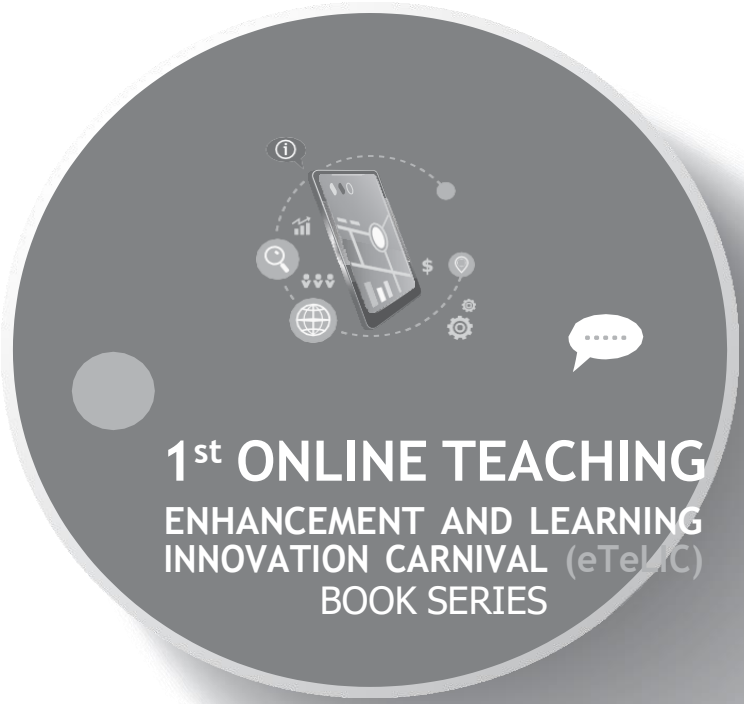

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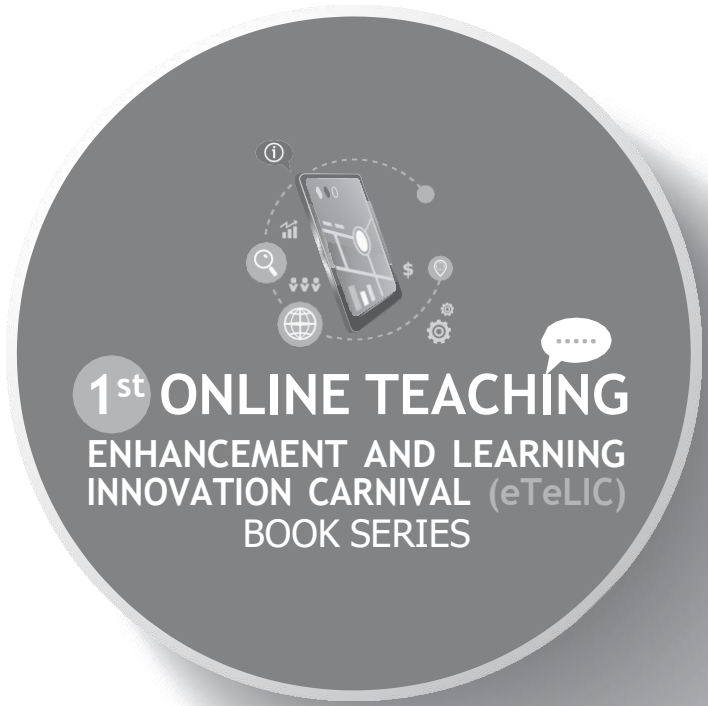

SYNCHRONOUS & REAL-TIME ONLINE INTERACTION

Editors:
TAN TSE GUAN
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TRANSFORMATIVE TEACHING PRACTICES "APPROACH AND PROCESS OF LEARNING:EVERYTHING IS A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY"

Subject Area

<SSS3074 Fieldwork Practice. It is a compulsory courses offer to undergraduate students (Third Year) in Social Work Studies Program, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). This course also listed under Service/Community Based Learning (SBL). In this course, the students are required to do once weekly placement at their respective assigned agencies and to attend twice weekly discussion groups on campus (for one semester). The twice weekly discussion groups on campus and all graded assignments are designed to consolidate the students' learning by integrating their experience gained from placement with the knowledge gained from other social work courses. *e-Learning Enrichment and Advancement Platform* (*e*LEAP) is as a *e-platform* for disseminating and updating information, sharing, medium of communication/chat groups, feedbacks, reflections and incorporated with their oral presentation and written assignments.>

Researchers

<Dr Dolly Paul Carlo>

Issues

<Learning is becoming an active process of discovery and participation based on self-motivation rather than on more passive acquaintance of facts and rules (Sfard, 1998). According Milra (2013) emerging trends in education are increasingly moving towards learner-centered approaches. The role of the educators or teachers are becoming more as a mentor or facilitator in guiding, facilitating and playing an crucial role in the process of learning (Milrad, 2013).

In addition the approach and meaning of teaching and learning is not just in classroom but incorporated and integrated holistically within the online or offline classroom and real world setting, with engagement and interactivity. The process of teaching and learning is about collaborative interactions as an essential element of any pedagogy which anticipate that good learning is collaborative and that understanding comes through modeling, participation in, and reaction to the behaviors and thoughts of others" (Pawan, F., Paulus, T. M., Yalcin, S., & Chang, Ching-Fen, 2003, p.119). As Pradono, S., Astriani, M. S., and Moniaga, J. (2013) have emphasized that learning methods play an important role and receive special attentions in our life.

