Higher Education’s responsibility for developing research mindedness – University and Local Partner Perspectives

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Agenda

• Presentation – presenters and context
• Introduction – arguments for research collaboration in higher education
• The concept of research mindedness
• Research mindedness and service learning
• An arena to develop research mindedness – “The Research Marketplace”
• What’s in it for practice?
• What’s in it for university?
• Questions and discussion
Faculty of Social Sciences

- Norwegian School of Hotel Management
- Department of Business Administration
- Department of Media, Culture and Social Sciences
- Department of Social Studies
  - Master of Applied Social Science
- Department of Health Studies
  - Master of Health Science
Introduction

• Arguments for research collaboration in higher education (HE)
  – make education and research more accessible to the general public
  – utilize and implement research in practice
  – ensure that education and research are useful to society
  – promote human rights values for society
The concept of research mindedness

New understanding of expertise as networked expertise in terms of higher-level cognitive competencies, that arise from sustained collaborative efforts to solve problems and build knowledge together.

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The concept of research mindedness

HE: research based education

Practice: research based practice

Research as the core of collaboration

Mutual developed research activities
Research mindedness - Service learning

- Service learning
  - a teaching strategy that provides immediate opportunities to apply classroom learning, enrich students’ outcome and enhance the work of local agencies.

  (Florida Department of Education)

- Research mindedness
  - A unifying concept which implies “an ideal of a reflexive expert and a researching-practitioner and practice research”

  (Karvinen-Niinikoski 2005:259).
“The Research Market Place”

- A meeting place between
  - University – researchers
  - Health- and Social Services – practitioners
  - Civil Society Organisations – CSO’s
  - University – master students
The Research Market Place aims to

- introduce students to meaningful research questions, relevant to society
- use students’ research resources to strengthen the University’s service to society by means of research relevant to societal needs
- contribute to strengthening research mindedness within the health and social services.
Implementation strategies

• An annual seminar
  – where representatives from CSOs and welfare services present and discuss themes and questions they would like explored. The seminar serves as a meeting place between CSO representatives, students and supervisors.

• A website
  – to provide information about research questions, ongoing and completed projects, contact persons, etc.

• A part time coordinator
  – to moderate the activities.
What’s in it for practice?
Example: Stavanger Shelter

• Very inspiring to have researchers working on “our” questions

• Students research has a direct influence on our work, which benefits those in need of support and services
  – Two master projects have been accomplished and contributed to develop useful knowledge within our area of work on two important topics:
    1. how persons with ethnic minority backgrounds experience domestic violence, and what they do in order to survive and escape a violent relationship
    2. violence during pregnancy
What’s in it for practice?

Example: Stavanger Shelter

- Understanding research methods makes it easier to evaluate empirical publications and our own practice
  - employees have become more aware of new research and the importance of this
- New issues and discussions have been raised that might lead to improved quality of services
  - new knowledge means improved help and support to our clients; (Ex. sleep after trauma)
- Collaboration with university helps to identify and reflect on interesting questions and undertake small projects
What’s in it for university? (1)

• Support the university’s role of service to society

• Encourage collaboration with local/regional partners

• Establish university as a meeting place for combining research – education – practice for knowledge production and nett working

• Offer education close to the practice context/area
What’s in it for university? (2)

• Generate interesting master projects for students which are relevant for societal needs

• Make it easier to recruit practice placements and create conditions for service learning

• Develope students’ research mindedness

• Contribute to improving services
References (1)


http://EzineArticles.com/2127870
http://nylc.org/
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