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BRAC University holds dialogue on community service program

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BRAC University's Office of Career Services and Alumni Relations (OCSAR) in conjunction with BRAC University Community Service Club (BUCSC) hosted a dialogue on the importance of 'Community Service' and its relevance to the personal growth of graduating students on 4th December, 2014 at GDLN center of BRAC University, a press releases said Friday.

Speakers at this event shared their thoughts and views on the recently initiated Community Service Internship Program (CSIP) with attending students. Graduating students who were present at the session showed their enthusiasm on the prospect of gaining an internship through community service.

OCSAR in partnership with BRAC and the VSO has embarked on an important initiative called the "Community Service Internship Program (CSIP)" which is a means of formalizing and prioritizing the importance of experiential learning through effective community engagement.

In the interactive session (chaired by Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, OCSAR Director) students raised interesting ideas for further strengthening and popularizing the Community Service Internship Program.

Mr. Khan Ahmed Murshid, in his speech stated that "Through this important dialogue we want to encourage our senior students to recognize the value of 'experiential learning' in the context of community Service. We seek the cooperation of external development agencies, INGOs etc. to work with us on developing this initiative and we seek the engagement of all our departments to promote CSIP among their students in the context of their own disciplines."

Lady Syeda Sarwat Abed, Director, BRAC Institute of Languages (BIL) mentioned in her inspiring speech “Students should understand the value of community service. If students from foreign countries come to Bangladesh for community service, then our students also should come out of their comfort zones”.

Representatives from VSO and BRAC emphasized on how CSIP can add value to a student’s CV while they can also serve the community and get a real picture of Bangladesh.

OSCAR is offering all final year BRAC University students the option of doing a community service internship with BRAC or the VSO (initially) for a three month period. This will fulfill the internship requirements of senior students whilst giving them a valuable and structured experience of community service within leading organizations in the non-governmental sector.

OSCAR is keen to develop and strengthen the ethical foundation of our graduating students so that they enter the professional world with a real understanding of the nature of ‘poverty’, ‘inequality’ and ‘injustice’ and an inclination to make things better and assume some level of collective responsibility for the state of the nation and society.

At a packed gathering of students and faculty at the GDLN Center an animated discussion was held, following on from the inspirational speeches of headline speakers.