

MODULE CODE: LCBB4002 Community Engagement

Assignment 2

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Introduction

Reflective evaluation is the ability to think critically about an event, to understand how it makes you feel, why you behave on the way that you did, what other factors have affected the outcome, what you might have done differently (Bulman, C, 2013). In this work, I will try to reflect and evaluate what I have been learned in the past term until I was preparing my outcome one. I will try to be honest with myself, and I will reveal any mistake that I have been taken and all difficulties that I face. I will share my emotions, feelings I will make an analysis on them and will create an action plan with ideas on how to clear all my mistakes. For my reflective evaluation, I will use the Gibbs, G. (1988) Reflective Cycle. I will evaluate my experience through first term and outcome one. I will analyse how it helped me to continue my self-development, what it changed in my thoughts, in the way that I was thinking before the assignment one. The Gibbs G (1988) Reflective cycle will help me to create a proper concept of my reflective evaluation.

Gibbs, G: Reflective cycle

- **Description**

I do remember very well the person that I was when I began my journey at the university. I was not quite sure what to expect from me and surrounding background. I knew that I would face different culture with a different way of thinking, and I was fascinated by the different approach from lectures to the students. My very first opinion for the university came from the director. When we finished our entry assignments, he came in our classroom, and he said that in front of us it is a steep path, but when we go through it, the only limit for us will be the sky. He told us that we don't have to be afraid of the challenges that we will face because they will make us better people. At the end of the first term, I can make retrospection, and I can say that he is right.

With the beginning of the first term, we received the task to pick an organisation and to make an organisational analysis on it as an assignment. To write for Primark as an organisation was not my first choice. My first choice was to write for Tesco because I thought that I am quite familiar with the structure of this organisation. I already knew how much stores it has in the United Kingdom, what are the main goals of the organisation. The reason to choose Primark was because one of my colleagues was already choice Tesco and I decided to pick another company. Before to start to do researches for Primark, I did not realise how much difficulties I will face and how different they are from one to another. My journey through the analysis of Primark reshaped my way of thinking improved my communication skills, made my dictionary broader. But nothing from the skills that I got from it comes easily.

- **Feelings**

In the first day of the first term, I was with very mixed and complicated feelings. I was excited and worried because I knew that to enter in the university is the easiest part. I have to admit, I was and disappointed too, when I realise that all my colleagues are from Bulgaria like me. It is not because I have some bad feelings about my background, it is because I wish to get better knowledge for the other cultures. I know that I can get a lot experience from those cultures.

In the time when I was writing my drafts, I was with mixed emotions. I felt insecure and excited. I did realise that the academic language is a way more different than everyday English. In the very beginning, I thought that I could not handle with this task because it was challenging for me to find trusted sources of information. Although I knew in theory how to structure my analysis, I had no idea how difficult it would be to put it into practice. My insecure was coming from the fact that I did this

for a very first time. I did not have any experience in it. I do remember the terrible feeling that I have when I have to face myself with all the challenges.

- **Evaluation**

The experience that I got from the first term at the university was good. I receive much knowledge in different areas. My communication skill is improved my analytical thinking reaches a new level. I gain an entirely new experience that gives me the ability to do my own researches on specific topics. When I look back at the time when I finished my outcome, I have to admit that everything went well, it is very good that I have learned new terms, my dictionary was expanded. My knowledge reaches a new level. Despite that, it still has a negative side. I still have a lot to learn, and I still make many mistakes, my dictionary may be expanded, but it still very restricted. When I look at my time management, the things did not go well. I have been started assignment one on community engagement first before all other tasks, and I finished it almost at last.

- **Analysis**

As Stella Cottrell (2013, p. 15) describes in her handbook, the studying of cutting edge of knowledge is a journey to the unknown. I teach a lot, and I do understand that there is a long way in front of me. When I start to read her book, I did not realise how right she is. I went to the undiscovered academic world. I was thought that to begin first with assignment one on community engagement was a good idea, but in reality, it was not. I did not predict that this outcome will need much more time than I was planning, and that will affect my work over the other assignments. Because of this, I was forced to stop my work in the middle of the assignment one and to start doing it when I finish everything else. I do admit as a huge mistake that I did not manage my time correctly. And I did not concentrate over this handbook before I start my assignments. But in the end, the work over my outcome one went well because I managed to finish it before the deadline.

In their article, Cullen, A.L. and Paschetto, K. (2014), they showed me with their tips for success where I am wrong. And I was wrong in every aspect. I was not realistic with myself, and I did not give myself adequate time to complete the outcome 1. I did not take a break between the different works. I do believe the theory of Gibbs cycle (1988), helped me to reflect and evaluate my overall performance on the task in assignment one. I am happy that I manage to realise my mistakes because now I am learning from them, and they give me a new perspective and experience.

I must admit that the outside factors affected my overall performance because of the situation in the United Kingdom. The situation in the country put me in the bottom of Maslow's triangle (Heylighen, F., 1992, (p.55)). That was a substantial distractive factor that has a negative impact on my work. I do believe that my desire for getting knowledge is more powerful than anything else, and that is the reason that I am able to finish my work in a proper schedule.

To be able to create my organisational analysis, I needed to expand my dictionary, to find synonyms on the words that I already know, to learn new words and terms. I think that I have done well with this on this stage of my work. And still, I must put more effort in this area. The good side is that the outcome one made me think very seriously about my dictionary. The process of creating the assignment one contributed to the development of my communication and writing skills.

- **Conclusion**

From the first semester, I have learned that to be able to develop myself, I must challenge myself. Through the first term, I got an experience not only in an academic way but also and new perspectives. The work on groups allow me to learn from the experience of my colleagues.

From the creation of outcome one, I learned that I must pay more attention to my time management. As a part of my study over assignment one, from the book of Nda, M.M. and Frad, R.Y. (2013) I have been managed to gain a more deep and clear understanding of training and development programs, their impact over the employee, and why they are essential for any successful organisation. I learned how to think analytically and how to do researches over a certain topic. In future, to be able to handle better with tasks like this, I need to develop my writing skills, and I must improve my time management.

- **Action plan**

If I have the opportunity to start my first term again, I will act differently. I would manage my time in a different way that will help me to be more productive. I would start research over the literature that I need for my studies. I will read from the books the material that we have been taken in class. I will try to stay more focused on lectures. Perhaps the first thing I will do is get to know the specific terms of the subjects and their meaning. I do believe that if I receive now this task, I could do better, and I will have a different approach to it

To be able to prepare myself for the next term and the following assignments, I have to improve my writing skills. There are books like Oxford School Thesaurus (2002) that already helping me to expand my knowledge in the area of gathering more synonyms on words that I already know. I will invest time and finances for improving my English grammar. The only way to be sure that I will improve myself and I will act a different way when I am in a similar situation, is to start the changes right after the end of my work.

Conclusion

For just one term, I have taught a lot, the experience from it make me a better person. I become a group leader, and I lead my team through the group task that we have. To be responsible for someone else teaches you on a way that is hard to be explained in just two hundred words. I have taught myself to see in the people, only their good side and not to judge them for their bad side. I have managed to gather their strengths and to convert them into teamwork. I have learned to trust in people, and they believe in me, that is why they choose me for their class representative. This term expands my knowledge and personality. The teaching at the university gave me a new perspective and helped me to develop myself. In my professional life, I always was responsible for the people. But as Robert Kyosaki said in his book if you wish to be a successful manager, you have to work for not for money, you have to work to learn. Whenever my colleagues were calling me, and I resolve their problems, I gain experience that expanding my personality.

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