

## INTEGRATING EMPATHY DESIGN THINKING AND EXPRESSIONS FOR A COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER IN A MULTIDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

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### ABSTRACT

The paper explains how the importance of experiential learning and the context of multidisciplinary project design team as an informal learning environment correspond towards enhancing the formal education. Sociocultural theory implies that understanding a phenomenon entails understanding its development. Thus, understanding learning means studying in detail how it unfolds. This includes queries on the kinds of activities supported in the learning place, and how the means as well as symbols support forms of thinking. Learning on the importance of teamwork on the proposal for establishment of a community-based Rehabilitation Center / Pusat Pemulihan Dalam Komuniti, IIUM (PDK@IIUM) is to also integrate empathy design thinking and expressions in the process of learning. Hence, it is to nurture the quality of holistic excellence which is imbued with Islamic moral spiritual values. In this study, the early observation is through identification of site and building analysis. The project objectives are for a development of rehabilitation, training, education, and social integration of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). This gives integrated efforts of PwDs, families, communities and health services for education, vocational and social services. The project is proposed to be developed into an important Living Lab for students and faculty members. The multidisciplinary studies expand knowledge on the techniques of designing a Masterplan, design proposal, presentation drawings, working drawings, write-up, costing & specification as well as 3D modeling and Multi-media presentation. The concept and design were documented in the forms of sketches, drawings, photographs, and videos. The course is a planned program encouraging reflection upon experiences of 24 members within 5 groups to engage in design learning. To conclude, the output from the project was presented in an exhibition which focus on innovation and sustainability in a rehabilitation centre.

**Keywords:** Experiential learning, multidisciplinary project, rehabilitation centre