

THE ROLE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) ON EDUCATION

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The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of universal actions to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030. The United Nations adopted them in 2015 as a call, where the 17 SDGs are integrated, recognizing that actions in one area affect outcomes in others and that development must be socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable. In achieving the SDGs, countries are committed to prioritizing progress in the least developed countries. It aims to end poverty, hunger, AIDS, and discrimination against women. In addition, achieving the SDGs in any context will require society's creativity, know-how, technology, and financial resources.

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In terms of education, SDGs 2 and 4 are relevant to the school curriculum. According to Roldan (2018), SDG 2 shows that eradicating hunger and achieving food security remains challenging, especially during the COVID-19 crisis when hunger and food insecurity are rising worldwide, and malnutrition still affects millions of children. It can get worse in time. Hence, it is necessary to mitigate malnutrition among students, which helps improve educational outcomes such as enrollment, academic performance, graduation, and academic achievement.

Moreover, Mabunga (2016) stated that SDG 4 shows that the pandemic has hit education systems worldwide. Educational disruptions adversely affect the learning outcomes and social and behavioral development of children and young people. Children from vulnerable and disadvantaged communities are particularly at risk of educational exclusion as the pandemic deepens the education crisis and exacerbates existing

educational inequalities. This SDG is, therefore, necessary for curricula to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

In line with this, the schools should organize curricular and co-curricular (extra-curricular) activities relevant to the UN SDGs. For SDG 2, schools can initiate various programs to combat malnutrition among students. Greening programs, especially the Enhanced Gulayan Sa Paaralan Program (EGPP) and Gulayan Sa Tahanan, can help advance the country's efforts to address food insecurity and raise awareness. Food insecurity occurs when people do not regularly have access to enough safe and nutritious food for average growth, development, and active and healthy life. These projects open learners' eyes to the critical impact of agriculture on human well-being through its nutritional value and economic benefits. Most importantly, it functions as a life support system.

Further, producing more quality vegetables can help sustain school nutrition programs and improve student academic performance through proper nutrition. Similarly, for SDG 4, the schools can create Development Plans to address learning gaps due to pandemic-related disruptions. This program may focus on each student, the quality of learning they may get, and their academic achievement.

References:

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