

Educational Models to Promote and Localise Sustainable Development through Impact Oriented Partnership and Advocacy: Recommendations from APPGM-SDG on Youth Development

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Abstract

Goal 4.7 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) on quality education addresses equipping learners with knowledge and skills for sustainable development through its different forms. In the context of promoting and localising the SDGs through means that include advocacy; an educational model of reference is key to the sustenance of the same. A model of reference enables practitioners to effectively deploy necessary tools and skills for target goals. The impact and sustainability of the model is cross-examined to the influence and credibility in application to the multi-faceted community involved in the process and progress of SDG localisations. This study is a reflective analysis of the youth development arm of the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG), taking into account the stakes of effective partnership as a mechanism for empowerment toward achieving SDG 17.16 on enhancing global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnership in its different forms. Recommendations are drawn from advocacy and partnership pillars in a specified mechanism for effective localisations of the SDGs. More specifically, it is hoped that this study will provide a framework for advocates to take stock in identifying the importance of partnership and common ground in building future policies mobilising focus groups especially youths in sustainable development.

Keywords: localisation and mobilisation, advocacy, youth development, partnership, education, sustainable impact

1. INTRODUCTION

In line with the pressing need to localise the sustainable development goals at local levels leading to global impact and the promotion of networked multilateralism, a mechanism of operation, that rightfully is not conforming to subjective growth differing from one locality to another but rather lays the foundation to linear progressive development finds its importance in the localisation of the SDGs. The reason of the given is such that in the context of systems operation and organisational movements in sustainability advocacy certain applications such as (1) discovery of processes and standardisation of the same, (2) enhancement of performance, (3) specified implementation of resources, (4) management of data, input, and output, and (5) benchmarking of the progress can be implemented through a working mechanism (Lyke-Ho-Gland, 2019). However, developments do not merely end at the level of a development of methodology or mechanism, rather it is a process, and the process involves capacity-building, and personalised empowerment that takes into account the subjective needs and motivation of the layers of the society including community passion and personal passion.

The dynamics involved in the interactions between stakeholders in sustainable development include such of the social system that interacts with one another. Luhmann, (1982) introduces social systems as an environment of interconnected meaningful interaction made up of consisting systems including family systems, political systems, economic systems and organisational systems. such that is implied under the social systems theory. Concurrent to this is the mechanism of how each layer of society interacts with the given framework as suggested. Taking into account this aspect, to have each member of society contribute and interact with functionality toward sustainability advocacy and localisation of the same, an oriented empowerment is pivotal to the sustenance of the motivation and

interaction of the members with the model. The study evaluates this aspect of mobilisation and through means of empowerment through impact education, and the pillars of advocacy to localise the global goals.

With coherence of the same, the ideology that brings about the notion is the awareness of the issue invoking that not only the availability of a functional model is able to concurrently push for the localisations of the goals, rather a model for empowerment that comes from advocating organisations to stakeholders can further align the right mindset of society as to answer why the SDGs are important to be addressed and localised. This factor is reflected upon from an impact-oriented perspective as to suggest orientation of actions based on the impact it produces, that is the effective localising of the goals.

2. BACKGROUND: APPGM-SDG x Youth Development

The All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG) is a bipartisan initiative with the objectives to implement the SDGs in the two hundred and twenty-two parliamentary constituencies in Malaysia. The initiative strives to implement the SDGs through the analysis of issues and solutions, policy research, and facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships, including the raising of awareness and building capacity at the local levels (Yusof & Sanusi, 2021). The organisation consists of parliamentarians, academicians, solution providers, and civil society activists that work toward the accomplishments of the goals.

The youth development arm of the initiative began its journey for the generation of youth voices in matters of advocacy in the year 2021 for the SDGs and its implementations in the local constituencies. The objectives that underlie the work of the arm is as following:

1. Engage youths in policy advocacy for sustainable practices
2. Encourage youths in SDG mobilisation in the constituencies
3. Empower youths through capacity building
4. Act as a support system for youths in SDG project planning and implementation
5. Organise the Malaysian Youth SDG Summit as a platform for youths' engagement in SDG 17.16 and SDG 4.7.

The initiative endorses and encourages the active involvement of youths in sustainable practices to be a reality in the parliamentary constituencies, providing youths platform, resources, and collaborations for the implementations of the SDGs.

