



Campion School MUN

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Environmental Commission

**EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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**International
Community**

**Memorable
Experience**

**Challenges
Skills**



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INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is the rate at which a country can develop without compromising the needs of future generations. Sustainable development can help the world have a brighter future as it increases the development of each country, while protecting the environment, thus through its achievement future generations can still fulfil their needs. To add, the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations are ecologically friendly and promote ecological development around the world. Lastly, most countries in the world have started investing in sustainable development, hence strengthening, preparing and shaping their economy to be successful in the future.

What is Youth Empowerment? Youth empowerment is the process in which children and young people are encouraged to fight for their rights and take charge of their lives. This is done by them evaluating the situation and then trying to improve it.

How are both these terms intertwined? These terms are intertwined because the Sustainable Development Goal referring to creating a qualitative future for the generations to come, can be achieved through youth empowerment, a trend that will most likely continue and that has a similar focus to sustainable development, in the sense that they both are trying to build a great future.



DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

- **Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development is the rate at which a country can develop without compromising the needs of future generations.

- **Youth**

The age of a person between being a child and an adult

- **Youth Empowerment**

The process in which children and young people are encouraged to fight for their rights and take charge of their lives.

- **Ecological sustainability**

Movement of the capacity of the biosphere to meet the needs of the present generation, without hindering future generations from being able to meet their needs.

- **Economic Urbanization**

The cost savings associated with producing in a large city, more due to inexpensive intermediate goods and services, extensive knowledge spillovers, and large labor pool.

- **Youth Development**

A set of principles common to most youth development programmatic efforts.



TIMELINE

| Date | Description of Event |
|------|---|
| 1968 | Intergovernmental Conference for Rational Use and Conservation of the Biosphere (UNESCO) is held; early discussions occur on the concept of ecologically sustainable development. This conference is only held on that day |
| 1969 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Friends of the Earth" which is an international organization, forms as an advocacy organization dedicated to the prevention of environmental degradation, the preservation of diversity and the role of citizens in decision-making.• National Environmental Policy Act is passed in the United States, making it one of the first countries to establish a national legislative framework to protect the environment. The law sets the basis for environmental impact assessment in the world. |
| 1978 | Founex Report is prepared by a panel of experts calling for the integration of environment and development strategies. |
| 1982 | UN conference on Sustainable development and the UNEP takes place. The Stockholm conference is rooted in the pollution and acid rain problems of northern Europe. It leads to the establishment of many national environmental protection agencies and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). |
| 2005 | Kyoto protocol is put into force legally binding developed country parties to goals for greenhouse gas emission reductions and establishing the Clean Development Mechanism for developing countries. Emissions reductions obligations expire at the end of 2012. |
| 2011 | African Union Summit on Sustainable Development |
| 2012 | 62 nd session on Sustainable Development takes place where the 17 Sustainable Development goals are set. |



TOPIC DISCUSSION

✚ How can youth empowerment affect sustainable development?

The development of the youth has a very positive background starting in the early 1930's. More specifically it was around that time that multiple organizations such as scouts, boys' and girls' clubs and the Y.M.C.A were developed. These organizations along with many others extended the range of education and made it widely available in most developed countries. Furthermore, during 1950 many programs were created for the youth to attend in order to further educate them on issues such as drug use and pregnancy with treatment programs also created. Lastly, in the 21st century the youth development programs aim to turn teenagers into successful adults who are open minded and empathetic.

An empowered youth has a great impact on the future and, since sustainable development is the study that ensures that the world's future is economically developed while also being environmentally sound, they are linked. Youth empowerment also has a big effect on the world's development as it directly refers to the development of children and teenagers. The United Nations agree, and it is obvious as they recently created 17 sustainable solutions which should be applied to every country in the world. However, they have recently been under criticism as they are unachievable for many Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCS) especially in Africa.

