

Reflection on Experiential learning programme in Vietnam

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The programme was a memorable and rewarding experience. It acts as a bridge to link up the theoretical knowledge learnt in classrooms and the practical skills on construction sites.

We, eight civil engineering students, worked as assistant residential engineers to monitor the construction of toilets in a local secondary school. Our duty was to ensure the construction work to be delivered according to the drawings and schedule. By regularly inspecting the site, we had a better understanding on the construction process, for example, excavation and construction of foundation. The programme provided an opportunity for me to apply academic knowledge into practical situation.

The programme also gave me a chance to learn new practical skills, like using shovel to excavate and to mix paste. Every student picked up a shovel to dig soil for the construction of the foundation and to mix paste for the construction of the brick walls. These hands-on activities provided valuable and interesting experiences as they were practical skills that would not be taught in traditional classrooms.

Apart from civil engineering work, we also partnered with social sciences students to work on the need assessment report. We did interviews and group discussions with the government officials and households in Le Xa and Trung Dong Commune. The corporation was a valuable experience for civil engineering and social sciences students to work together and to learn the way of thinking from each other. The multidisciplinary collaboration will be a stepping stone for our future career, where we will have opportunities to work with people from different background.