Active Role of Academic libraries for the Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract:

The article to point out the active role of libraries for the Sustainable Development Goals. What type of the role of libraries in the SDGs agenda? How can it be implemented? How the library supports quality education through activities and strategy planning? It is discussed in this article.

Introduction:

The SDGs were perceived in 2015 and include 17 Overarching goals for global development by the year 2030. According to the U.N. 2022, SDGs are draft to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.The address the global challenges we face, including poverty inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. Every Goal has different kind of sub goal.

Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries IFLA (2017) confirm with the following statement that there is a strong connection between libraries and development:

- Libraries provide opportunities for everyone
- Libraries empower people for their own self-development
- Libraries offer access to world knowledge
- Librarians provide expert guidance
- Libraries are part of a multi-stakeholder society
- Libraries must be approved in development policy frameworks

Several questions arise in meeting these Sustainable Development Goals.

- Library Professionals are familiar with this Sustainable Development Goals.
- What can the library do for Sustainable Development Goals?
- How can strategy planning be done for SDGs?
- Out of the 17 SDGs, which Goals prove to be more effective for libraries?

From November 2020 to jan.2021, OCLC a Global library Co-operative organization, conducted an on line survey of library Staff worldwide to identify how library activities were advanced progress towards five of the United nation' SDGs. OCLC Global Council decided the five SDGs, where they believed libraries could have the greatest impact.

SDG 4 Quality Education

SDG 8 Decent work and Economic growth

SDG 10 Reduced in equalities

SDG 16 Peace, Justice and strong institution

SDG 17 Partnership for the goals

Let's look at the role of libraries for quality education from the four SDGs that affect libraries.

Quality Education (SDG 4): Quality education is the foundation to improving peoples' lives and sustainable development. Libraries play a key role in contributing towards the improvement and provision of equitable quality education through a number of varied activities initiated. Common to all libraries are the 'Homework Assistance' initiative, where the libraries have formed clubs with the main objective to assist students and faculties to   develop their thinking skills as well as ensure that they have the right skill to search for information and use information to complete given tasks. overall education of any citizenry - this activity supports lifelong learning skills that are critical to participation in the knowledge based economy.

Here, are some best efforts that libraries can make to provide quality education in the context of sustainable development.

1. **Curating a collection of resources:** Libraries can curate a collection of books, journals, and other resources related to sustainable development goals. These resources should cover a range of topics, including climate change, poverty reduction, biodiversity, and sustainable consumption.

2. **Developing programs and workshops:** Libraries can develop programs and workshops that promote sustainable development. These programs could be aimed at different audiences, such as children, students, or the wider community. Examples of such programs could be workshops on reducing waste, recycling, and composting.

3. **Partnering with community organizations:** Libraries can partner with local community organizations to promote sustainable development goals. This can help to bring new ideas and resources to the library, and also help to promote the library's resources to a wider audience.

4. **Providing access to digital resources:** Libraries can provide access to digital resources related to sustainable development goals. This could include online databases, e-books, and online courses on sustainability.

5. **Creating a space for dialogue:** Libraries can create a space where people can come together to discuss sustainable development. This could be in the form of a book club, discussion group, or public lecture series

6. **Promoting awareness:** Libraries can promote awareness of sustainable development goals through various means Such as creating displays, hosting events, and providing information on social media.

7. **Promoting literacy:** Libraries can promote literacy and reading skills, which are essential for understanding and addressing the SDGs. They can provide literacy programs and resources to help people develop these skills.

8. **Providing support for research:** Libraries can provide support for research related to the SDGs. They can offer access to databases and other resources, as well as support for data analysis and research design. By making these efforts, libraries can help support SDG education and promote a more sustainable future.

To effectively implement the efforts mentioned above, a comprehensive strategy planning process should be formulated by the library. Here are some key steps that can be taken to develop a strategy for SDG education:

A. Set Goals: The first step is to identify the library's objectives in supporting SDG education. These goals should be specific, measurable, and aligned with the SDGs. For example, the library may aim to increase the number of SDG-related resources in their collection, or to host a certain number of SDG-related events each year.

B. Conduct Needs Assessment: A needs assessment should be conducted to determine the current level of SDG education and awareness in the community. This can involve surveys, focus groups, and other research methods to gather feedback and insights from community members.

C. Identify Target Audience: Based on the needs assessment, the library should identify the target audience for their SDG education initiatives. This may include students, teachers, community organizations, and other stakeholders.

D. Develop Implementation Plan: Based on the goals, needs assessment, and target audience, an implementation plan should be developed. This plan should include specific activities, timelines, and resources needed to achieve the library's SDG education objectives.

E. Monitor and Evaluate Progress: It's important to monitor and evaluate the progress of the SDG education initiatives to ensure they are meeting the library's objectives. This can involve collecting data on attendance, feedback from participants, and other metrics to measure the impact of the initiatives.

F. Continuously Improve: Based on the results of monitoring and evaluation, the library should continuously improve their SDG education initiatives. This can involve making changes to activities, improving resources, and adapting to feedback from participants.

By following these steps, the library can develop a comprehensive and effective strategy planning process to support SDG education that are tailored to the need of their requirement.

Overall, a reading culture and quality education go hand in hand. They reinforce each other by fostering language skills, knowledge acquisition, critical thinking, creativity, and a lifelong love for learning. Encouraging a reading culture within educational institutions and society at large can greatly enhance the quality and effectiveness of education. There is a strong and positive relationship between quality education and a reading culture. A reading culture refers to a society or community's inclination and habit of engaging in reading activities, such as reading books, newspapers, magazines, and other written materials. Quality education, on the other hand, emphasizes the acquisition of knowledge, critical thinking skills, and intellectual development

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