

INTEGRATING THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN THE CLASSROOM

by:

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Alignment of programs and services with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) ensures that activities are leading to the achievement of shared goals. The challenge to teachers nowadays is how to integrate the UN SDGs into classroom instruction and other school activities.

The UN SDGs are a universal blueprint of 17 interconnected goals formulated to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure peace and prosperity for all by 2030.

It must begin with awareness. A seminar for teachers and students can be done during Science Fair or other relevant activities, which can be good platforms to familiarize the students with the UN SDGs and how their small actions may contribute to the achievement of the goals.

Citing real-life issues that are connected with SDGs can be used as case studies for some reading materials in English subject. For example, the identification of main idea and supporting ideas in an article can be a good exercise.

Furthermore, when teaching science, teachers can integrate lessons on renewable energy to SDG 7, which focuses on Affordable and Clean Energy.

Meanwhile, in social studies, discussions on poverty and inequality can be linked to SDG 1, which is about No Poverty and SDG 10 regarding Reduced Inequalities. UNESCO mentioned that incorporating the SDGs into lessons makes learning more relevant and meaningful.

Teachers may also employ project-based learning for students, where students will be given opportunity to develop and implement baby projects such as awareness campaigns, recycling programs, or school gardens.

Regardless of whether the projects are small, these will give students the avenue to see the tangible impact of their activities, fostering the idea that they are contributors to global solutions.

The integration of the SDGs into classroom instruction and extra-curricular activities can be challenging for some. But if the school, the community and other stakeholders will collaborate to ignite relevant activities, the history we make today will bring a better, meaningful, and sustainable future for the next generations.

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