

## Lesson 1: Service in the Community - Why Participate?

*Service to others is a responsibility to fulfill. It is a way of being human.*

Any form of work or activity can be a means to serve the greater good of the community. Our intentions and motives for doing something contribute to the depth of its meaning and purpose. Service demands goodwill and skills. Anyone who walks the extra mile and helps others in need is a person with a generous spirit.

**Service in the Community – why participate** is a lesson that prepares the students for any Values-in-Action programme (VIA) or Service Learning (SL) activity. It helps students understand the goals of the programme; explores the meaning and importance of service in the community as well as reflecting on one's personal expectations in joining such a school project.

## Lesson 2: Service in the Community - Preparation

*Personal and group preparation for any community service is key to meaningful participation.*

An important part of preparing students for any community service project is helping them build up their knowledge about the issue or situation that they will be involved in. In-depth understanding of certain realities about the people they are visiting or some social analysis that will help them become more open yet critical in approaching the situation.

In any community service project, one needs to be open to growth, generous in spirit and willing to share one's gifts and talents with others without expectations of a return or reward.

**Service in the Community – Preparation** deepens the students' preparation for Values-in-Action (VIA) or Service Learning (SL) projects. Through article readings and small group discussions, students get to explore a broad range of issues involved in the project; identify the skills, attitudes and talents needed to make it a success and develop greater interest in committing oneself to the programme.

## Lesson 3: Service in the Community— Reflection 1

*Reflection helps us become more open to growth.*

A reflection process, either individually or in small groups, can help students in processing and internalizing their experiences during the VIA or SL activity. Through reflection, the meaning of the experience is deepened and new insights, interpretations and pathways for learning are opened up creating new possibilities for growth.

**Service in the Community – Reflection 1** is a process that deepens the students' experiences in doing VIA/SL activities. Students share about their first encounter with the community – meeting new faces, poverty, their reactions, feelings, thoughts, observations and analysis of the situation. Students put together their experiences to draw out its deeper meaning for themselves and for others.

## Lesson 4: Service in the Community - Reflection 2

*On – going reflection is needed to effect authentic changes.*

One big contribution that community involvement can make is helping the person change his mindset, attitude or lifestyle. More opportunities for reflection allow this change to happen as it helps students see things from different perspectives. Everyone can reflect, at any level and in various ways. Reflection opens up a way for the person to move beyond knowing to acting.

**Service in the Community – Reflection 2** is part of the continuing process of discernment on the various encounters during the VIA/SL activities. Using direct experience, students apply the process of doing social analysis to deepen their insight into the situation.

## Lesson 5: Service in the Community - Moving Forward

*Serving in the community is an on-going work for everyone; it deepens relationships with self, others, and the world around us.*

Monitoring students' improvement at the end of any community service activity is important. Every student grows in different ways, at a different pace and time so we need to be open to the different results that we might get. Individual and group evaluation can also be done to ascertain the strengths and weaknesses of the project as well as the overall learning of the students.

**Service in the Community – Moving Forward** helps students wrap up the whole VIA/SL experience – the learning points, individual and group participation, expectations and objections of the activities. It also provides the opportunity for them to reflect on their own personal growth and how this might be a useful tool as they move ahead in life.