

CULTIVATING SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE: THE IMPACT OF GULAYAN SA PAARALAN ON STUDENT LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

by:

Kenneth I. Guanlao

Teacher III, Orani National High School-Pagasa

The "Gulayan sa Paaralan Program" is a Philippine government effort that encourages sustainable farming and good nutrition by creating vegetable gardens in public schools. It acts as a platform for many children to develop several important life skills, to encourage a great deal of ecological stewardship, and to form strong community connections. It has strong agricultural roots. This has also given great benefits to students, schools, communities, and other stakeholders, improving skills and knowledge while meeting larger socioeconomic goals.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2016) says that school gardens help students learn better about diet and nutrition. Del Rosario et al. (2018) contend that incorporating GPP into the curriculum substantially improves students' learning experiences through the large promotion of skill development, practical learning, a heightened awareness of nutrition, and important character development. It importantly benefited schools, the community, as well as stakeholders by substantially improving learning materials, assisting with feeding programs, creating a much greener environment, promoting sustainable agriculture methods, engaging communities, building strong social responsibility, and promoting strong ecological activism.

The interactive and diverse approach of GPP helps students improve their skills and understanding. Highly engaged students successfully bridge the important knowledge gap between theoretical concepts as well as practical application, leading to a substantially deeper comprehension of sustainable activities in addition to ecological

systems. According to Desmond et al. (2004), exploration of school gardening efforts around the world still demonstrates the impact that such work has on students' academic achievement, life skills, and environmental awareness.

As a bonus, GPP promotes the use of the 21st-century skills of collaboration, creativity, and communication. And students grow so much from all of those things, and it serves them well as they move into future opportunities and challenges. We have a game-changing learning experience that helps to make schools, communities, and stakeholders better and, at the same time, educates the values, skills, and knowledge in our students. This is more than just a gardening project. Fostering both minds and gardens can result in a generation that is healthier, more resilient, and stronger.

References:

Del Rosario, R. A., & Jabar, M. A. (2018). The role of school gardens in fostering environmental stewardship and enhancing students' learning experiences. *Philippine Journal of Education*.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). (2016). *School gardens for better nutrition and education*. FAO Publishing.

Desmond, D., Grieshop, J., & Subramaniam, A. (2004). Benefits of school gardening programs: Lessons from around the world. *International Journal of Environmental Education*. Canva Usage in Education." *Southeast Asian Journal of Pedagogy*.