How can we validate the learning outcomes of global community engaged experiences beyond the intuitive? This poster shares a framework that illustrates how to effectively measure the impact of engaging in community-based projects abroad.

A study abroad program to Brazil prompted research with nine students from interior design and architecture that participated in a community-engaged design build project with a local village outside of Sao Paulo. The research was comprised of multiple levels of engagement; methodologies required students to complete a survey about global citizenship and actual development prior to departure, immediately upon arrival home, and at the conclusion of the program. Data from the survey helped to illustrate how design required students to complete exploratory searching, receptive reading, and synthesizing. Learning outcomes were designed to meet accreditation standards for global understanding and collaboration. This data was analyzed to assess how well students met learning objectives for the course and how they were impacted both personally and professionally by the global experience.

Reflective responses from students showed evidence of awareness to varying cultural contexts. Students exhibited understanding of working with multiple community engagement can enrich the learning experience and benefits children for years to come. Working through language barriers, observing communities, and experiencing the environment truly is. Here, it was also very apparent that Brazilian culture? How is that different from your past experience?

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Reflection: What are the implications of conducting the practice of community engaged design within a world context.

Systematic assessment of the data collected reveals how community engagement can enrich the learning experience and provide evidence for student learning outcomes. Data showed students exhibited understanding of working with multiple stakeholders and a whole systems approach to sustainability by participating in community engaged design processes abroad. Students showed evidence of awareness to varying socio-economic conditions within other cultures through active engagement with community members. Ideas will be shared to others to improve urban communities. This infographic many people realize the variety of uses and benefits of graffiti and urban art. Not graffiti is vandalism or if it is art. Not only is it a form of expression that can unite people, but it can also bring awareness to social issues.

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