Teaching and Learning Based on Community Services: The Practice Teaching of Social Work Department in Qujing Normal University

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Abstract. Social Work Department was founded in Law School of Qujing Normal University (QNU) in 2011. Since then, practice teaching became the cornerstone of education. With the assistance of local authority and communities, undergraduates have accomplished many social services in the form of practice teaching and learning.

1. Introduction

Qujing University is located in Qujing City, Northeast Yunnan Province, which is the Southwest part of China. In this multi-ethnic and underdeveloped region, how to practice social work education has been an issue to college management, even to local government. As known to all, the growth of social working in underdeveloped regions has many problems, such as funding, human resource and conflict of ideas. Still, the value of social work hasn’t vanished[1].

In 2011, Social Work Department was founded in Law School of Qujing Normal University. Because the Social Work was new to all faculty, the priority was how to improve the skills of undergraduates, their employability. The management decided to set up a system which could provide effective training for undergraduates. Then the community services had been chosen as the breakthrough point. The policy was based on two factors. The first, those communities nearby could be the best resource for QNU. The second, serving the community is not only advocated by authority, but also the ideal way to realize social value for university.

Alert Bandura agrees with the behaviorist learning theories of classical conditioning and operant conditioning. He adds two important ideas: A. Mediating processes occur between stimuli & responses. B. Behavior is learned from the environment through the process of observational learning[2]. And the acquired behavior could only appear till days, weeks even months later. That means most couldn’t survive if their behaviors totally based on rewards and penalties[3]. So, the best way is to guide undergraduates acquire knowledge through observation and participating.

2. The Youth and Health Project of China Family Planning Association in QNU

Since 1998, in cooperated with UNFPA, China Family Planning Association (CFPA) has been promoting youth reproductive health projects nationwide. In 2015, Social Work Department had obtained the Youth and Health Project of Chinese University, which has given the privilege for the department to improve the practice teaching inside the campus.

2.1 Campus Brief

There were 15,000 undergraduates in QNU, the ratio of male to female was 3:7 during 2014-2019. According to field research, the main access of sexual health and prevention of HIV were internet, journals and friends. In 2013, there was almost no such program targeting on campus sexual health and prevention of HIV. This provided a “fertile land” for practice teaching, including questionnaire, helping them to understand and prepare for the future.
2.2 Project Design

Target: Undergraduates of QNU. Goal: To improve respect and mutual-understanding, making undergraduates. Supporting Group: Prof. Liu, undergraduate members: Sue, Zhang, Yang, Chang, Fan and Xie.

There were three group activities with different theme: social gender and sexual diversity, the decision of sex behavior, prevention and anti-discrimination of HIV. Each group had two hosts, two recorders, and two assistants, applied with peer education.

2.3 Activities

Theme One: Social gender and sexual diversity. The goals were (a) understanding gender, sexual orientation, sexual identification, sexual expression and sexual diversity. (b) existence of minority. (c) delivery of respect and understanding.

Content: (a) team game: to know the influence of stereotype. (b) lecture on social gender and sexual diversity. (c) riddle: showing respect to diversity.

Theme Two: The decision of sexual activity and contraception. The goals were (a) making undergraduates fully understand “sex”, its result and how to make decision. (b) helping the youth to understand contraception, and the meaning of love, health and responsibility.

Content: (a) worn-up, “uprising”. (b) decision, fully understanding the result of sex. (c) knowledge of contraception.

Theme three: Prevention and anti-discrimination of HIV. Goal: (a) giving publicity to HIV, and prevention of HIV. (b) anti-discrimination of HIV, how to treat the patient right.

Content: (a) quiz on HIV. (b) game of red light and green light: understanding the transmission routes of AIDS. No discrimination to HIV patients[4].

2.4 Achievement.

The project has been running for 5 years, and has been promoted outside the campus. This winter, social department had a big outdoor presentation in people’s square of Qujing, with deputy mayor on the scene, who had spoken highly of the project.

Social value is one thing, meanwhile this project had become the corner stone for practice teaching for undergraduates, who had gained a lot by helping others, their abilities and social skills had been promoted in the same time, which was just the purpose of education.

3. Advanced Training Project: To Teach Senior Citizen Avoid Fraud

To proceed the practice teaching outside the campus was not only the best way for training, but also a good opportunity to serve the community, and the perfect chance for publicity.

3.1 Roster Community Brief

The target people were senior citizen of Roster community, which was just nearly 500 meters away from campus. This newly built community was full of senior citizen with their younger relatives working downtown. So, lacking of recreation facility and chaperone, most of elder residents were eager to have company, which created a “perfect” chance for scam. All of this made social work necessary.

