

Need for Global Curriculum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Krishnaswamy, Kiruba; Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Toronto, United States, kiruba.krishnaswamy@utoronto.ca

The bold and transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was officially launched on September 2015 by all member states of the United Nations. The new agenda calls on countries to begin efforts to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the next 15 years. SDGs have been proposed based on the momentum generated by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ended in 2015. The first step towards achieving all the SDGs by 2030, is creating a global curriculum that equips our youth with the proper knowledge and skills necessary to handle all the challenges that may arise.

One effective feature of MDGs was the fact that they were presented in an easily manageable set of 8 goals. We should adopt a similar strategy and organize the 17 SDGs into smaller related subsets, in order to make them more accessible. All 17 SDGs can be divided into five interconnected subsets as food and health, society, economy, sustainability and our planet as a whole.

Ensuring food, nutrition and water security will improve the health and well-being of our people. By empowering women and improving the quality of education for all, we reduce inequalities. Knowledge will lead to sustainable innovations, industrialization that promotes economic growth and ultimately end poverty. The resilient infrastructures built on renewable energy and efficient resource consumption will lead to sustainable communities. As responsible global citizens, we will be able to combat climate change and protect our ecosystems in water and on land. Peace and justice are the ultimate end of all 17 SDGs. Organizing the SDGs thus, makes them easily accessible to the general public, and helps researchers and policymakers better collaborate.

By creating a global curriculum, we will equip our future leaders with the proper knowledge and skills they will need to face the challenges that will surely arise. Education will pave the way to the creation of informed leaders with innovative solutions. SDG curriculum development will progressively evolve over time.

Ideally this curriculum will even evolve to be language independent, so that it not only educates the literate but connects the global population as a whole. Such a global curriculum is the necessary first step towards achieving all the SDGs by 2030.