

Service-Learning in India: A modality for Community University Engagement (CUE) & Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR)



Wafa Singh

India Research Coordinator

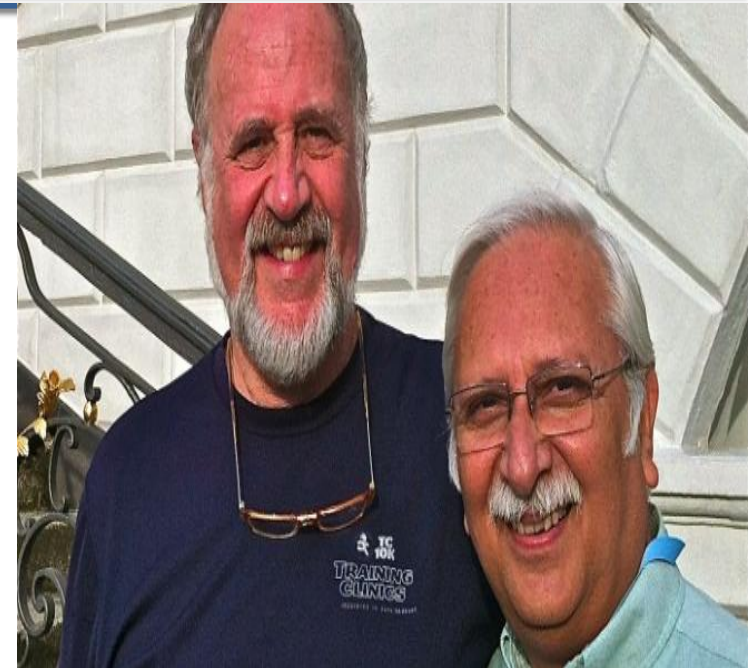
UNESCO Chair in Community Based Research & Social Responsibility in Higher Education

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About UNESCO Chair

- Partnership between UVic & PRIA since 2012
- Created in the aftermath of the 2nd UNESCO Conference on Higher Education (2009)
- Supports North-South-South and South-South partnerships, building and enhancing 'knowledge democracy'
- Strengthens engagement between communities, civil society & academia
- Advocates mainstreaming of Community University Engagement in academic curriculum
- Promotes discourse on 'Social Responsibility in Higher Education'



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Context

- Social dilemmas: Co-existence of prosperity amidst poverty
- UN SDGs 2030 Agenda recognizes the critical role of knowledge in bringing about social change
- Need for critical societal actors to step forward; challenge for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- HEIs gauged in terms of their social responsibilities; challenged to develop partnerships & co-create knowledge for addressing social problems
- Necessitates re-emphasis of principles of service-learning & community engagement



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Service-learning

- Reflective pedagogy; combines community service with learning opportunities
- Mutually-beneficial approach to teaching & learning
- Experiential education; enhances skills of critical thinking, collective activity, community building etc.
- Powerful pedagogy; links service, teaching & academic learning



Source: Transition US, 2013



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CUE & CBPR

CUE

Mutually beneficial
relationships
between universities
& communities

Participative &
committed to
creation, sharing of
knowledge

CBPR

Collaborative &
systematic approach
to enquiry

Stresses on co-
learning, capacity
building,
commitment



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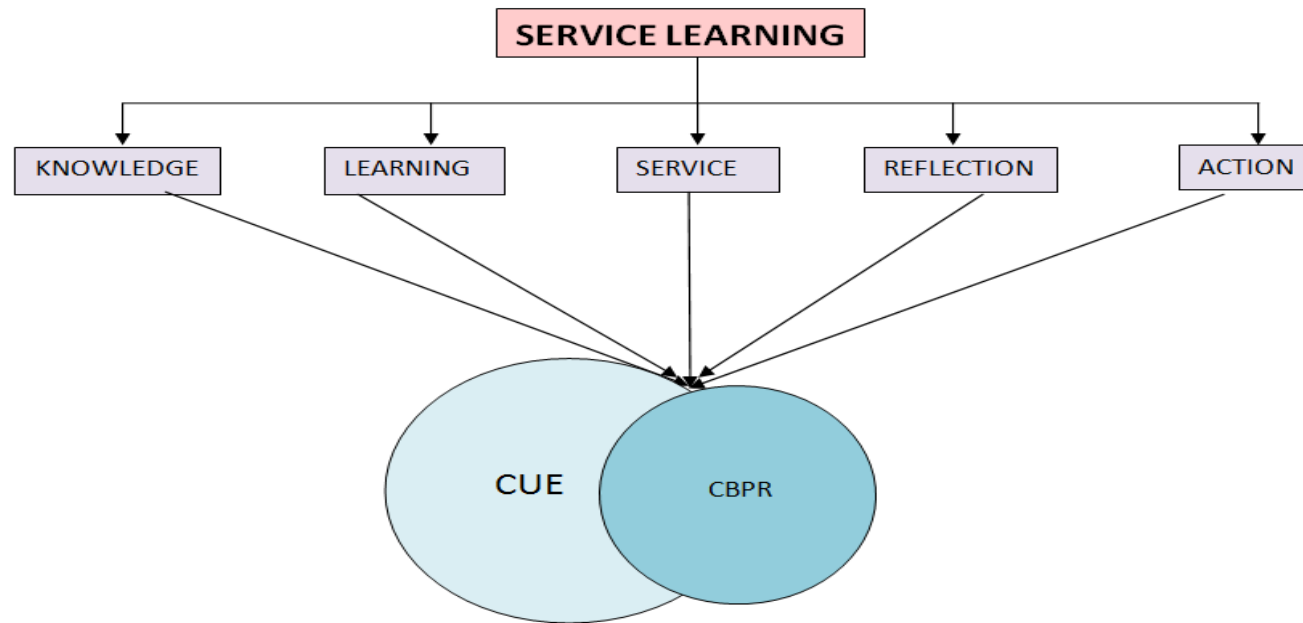


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SL: Synergies with CUE & CBPR

- CUE's focus on mutuality & creation of learning opportunities in sync with SL principles
- CBPR feeds into SL objectives by way of being reciprocal, community focused & learning-based



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Best practices

SL & CUE

- MM College, Haryana
- IIT-Guwahati, Assam

SL & CBPR

- North Bengal University, Siliguri
- Ambedkar University, Delhi



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Third party role

- Effective SL calls for connecting with different kinds of knowledge
- CSOs can bring in practical knowledge from the field; play a bridging role between universities & communities
- PRIA has been playing a leading role in enabling such partnerships
- Government contributes by way of favorable academic policies
- MHRD, UGC, NAAC have been engaged in promoting SL, CUE & CBPR in different capacities



Source: ACU, 2013



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Ways forward

- Need to move beyond traditional approaches to teaching & learning
- SL, as a mode of CUE & CBPR must be used to contribute to UN SDGs
- Action partnerships between HEIs & CSOs needed for co-generation of 'new knowledge'
- UNESCO Chair's Knowledge for Change (K4C) initiative provides an exciting opportunity
- PRIA offers a number of SL opportunities by way of internships



Source: IARSLCE

Connect with UNESCO Chair

Ms. Wafa Singh



@UNESCOchairCBR/@Wafasingh



@UNESCOchairCBR

Email:

wafa.singh@pria.org

Websites:

www.unescochair-cbrsr.org

www.pria.org

www.marthafarrellfoundation.org



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