for me to learn and practice how to be a good student leader next year.

At first, I did not take this project seriously. I changed my mind soon as holding an activity is not easy as what I had thought before. Instead, we needed to prepare it for a long time and think of every tiny detail.

It is the first time for our team to work together and the first time for every one of us to plan and hold such a big project. We met many problems but we can overcome them by cooperation. Our most serious problem was that we did not have any service target when we almost finish all the preparation because of miscommunication as one of our teammates told us an organization agreed to help us to find the service target but then she told us that she could not find any organization to work with us later. Luckily, we were able to solve this problem with the help of our teacher advisers.

I am the activity coordinator in this project. My job was to plan the activity of the service day. It is very easy for me and the other two teammates to complete the planning of the game and the handcraft sections. There was misunderstanding between our team and the Home and Economics Club (HEC) of our school when we were working with them for the cooking. As I was the person in charge for this section, I need to bear the responsibility to solve this problem. I had to hold a few meetings with the HEC's teacher and chairperson to discuss the menu for the South-Asian kids and clearly tell them what we need them to help. It is a difficult job as the kids are not allowed to have beef and pork for religious reason.

I am glad that we have had contingency plans in order to ensure the service program could run smoothly when we knew that the age of the service target is not the same as what we had expected. I think we have done a great job as no one got hurt. Every one enjoy the programme and both of the South-Asian students and our volunteers can know more about culture of China and that of South Asia.

From this project, I have learnt a lot. First, we should not just focus on our own work, instead, we need to know the others' rate of progress so that the problem like lacking an organization to cooperate with will not happen again. Second, we need to communicate more so that we can find out the problem and solve it before it is too late. Third, we need to think of meaning of doing things and put all effort,. Forth, we should appreciate others but not just complain what others have not done

This project is meaningful and unforgettable. It was my first time to plan and hold a project. I can apply what I have learnt in my whole life. These are not just the skills of planning an activity but also the correct attitude towards living and working.

Alice Kan-Activity Coordinator

12.

“Do not hold an activity just because you are told to do so!”

We were reminded by this sentence when we first joined the project. So, why have I participated in this activity? I kept questioning myself since then. I initially thought that this project is attractive because of the 5 service-hours and OLE hours, however, I soon found that the most interesting part of the project is – it allows me to organize an activity together with my classmates rather than participating in activities arranged by our teachers. This project is not only a stage for me to show the leadership I acquired in the past school years, but also provides me a valuable opportunity to experience the painstaking of teachers who used to organize activities for us. Therefore, I joined the project without hesitating.

Yet, work usually gets successful after a great struggle. As a result, we experience a lot of difficulties throughout the project. First of all, at the beginning of the project, we got stuck when considering the type of activity we should organize. We were not able to decide whether we should hold a service or a carnival. Later on, we were worrying about the service target group. We were not sure what kind of group should we involve in our activity. Moreover, we got confused about outline of the activity. We were troubled by brainstorming its content! Lastly, we decided to organize a service day serving the South-asian kids (primary 4-6) in our school.

During planning, we met loads of obstacles. For instance, there were often different voices among our group members. We discussed many matters in every meeting without a clear direction and hence we lacked efficiency. Accordingly, we could not go any further and achieve more. At the same time, since our group members are busy, we seldom see every one of us sitting together every meeting. As a result, misunderstanding often appears in our group. For example, one of our group members once told us that she had successfully contacted an organization that could provide us the service target. However, the thing turned out to be a shock to the rest of us after a few months, as she told us that the organization actually did not reply her yet! The time for our activity is approaching. We then sought help of our teacher advisors, who helped us to contact another organization.

A year of hard work soon passed by and it was our service day. Nevertheless, things were not going on as what we have expected.....

Our target group was changed from kids to adolescents! Most of them were even taller than us and they looked much mature. We were nervous and did not know what to do. Later on, we proceed to the game session. We played “Removal of the Squirrels” and “Big TV”. However since our target group were adolescents, they seemed to think the game childish and did not enjoy them much. Besides, when we moved on to the cooking session, we discovered that we had made a serious mistake – we did not realize that it was the fast day for the South-asian adolescents! We had designed a chicken dish and a fish dish for them, but most of them could not eat or even touch them. So, they were bored again during the cooking session.

The situation got tensed and it finally relieved when we painted fans together with the adolescents. We chatted and had lots of fun. We shared our cultures with one another and they

were not bored anymore. Laughter filled our playground and we had a wonderful afternoon.

Throughout the activity, I understand that there is actually no boundary between races. Regardless of your nationality, if you are willing to step out and treat others as equal, everyone can work with one another harmoniously. Besides, I realized that communication is an important thing when working with your group. Each one of the group has the responsibility to finish their own duties on time and ready for helping other group mates. Moreover, it is a good practice to plan our schedule. We should plan before we take action, which can help to raise the efficiency and effectiveness. In addition, before a meeting, it is indeed a nice thing to prepare an agenda, that the meeting can be held with a clear direction and matters can be discussed quickly.

“Passionate about learning, caring through respect” This is what I learnt after participating in this program.

Angel Sum- Activity Coordinator