3.2 Project Design

Target: Senior citizen of Roster community. Goal: To help residents see through scam. Supporting Group: Prof. Lian, undergraduate members: Li, Qin, Zhao, Sun, Wu and Xie.

3.3 Activities.

Theme one: To know what is scam. Phase one: (a) introduction, (b) to tell participants what game
will be played. Phase two: (a) icebreaking: to pass the parcel. Notes: undergraduates must maintain orders and keep participants safe. Trying to interpret the game to senior citizens. Phase three: sharing stories of scam, and exchanging thoughts. Phase four: inviting participants to comment on this activity.

Theme Two: To know the detail of scam. Phase one: Playing anti-fraud video to participants, and group sharing. Phase two: Knowledge Q & A. Notes: any volunteers will be rewarded, and revealing answers if nobody knows. Phase three: Scene play, how to avoid scam. Notes: undergraduates should notice their tones, making participants focus on the content.

Theme three: Summary of scam. Phase one: scene play, to improve relationship with community. Phase two: tea party, sharing thoughts and summarize anti-fraud skills.

3.4 Achievement.

With the help of local government staff, this project had been welcomed by the residents, which was a little surprise for group. For undergraduates, they came to understand the meaning of “aging society”. Among those participants, at least 1/3 was over 80. So, it provided a good chance to experience how to server senior citizens in different environment.

4. Left-behind Children Caring Program

According to statistics, there were at least 6,970,000 left-behind children in China at the end of 2018, mainly in rural area. In Qujing City, the situation was the same. The social service of social department had covered the youth and senior citizens, children should be ignored.

4.1 SC Community Brief

SC community was selected because its location and papulation. First, it was located suburb, just outside of city, and was full of mobile population, which brought plenty of children with them. Because of their poor education and income, their children couldn’t have too much opportunity to get better condition, either for education or recreation.

4.2 Project Design.

Target people: 5-10 years old children. The project was to help them feel love, be grateful for their lives, and be responsible. Supporting Group: Prof. Shen, undergraduate members: Liu, Zhao, Song, Min and Choi.

Goal: (a) By outward bound, improving children’s psychological quality, cultivating their team spirit. (b) Improving their creation and innovation, making the change. (c) Cultivating responsibility, belongingness.

4.3 Activities.

Theme one: Hands in hands, 10 participants. Phase one: opening game. To communicate with children, get to know their habit. Phase two: auction game. Each child gets 10 candies, used as money to buy gifts, and sharing their thoughts later. Phase three: drawing home, each has ten minutes to draw their dreamy home, and the scene of family union. The purpose is to know children’s feeling and help them express love to parents and family. Notes: Considering their age, how to make them join the game is not easy. Meanwhile, safety is another issue.

Theme two: Cooperation makes a better future. Phase one: Self-portrait, each has five minutes to draw an ideal picture of themselves, and introduce to others later. Phase two: Squatting. Each group is named the name of the fruit. The host begins to say, such as apple squat. The team represented by the named fruit will then squat and stand up, and so on. Phase three: Balloon hit. Each group in different circles hit the balloon thrown by the host.
Theme three: Improving partnership. Phase one: Team bowing. Each bow to each member of another team. Phase two: Passing the cork hoop. Each group passes the hoop, first finish win.

4.4. Achievement.

Working with children was definitely “hard” level, which has improved team spirit for undergraduates. When caring for others, especially children, the caring and loving of undergraduates kept growing in the same time.

5. Conclusion.

Those above were only part of practice teaching during more than 8 years. The training model was divided into 3 parts. Theoretical teaching was proceeded inside the campus. Practice teaching was hold in communities and facilities. Special practice was mainly in jointed educational institutions. What has been accomplished by social work department of QNU was hardly summarized in a short section. In recent years, with the support of local authority and social service organization, social work department had set up 11 practice teaching bases, covering downtown and suburb area. Those practices teaching and volunteer services had been mainly proceeded in Welfare House for Children or Senior Citizens, community center and middle or primary schools[5]. 3 years ago, social work department had been reached other counties, which was a huge leap. Meanwhile it opened a wide door for practice.

Since 2015, based on the the Youth and Health Project of Chinese University, Prof and undergraduates of social work department has held more than 30 lectures in and outside campus, more than 50 campaign, and countless practice teaching. All of those has built a solid foundation for master’s degree application, which has been proceeding since 2015. There will be a bright vision for this application. Probably some years later, social work department of law school could have a totally different picture.

References


