

<p><b>Field of application</b></p>	<p>SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS(BACHELOR OF PROCUREMENT COURSE)</p>
<p><b>Abstract</b></p>	<p>Higher education institutions play a major role in the economic growth and development of countries at large. They serve as havens where youth are able to acquire knowledge and skill that can enable them make a living. The importance of this is emphasized in the achievement of Sustainable development Goal 4. To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all and Goal 8. To promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Due to the ever changing needs and operating environment for both businesses and organizations, there is need for higher education institutions to produce graduates who can match the market demands as they play a primary role in production, distribution, and consumption of knowledge, through teaching, research, and community engagement. (pacho,2019). The UNESCO 2015 report notes that Inadequate skills and mismatch between education and skills have emerged as chief concerns of unemployment among the youth. There is thus dire need for HEIs to come up with mechanisms that can fill this gap. HEIs can seek alternative pedagogy methods that enhance the skills acquired by graduates to improve their employability and open up a variety of career paths. Pedagogy techniques used in HEIs greatly influence the nature of graduates released to the labor market. In Africa most HEIs deliver courses in a theoretical rather than practical manner especially Business courses. Students are eventually assessed based on the extent to which they are able to reproduce what was taught rather than apply the knowledge gained.(Mikelic,2015).This overtime has proved to be inadequate in equipping them with the skills required in industry.In order to bridge this gap service Learning can be adopted as a pedagogy technique that enables learners to actively participate in societal issues by applying the knowledge gained to meet societal needs. It provides a</p>



	<p>platform for a symbiotic relationship between society, organizations, students and higher education institutions by bridging the gap between theory and practice through its key components of service to community, reflective and experiential learning. By improving pedagogy methods through service Learning Higher education institutions will be able to enhance theory-practice connection and increase relevance of the institution to the community as the community benefits from problems being solved by students. This will in the long run improve employability of graduates</p>
<p><b>Stakeholders / Roles</b></p>	<p>University Management: This will comprise of:  The Office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor Academics(DVC ARA)  The DVC ARA will play a key role in Capacity building by providing a platform for outreach to industry stakeholders, authorizing of training staff and students on the Service learning model and provision of resources needed to actualize the project. In the long run the DVC’s office will facilitate adoption of SL to the curriculum</p> <p>Directorate of Graduate Studies(ACCESS project Coordinators)  To provide guidance in the implementation of the project and participate in its implementation.</p> <p>Dean School of Business  To act as the link between the school and the UBL project team. The dean will provide a platform for students and staff to participate in the ACCESS project and represent the school in the meetings involving the project.</p> <p>Head of Department _Management  Undertake the reflective and experiential exercise with students during the project in order to determine its impact. Identify emerging issues during project implementation for improvement purposes.</p> <p>Participating Organizations (County government of Kiambu, Bidco ltd  Provide a platform where the service learning activity can take place. Identify the emerging issues and challenges in industry where students can use knowledge gained to solve the problems and improve efficiency.</p>
<p><b>Objectives</b></p>	<p>-To establish partnerships between the University and external stakeholders  -To promote the employability of graduates by enhancing their skill set</p>

<p><b>and Benefits</b></p>	<p>-To provide services to community that promote efficiency          -To identify emerging issues in the industry context</p> <p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <p>Competitive advantage of educational institutions emanates from the impact it has on students, employees, and the institution at large. SL will enable courses offered in HEIs to be tailor made to meet current industry needs by enhancing critical thinking and gaining of soft skills.</p> <p>In addition, faculty members will be equipped with pedagogy skills that will improve the mode of content delivery to students. This will enhance the quality of teaching by promoting a questioning and critical mind among graduates.</p> <p>Increased interaction between the HEI, Industry and community promotes partnerships and enhanced relations. Industries as stakeholders will provide insight to a great extent on the needs and requirements in the job market. Rather than the HEI solely determining the nature of the graduate produced, stakeholders are involved to ensure that the graduates meet the current industry demands.</p> <p>The university's ranking will improve through conducting participatory research where the students are able to identify issues community and industry are facing and come up with innovative ways to solve the challenges.</p> <p>Global interaction among students, HEIs and industry experts through Service-E-Learning will promote exchange of knowledge and ideas in a global perspective under diverse environments. This can be done through teleconferencing, virtual conferencing and digital storytelling. This will promote international linkages that in the long run improve the University's ranking scores</p> <p>Creating awareness through various media regarding the service learning concept being implemented in the University will attract other Higher Education Institutions to evaluate its implementation and overall effect on learning outcomes and graduates leading to its adoption by other universities.</p> <p>In the long run the overall curriculum can be reviewed to inculcate service learning as an integral part of it. This will improve the standards of teaching, instruction and overall output.</p>
----------------------------	---

**Implementation  
plan including  
milestones**

- Identification of Industry and community need.  
This will involve interacting with industry experts to determine their experiences when working with recent graduates. Collection of this information will enable the areas to focus on during the planning phase of service learning program. Emphasis will be made on this issues during consecutive meetings held with the members of faculty School of business and students who will participate in the service learning program.
- Identification of institutions that have implemented the Service Learning model.  
This will facilitate benchmarking in order to appreciate the mode they used to implement service learning, challenges faced and recommended areas of improvement. This will enable Development of mechanisms to handle the contingencies when they occur Source of information will be through published reports of the respective Institutions
- Determination of resources and technology needed to make the project a success **(Competence and Capacity Analysis)**  
Analysis of the institutions ability to run the program based on the resources it has. Resources required will include experts in the chosen area(procurement) transport, meeting space, stationery, internet etc. Measures to fill gaps on the inadequate resources will be identified.
- Meeting with faculty School of Business and economics  
An initial meeting with the members of faculty will enable:
 
  - Creation of awareness on Service Learning
  - Adoption of Bachelor of Procurement course to Pilot Service Learning.
  - Identification of Institutions to partner with the University in implementing Service learning.  
This will culminate with the signing of an MOU
- Training and orientation of students on service learning  
Students will be taken through the service learning concept. In order to understand what is expected of them during the period Invitation of guest speaker: To expose them to the emerging issues in the procurement sector.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preparation of Implementation report This will be a detailed report of activities undertaken during implementation and objectives achieved.</li> <li>▪ -Commencement of Service learning in partner industries This will involve:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Periodic Monitoring and meeting to enable reflection of experiences.</li> <li>▪ Culmination of activity through a meeting with all stakeholders. Filling out of an evaluation questionnaire analysis of findings and preparation of final report.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Gantt chart Annex 1</li> </ul>
<p><b>Linkages/ interfaces</b></p>	<p>Service learning can be embedded into various activities in the school of Business. This include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial attachment In order to complete the course, students are expected to proceed for industrial attachment at the end of their course. The service learning concept can be embedded to this stage making it a more rigorous program.</li> <li>• Mentorship Periodically, the faculty engages students in mentorship programs where industry experts give an overview of expectations in industry. Inculcating service learning to this will introduce the practical aspect where students actively engage with professionals and gain practical skills.</li> <li>• Corporate Social Responsibility Corporate social responsibility enables students to identify with the needs and emerging issues in the community which in turn promotes civic engagement a core element of service learning.</li> <li>• Exchange programs Service E learning can be adopted in promoting exchange programs among students virtually on a global context. Various job scenarios can be uploaded in an application or website where students are able to interact and exchange ideas on how best to solve an issue or improve a product or service.</li> </ul>



--	--