Nevertheless, it has been questioned whether youth empowerment can be a viable solution for the problem. Specifically, there are arguments over the disadvantages that accompany youth empowerment, for instance that sometimes teenagers are too young and are given too much freedom thus not having enough discipline, maturity and experience to decide for the world. However, measures need to be taken since not having a sustainable future could create a lot of problems in the world. These problems could include pollution rise which will eventually lead to the ozone hole growing and causing environmental problems for future generations. Furthermore, the biodiversity of the world will continue to decrease as many endangered species will be extinct and many others will be endangered due to the lack of natural resources are decreased. Additionally, world economies could be further depleted as their main sources of income, such as natural resources, could be greatly minimized. A result of all of these would be that numerous environmental phenomena will be created, and the already existing ones will extend their harm on the world and its environment.

The youth has an immense impact on the future as they are the members that will shape it. More specifically, as the youth are the generation which is experiencing both the successes and failures of the former generations, they are the ones that will be called upon to either carry on the favorable outcomes or amend their mishaps. Accordingly, it is essential that they urged to participate in the efforts to establish biodiversity and that the become interested in developing sustainable solutions.



CAUSES

Possible causes for these problems stem from lack of education all the way to the youth being limited from adults. Firstly, the youth in many parts of the world are completely unaware of what sustainable development is as well as its purpose and future goals. Furthermore, the youth seem to be unapologetic for future generations by only focusing on the present. Furthermore, large companies are in complete denial over the harm caused by them to the environment. They seem to be unaware of the results of researches done by scientists as they prove that these corporations are badly hurting the environment and they don't take any measures to solve them. A great example of this would be an American company which is the USA's president's top supporter and donator, whose company is proven to harm the environment, however while not being forced to find solutions for the issues caused by them. Lastly, it is essential to understand that the youth are limited and are not empowered to solve many problems in the future but are promoted to focus on the present which is a big mistake, as it is the future that should currently worry us and the present as it really hardly fixed by the youth or even adults.



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

There are many ways for these issues to be solved, the main one being through education and many applications of it in different types of shapes and forms. Firstly, the main way would be to add a sustainable development class in school or university, taught by experts who are aware of the current situation in the world as well as how to improve it through viable and possible solutions. Additionally, every country's government should establish easily applicable measures for every company to follow. This is because although the future should be a top priority we should never forget about the present and how we can improve the current situation of the world. If we are able to do that we can guarantee a better future while also improving our lives for today. Lastly, the easiest solution is for each country to hold seminars by professionals who can inform the youth about what a sustainable future is as well as how we can achieve it. Furthermore, these experts can encourage the youth to build a better future for themselves so that they can have a life which they can cherish.

MAJOR COUNTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Organizations

United Nations Development Program (UNDP):

The UNDP, also known as the United Nations Development Program, was founded in 1965 in New York City where it still holds its main offices. It was created by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its goal is to connect countries and supply them with knowledge and resources, in order for their people to have a better life. Furthermore, it provides advice, training and support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries. It promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations. The status of UNDP is that of an executive board within the United Nations General Assembly. The UNDP was the organ that decided upon the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which are supposed to be easily tackled by every country, though unfortunately this has not been the case. The UNDP also set a youth program for sustainable development and peace. This is a 5-year program on youth empowerment, designed to sharpen the organization's response to the challenges young people face worldwide.



2011 African Union on Sustainable development and Youth

The African Union held a conference in 2011 on Sustainable Development and Youth, where it was discussed what the African countries can do in order to achieve sustainable development as well as what they can do in order to help the youth. Also, they discussed over the domestication for implementation which came through the 2063 agenda. Agenda 2063 is a concrete and implementable framework with a clear vision, 7 aspirations, 20 goals and 39 priority areas. Lastly it was discussed how the African countries can assure that the 2063 Agenda would fulfil its purpose and how it was going to be implanted in all countries.



