

**Service Learning: Its nature, Concept, philosophy and benefits in teaching
Social Studies**

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Abstract

The purpose of Service learning is to connect the theoretical frameworks with their practical aspects. This is done by applying knowledge, information, facts, principles and generalizations acquired by students through their study of Social Studies in the daily life situations they face. It also emphasizes the principle of active participation of students in the educational situations. This done through stimulating students thinking and helping him to reach knowledge and facts embedded in the educational situation by himself, not through depending on his teacher. This comes from the inevitability of stimulating student's thinking regarding problems, issues and phenomena in their society. Service learning provides Students with many opportunities to participate in the planning and implementation of activities and projects that serve the surrounding community and at the same time related to Social Studies course they study. Thus, service learning focuses on opening communication channels between school and community. These channels are of equal benefits for the learner, school and society. It also emphasizes the need for team work and its importance in acquiring and developing knowledge and skills intended from learning. It is concerned with cooperation, participation and communication between individuals and working groups. In addition, students are taught through working groups that interact and cooperate to explore the issues and topics they are studying. This may happen during planning stage, the implementation stage or at the evaluation and presentation stages.

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