Service Learning and Community Development

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Teaching and learning in Sociology

• Classroom learning
  • Social theory
  • Methods and tools of social investigation

• Goals of classroom learning
  • Enhance their understanding of Chinese Society
  • Develop the ability to solve a concrete problem confronted by themselves or a community
Service learning as an effective approach

- Service learning
  - classroom learning objectives
  - community service
- Specialized practice
  - Compulsory course
  - Always arranged in the third year
  - Lead by professors to a rural community for one week
  - Write a research report
  - Have profound impact on local economy and society
An example: the investigation in Yidu town

• Background of the investigation
  • Yidu is the poorest town of Fuqing city, Fujian province
  • Mr. Cao Dewang invites us to design a project to improve the living standard of local people
  • 40 students and 8 professors went to Yidu town in 2016
  • 1368 questionnaires and more than 30 deep interview were carried out
Photos of the investigation
Photos of the investigation
Photos of the investigation
Preliminary Findings

- Industrial structure is dominated by agriculture
- Large amount outflow of young labor
- Rich in tourism resources

- Tourism may be a solution to the development of local economy
Project design

• Form a team consisted of 8 students and an advisor
• Three more investigation in Yidu town
  • Natural resources and Cultural resources
  • Current development of tourism
  • Farmer’s participant willingness, skills and resources
  • Local government leader’s attitudes and opinions
• Design a project for the development of tourism
Social impact

- Mr. Cao Dewang gave a high appraisal to our investigation
- More than 10 social medias reported our investigation
- Our suggestions are adopted by local governments
- Some new development have been found when we went to Yidu town for the fourth time
  - Roads were widened
  - 5 more home-stays opened
  - Some of the ancient architectures had been repaired
Thanks for listening!