Countries

Sweden

Sweden is the country which ranks highest in the world in the fulfilment the sustainable development goals. Indeed, they are ranked first in 7 of the 23 categories of the Sustainable Development Goals and in the top 10 in all of them. However, there are challenges that they still have to face. Firstly, they have to remain environmentally friendly and make sure that the current democratic government's policies do not change, as they have been very successful and beneficial. Moreover, it is advised that they should not take anything for granted and should continue constantly improving their environment. Lastly, they ought to inform their younger generations of how they can continue influencing the world correctly.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo)

The Democratic Republic of Congo is one of the countries that have been neglecting the Sustainable Development Goals, given that over the past years they have not shown any progress in their achievement. Furthermore, the current government claim that they do not have the finances to support the ecological development of the country and would rather focus on strengthening the military . Lastly, they are a tropical country, one of the most diverse in the world concerning their environment as they have a lot of forests as well as rivers, and although it has been suggested to them by the UN and other countries to focus on the environment, but they ignore the suggestions.

Given that access to education in the country is not always easy, youth are not aware of the concepts of sustainable development or youth empowerment either.

Central African Republic

The Central African Republic rank in the bottom half of every sustainable goal something which is showcased by their ranking as the country with the least development. Although they have started to improve their lack of sustainability, they still have a long way to go if they want to improve their ranking. They are also a country who claim to be financially unable to achieve all goals, however they don't think that it is impossible to achieve some like having a sustainable life on land as they are home to many forests with endangered species



but with help they have started getting in control of the situation. Therefore, they are trending in the right direction but still have a long time to go if they want to be considered environmentally friendly.

Youth awareness about the situation is questionable, with youth empowerment movements in the world as being very underprivileged and blocked from the rest of the world. They are underprivileged as the country that they come from does not have a successful economy and blocked from the world because a big percentage of their population lives without technology and therefore cannot get informed about the situation in the rest of the world.

United States of America (U.S.A)

In the U.S.A sustainable development in has taken a toll, as the new President neglects global warming and takes no action against it. Furthermore, the measures that have been passed are beneficial towards businessmen who are ecologically unfriendly. However, this due to the fact that the President's main supporters are businessmen who harm the environment on a regular basis.

Contrariwise, the youth empowerment movement is the strongest in the world. In the U.S.A the youth constantly fight for their rights and start demonstrations protesting against everything they deem to be wrong. A great example would be the recent school walk that happened after the second school shooting in a month, in Texas on May 18th, 2018 by Dimitrios Pagourtzis.

China

China has one of the most polluted environments worldwide and that is because of the presence of numerous factories in the region. Nonetheless, the Chinese government have decided their position as one of the countries with extreme pollution must change and they have started shifting upwards and have started becoming more ecologically friendly.

The youth in China are aware of sustainable development and have been fighting for the government to become friendly to the environment. However, the concept of youth empowerment in China is not promoted because the Chinese education does not allow it. However, if the Chinese youth wanted to take example they could take a look to their neighbors in Honk Kong who have one of the strongest youth empowerment movements in the world.



Russian Federation

One large part of Russia is ecologically friendly, and that is Siberia. In the other cities of Russia, the environment is not of high quality, but it still not that polluted either. That is because the Russian people have always been eco-friendly, and the factories do not have that many poisonous gasses eliminated, as many products are ecologically friendly. However, in recent years, the development of the Russian environment has been hindered, as Russia imports have started decreasing and they have started making most products there, thus creating more factories that harm the environment.

The youth in Russia are aware of the concept of youth empowerment and have started to react against many of Russia's new international relations as well as some laws are not beneficial for the future, thus hindering the development of the country.



UN INVOLVEMENT: Relevant Resolutions & Treaties

- ✚ 62nd session on economic growth and sustainable development
- ✚ Security Council adopt resolution 2250 of 2015
- ✚ 2030 agenda for sustainable development
- ✚ African Agenda of 2063



Research Questions

- How can we empower the youth?
- Steps towards sustainable development?
- How is it possible to achieve cohesion between them?
- What goals should be set in the future?



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