Innovation / Intervention

< In intervening the transformative teaching practice which emphasising on approach and process of learning where everything is learning opportunity for the learners through this course, the students are required to do once weekly placement at their respective assigned agencies and to attend twice weekly discussion groups on campus (for one semester). The twice weekly discussion groups on campus and all graded assignments are designed to consolidate the students' learning by integrating their experience gained from placement with the knowledge gained from other social work courses.

Once weekly fieldwork placement at related government agencies and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) is the real lab or world to exposure the learners with involvement with works and activities related to social work and supervised by their respective supervisors. Some of activities in their fieldwork such as doing case work, group work, community work, attending Children Court Hearing, Home Visit, involved in project runs by the agencies or their own project such as Service Learning Malaysia University For Society (SULAM) project. The attachment at the various agencies as an exposure for them to develop and apply their assessment skills, practice social work values, skills and knowledge into their practice. The placement gives students the opportunity for direct contact and engage with real clients/service users, at a level that commensurate with the students' abilities and the time-frame of their placement.

Twice weekly discussion either through physically face to face in the class room or online through e-platform (in particular during the pandemic COVID-19) are the medium for discussion, presentation, questions and answers, presenting case study, group work, which emphasizing to integrate the process of thinking creatively in problem-solving. This twice weekly discussion has provide a platform for learners to critically analyze and reflect knowledge, values and skills in social work practice, developing open, respectful and trustful communication, and working in a team.

e-Learning Enrichment and Advancement Platform (*e*LEAP) is as a e-platform for disseminating and updating information, sharing, medium of communication/chat groups, feedbacks, reflections and incorporated with their oral presentation and written assignments. The assessments are geared to the Learning Outcomes (CLOs) of the course. As there is no examinations the assessments are based on their performances during fieldwork which are assessed by their respective field supervisors, project or case study, and oral presentation either individual or in a group.

As Pradono et al. (2013) emphasise that 'interactive' appears in two distinct strands of educational research discourse: one concerning pedagogy and the other concerning new technologies in education. For them, teaching students with traditional method where there is only one way of communication is no longer effective. The approach and process of learning in this intervention emphasises an

active learning in which "instructional activities involving learners in doing things and thinking about what they are doing" (Bonwell & Eison, 1991). The approach and process of learning is promoting active learning focuses more on developing learners' skills than on transmitting information and require students to do something which it requires higher order of thinking. The approach and process is emphasising learners' explorations of their own attitudes and values in particular in the context of social work values and ethics. Specific attention will be given to help students to develop their assessment skills, practice of social work values, applying theory in practice, and self-awareness in doing social work.

Therefore, the approach of teaching and learning in this course is incorporated and integrated holistically within the online or offline classroom and real world setting in which everything is a learning opportunity for the students and to improve learning outcomes through increased engagement and interactivity. It is one of transformative teaching practices, which provide learning opportunity for them on a journey to professional social work. The process of teaching and learning are designed to increase interactive engagement and interactivity.>

Description of Approach

< SSS3074 Fieldwork Practice. It is a compulsory courses offer to undergraduate students (Third Year) in Social Work Studies Program, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, UNIMAS. The students are required to do once weekly placement at their respective assigned agencies and to attend twice weekly discussion groups on campus (for one semester). The placement gives students the opportunity for direct contact with clients/target group, at a level that commensurate with the students' abilities and the time-frame of their placements. The twice weekly discussion groups on campus and all graded assignments are designed to consolidate the students' learning by integrating their experience gained from placement with the knowledge gained from other social work courses. Specific attention is given to help students develop their assessment skills, practice of social work values, applying theory in practice, and self-awareness in doing social work. *e-Learning Enrichment and Advancement Platform* (*eLEAP*) is as a *e-platform* for disseminating and updating information, sharing, medium of communication/chat groups, feedbacks, reflections and incorporated with their written assignments. The approach of teaching and learning is incorporated and integrated holistically within the online or offline classroom and real world setting in which everything is a learning opportunity for the students and improve learning outcomes through increased engagement and interactivity. It is one of transformative teaching practices, which provide learning opportunity for them on a journey to professional social work. In short, incorporated and integrated holistically transformative teaching practices with emphasizing on engagement and interactivity will provide the approach and process of learning where everything is a learning opportunity for the learners.>

Related Learning Outcome Clusters MQF 2.0

All the Learning Outcomes (CLOs) in the course are designed to integrate and collaborate related to the learning outcome of Clusters MQF 2.0. CLO1 of the course is related to MOF5 which emphasising on ethics and values in the context of social work field which specific attention to help students develop their assessment skills, practice of social work values, applying theory in practice, and self-awareness in doing social work. In addition, in exercising their professional skills and responsibilities as a social worker: integrity, professional conduct (professionalism), and standards of conduct such as codes of good practices or code of professional conduct.

CLO 2 of the course is related to MQF4A: Personal skills, which emphasising on personal skills of the learners are expected to use in their fieldwork attachment and or even with their course mates for examples developing open, respectful and trustful communication, and working in a team. On top of that, aspects of character such as honesty, punctuality, time management, keeping to and maintaining deadlines that are important in a work environment are also important are emphasized through this CLO.

CLO3 of the course which is related to MQF3A: Practical skills, which exposing the learners with involvement with works and activities related to social work skills (such as communication, assessment, recording, reporting a case work) and professional practice to enhance professional competence and supervised by their respective supervisors.

CLO 4 of the course is related to MOF2: Cognitive skills, which emphasising on thinking or intellectual capabilities and the learners' abilities to apply knowledge and skills in social work. Specific attention to help learners in reflecting their self-awareness in doing social work and relating between theory and practice.

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