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Unveiling the Students' Benefits and Challenges in Service-Learning in Higher Education: A Literature Review

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Service-learning is an increasingly popular method in higher education, from which educational stakeholders, especially students, may benefit in various aspects. The students who participate in service-learning programs can improve their academic performance, civic participation, as well as career development. However, they also face some specific challenges. The present study, therefore, aims at exploring (1) the learning theories underpinning service-learning; (2) the positive potential with which service-learning can provide students such as academic achievement, civic engagement and social responsibility, and fostered essential skills; and (3) the obstacles faced by the student volunteers, namely time constraints, transportation hurdles, students' engagement and commitment. By synthesizing the findings in a number of existing research, this review seeks to assist educators in creating well-managed service-learning programs that optimize student advantages and reduce potential issues, ultimately contributing to the development of well-rounded graduates prepared to be not only proficient in their majors but also socially responsible and engaged citizens.

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