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| Transcription: | 18 |
| Date: | 16 July 2024 |
| Participant: | Q |
| Researcher: | Elizna Grobler |

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| Researcher: | Okay. So hello. Welcome to my research. Thank you very much for participating in it. I would just like to provide you a bit of background as to who I am. So I am Elizna, I am currently a people generalist. I do recruitment and other HR administration, and you are then I'm also completing my second year of masters, and this is obviously where you come in. So I just want to give you a bit of background to my study as well. So my study title is the social construction of work, integrated learning as community engagement from a postgraduate perspective. So basically, what that just means is how you have experienced your community project as a form of work, integrated learning. So yeah, are you familiar with the term work, integrated learning? |
| Participant Q: | Yes, I am. |
| Researcher: | Okay. So I am just, anyways, going to give you a bit of an explanation from what I have found from my studies. So basically it refers to approaches and strategies where theory is combined with practice within a purposefully designed curriculum which stretches further than traditional education, and obviously it enables students to receive exposure to real world work environments. And examples of this can be internships, work placements, practicums, project based learning as well as service learning. So as I've mentioned, I am going to ask you a few questions regarding your community project of last year. So to keep things of if you can just explain a bit what your group decided to do last year. |
| Participant Q: | So my group decided that we are going to do the CV training as well as doing online mock interviews. The mock interviews were aimed specifically on online interviews, because so many job interviews are done over zoom or teams or Google, you know. So it's a different dynamic how to carry yourself. It's a lot different. You can't really show the same positive body language through a camera as you can in person. So we focused a lot on that, and then we also decided to add on CV training as well as cover letter training. |
| Researcher: | Okay, that sounds very interesting. And I would also like to know from this community project that you did, how did the community project allow you to combine your academic knowledge with practice |
| Participant Q: | So for me, the presentations, or like public speaking, was a bit of a hurdle at first. So personally, for me, presenting those classes or sessions to other students over zoom, helped a lot. So I feel like I better my skills in that, as well as writing my own CV and how to conduct myself in an interview. Personally, also, because just after that, I started applying for jobs and drafting CVS, and I learned how to personalize or specify a certain CV to a certain job post, so that it actually helped me quite a bit. |
| Researcher: | Okay, okay, no, that's good. So just to summarize, you said that it helped you to also present over a zoom session to draft your own CV and actually know how to apply for specific positions. Yes. Okay, perfect. So this might be an easy question, but has this practicum allowed you to engage with your community and please elaborate on your answer. |
| Participant Q: | Yes, it did. So I transferred universities from [specific university] to up after my final year. So speaking to up students that weren't in my class was, I felt, I felt it was refreshing, because I didn't really know anyone outside of my class at up, so yeah, it did help me connect a bit with other people at [my current University]. |
| Researcher: | Okay, no, that is good to hear. And as work integrated learning, it attempts to give a student exposure to the real world and also to industry partners. So I just want to know did this form of community project expose you to communion, to industry partners, or not really? |
| Participant Q: | Not necessarily, people in a in a corporate environment, but we worked along with career services at up, which was fun, so we learned more about how they do things on their side and what goes on in their offices or space. |
| Researcher: | Okay, and would you say that if you could turn back time, that perhaps if the community project actually allowed you to connect a bit more with industry partners, do you think that might have been a bit more beneficial than doing the CV sessions? |
| Participant Q: | I do think so. But also I wouldn't necessarily change it. I wouldn't necessarily change it, because, as I said, conducting like a presentation or training was a bit of a hurdle for me, so doing it in that way sort of eased me into it, because they also trained us on how to do a session or, you know, carry over the info that we wanted people to have. So I think for networking, it is very beneficial. But for me, on the other side, it helped me to overcome a certain weakness or or struggle that I had. |
| Researcher: | Okay, so basically, it equipped you with a bit more soft skills you didn't necessarily have the exposure to while studying. Yes, okay, okay, no, that makes sense. And are you currently employed? |
| Participant Q: | Yes, I am. |
| Researcher: | Okay. So before you have been employed. Would you say that the community project actually contributed to your employability? |
| Participant Q: | I think it does. Yeah. I don't know it, yeah, as I said it, it went well with career services, because they eased us into it so you learn how to work with a manager or superior, almost, okay, and how to communicate with them, and then also with other team members. So I enjoyed, I enjoyed the dynamic of that. Yeah. |
| Researcher: | Okay, you know that's actually very interesting insight that you have provided, especially since I didn't learn to how to work with a manager, because it is important to report to someone that's your superior. So thank you for mentioning that. Okay? And then I would also like to ask you, would you say you did mention now that it helped with your employability, but would you say that it equipped you for the world of work? And if yes, if you can just please elaborate on your answer as well. |
| Participant Q: | Not necessarily. I think, I think once you get into honors, you have a certain level of competency or like confidence to be able to enter the world of work and be fine. But it's just, it's just like an added bit of skill or knowledge that helps, you know, just helped out a bit. Yeah, okay. |
| Researcher: | Okay. And then I would also like to know what aspects of the practicum have you found to be very insightful. |
| Participant Q: | the CV writing, okay, definitely the CV writing. And there are a couple of things from the online interview side that you can use in person as well. So I pick a bit of both. Yeah. |
| Researcher: | Okay. And then you did mention now that, well, a bit a while back that if you were to create personal connections, then perhaps it might be good to have industry partners to help you with your community project. But how would you say, can the community project be adjusted to align with industry partners based on your experience in the world of work currently? |
| Participant Q: | are you asking like, how it could be easier to reach industry partners? |
| Researcher: | Or, let me rephrase that, perhaps, so, you have obviously now gained a bit of experience in the field of work, and basically the question is, how can the community project be adapted to adjust so that it aligns with the industry partners standards, like in a real life job, if my answer, if my question makes sense. |
| Participant Q: | I think, I think if it was the practicum was a lot of work, the planning and so on. But I almost want to say if it maybe was done in a like a two month window where you afforded a bit more time only in that period to focus on that, because obviously it's, it's a lot faster pace. So I think that would be a more be more attractive for industry partners to get on board with students, practicum or community project. |
| Researcher: | Okay, and let's say, based on the content of the community project, am I correct that the groups have a bit more well, have a lot of autonomy in choosing certain things to do for their community project? |
| Participant Q: | Yes. Yes, okay, and yeah, sorry. We were able to choose pretty much anything, take it to our supervisor for approval and then refine it a bit more. |
| Researcher: | And would you say that, since IOP professional, professionals need to do, like psychometrics and things like that. Would you prefer it if the community project were a bit more specifically IOP based, so that you can learn more IOP based skills? |
| Participant Q: | Yeah, I think so. Um, you mentioned. I think if we, if we because obviously we weren't able to do psychometric tests on people, then because you're not licensed or qualified yet, but if we were somehow allowed to work with lecturers or professionals for like, a day or two at a school where they do psychometric tests. I think that would have been fun as well as insightful. |
| Researcher: | Okay, no, thank you so much. That's all questions from my side. These interviews don't tend to go on too long. But is there anything else? that you would like to add in a topic. |
| Participant Q: | No, not from my side. |