**Service-Learning Project**

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The service-learning project provided a unique opportunity for students to become involved with community programs that influence health. My own experience elevated our classroom lessons to a new level. I decided to volunteer at my local Salvation Army store. My responsibility was to assist staff with their tasks and to help maintain the store's orderly. Going out into the community provided me with insight into how many people utilize this resource and how useful the organization is to the community. Throughout my volunteer experience, I noticed that the store remained quite busy. This prompted me to consider how many people rely on this business for low-cost clothing, books, furniture, and other items. Furthermore, I discovered that all the products in the store were donated and that they not only offer inexpensive items but also contribute all of the money made to people in need. My experience provided knowledge that may be beneficial to researchers and practitioners in public health and global health. Monitoring how many individuals use the services can help determine how to expand it to other communities in need. The pricing system used to price pre-owned items for sale may assist in determining what costs are tolerable for people who are not financially stable.

My service-learning experience influenced my skills by teaching me how to be adaptable to work I'm not used to with people I don't know in an environment I'm unfamiliar with. Furthermore, the experience helped me improve as a problem solver in addition to being more dependable. Since being in the Salvation Army store, my ability to relate to others has altered. Seeing people of many races and ages demonstrated to me that anyone may require assistance and that this resource is available to all. Growing up with a disabled single mother who immigrated from Africa put me at a disadvantage. At the time, I had no idea that all the presents under the Christmas tree each year were from The Salvation Army. I recall being happy that Santa hadn't forgotten about my family, and it reminded me of the kids racing around the store, absolutely thrilled. Service-learning can offer plenty of benefits over traditional classroom learning. Students get the chance to learn about their connections with their communities. Students may also discover more about their ability to serve others. The experience may also enable students to obtain career-related skills. Students gain the opportunity to play an important role in community health.

The service-learning experience could be expanded into a community-based research project. A study might be conducted to discover how many individuals shop at thrift stores, bargain stores, and other similar establishments. The research can further be used to determine the characteristics of the people who utilize these stores. The information could be used to determine which communities would benefit from these services and how to make them increasingly available to them. Reflection is an essential component of both service-learning and service-learning community-based research. It enables you to consider acquired information and real-world experience. Observing lessons in your community enables you to obtain a new perspective. Reflection allows for consideration of all aspects, including the community experience. Service-learning and community-based research are both critical to global health. These interactive experiences highlight important communal challenges and give insight into how to address local issues. Any local solutions can then be applied to help other communities facing similar difficulties. Certain challenges may be present in many communities throughout the world, therefore using local service-learning and service-learning community-based research may have a positive impact on local and global health issues. The implementation of solutions based on real-world experience can serve to strengthen global health.