3. CASE STUDY: PROGRESS OF THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ARM OF APPGM-SDG

3.1 Advocacy

The youth development arm of APPGM-SDG had organised and curated content for advocacy initiatives that spanned through the years of 2021 and 2022, these projects included national and international platforms where youths had advocated on different perspectives in addressing the 17 goals, its targets and indicators in various levels, through various individuals in their said locality, community, and nation. Such of the programs that were curated includes:

1. Young Asian Voices: The UN We Need - Asian Consultation, 2021.
2. The Malaysian Youth SDG Summit 2021.
3. The Malaysian Youth SDG Summit 2022.
4. Youth Leadership in Post-Covid Sustainable Development, 2022.

The nature of these programs and projects were such that youths from across different backgrounds advocated current practices, policies, future trends, and recommendations for sustainable living. The impact of these were assessed through the lens of the involvement of the organisation's influence from local to global factors, having provided youths the platform and relevance to address issues with regard to sustainability.

3.2 Knowledge learning

In line with SDG 4.7, the initiative with respect to youth development had involved themselves in educational platforms, where representatives of the initiative had given educational knowledge on SDGs. As a result of collaborations, partnerships, and invitations from like-minded organisations, representatives of the initiative gave speeches and informative lessons on SDGs and developments of the same with respect to encouragement for mobilisation. The programs included:

1. Junior JCI online camp by JJC Penang Chinese Girls High School, 2021.
2. Sunway International School Career Week by Sunway Education Group, 2021.
3. Workshop Series: Sustainable Development Goals by Penang Chinese Private School, 2021.
4. Talk Show- The Sustainable Development Officer by 行内人, 2021.
5. Konvensyen Relawan Untuk Malaysia 2021 by UNISEL.
6. myCSO Transformation Day 2021 by Philandure.
7. Talk Show: “We are part of the Global Goals” by Earnplus, 2022.
8. Workshop series- Enhancing Civil Participation : Youth in Public Policy and Eyes in the Community by Digital Social.Com, 2022.

The impact that these activities brought were the fruitions of youth involvement in the proceeding activities organised under the theme of sustainable development, more than 1000 youths were impacted through these programs. The discussion explains the aspects of impact the youths receive through activities under sustainable development with respect to information gathering and knowledge development.

3.3 Skills training

The team under APPGM-SDG on youth development had also been involved in providing skills training and funded the same as collaborative efforts with partner organisations. As such, the initiative defines skills in the context of the SDGs in that youths receive mentorships and workshops to best integrate the SDGs in the different lifestyles and context they interact in. The impact of the programs initiated included that youths were mobilised to actively practise sustainable lifestyles and become changemakers, and teachers were trained to integrate the SDGs in their teaching curriculum. Such programs for the youths included:

1. Online Workshop- Integrating SDGs in School by Penang Chinese Girls' Private High School, 2021.
2. Sustainability and SDG Project Management co-organize with RCEG KL, 2021.
3. 2022 Student Leader camp - INVALT by Higher Education Malaysia Association.
4. Changemakers @ Lembah Pantai by Digital Social.Com, 2022.
5. Train the Trainer Workshop- Integrating SDGs in School by Penang Chinese Girls' Private High School, 2022.

3.4 Capacity building

In the chronological progress in the advocacy and mobilisation of the SDGs through and among youths, capacity building played a pivotal role in that youths actively continue in the local and global developments of the SDGs through the elements of capacity building. The elements of the same include in Thapa et al., (2019). The implication is that capacity building takes place through the process of (1) needs assessment, (2) design of project, (3) implementation, and (4) monitoring (Thapa et al., 2019). The impact of this capacity building that was induced throughout include such of the involvement of youths in organising SDG oriented solution projects. few of those are:

1. The Role of Youth in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals- Round Table Discussion co-organised with KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, 2021; and
2. Malaysian Youth SDG Agent - collaborated with 10 national youth-based organisations, 2022-ongoing.

4. DISCUSSION: CREATING SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

Sustainable impact is defined in its terms as an orientation of impact that is seen to progress positively post-event or advocacy of a theme in the lives of the recipient of the same (Shree, 2011). A working frame by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) summarises factors that include in the evaluation of projects; (1) internationally agreed principles, goals, and targets, (2) utility of the evaluation to future contributions, (3) credibility that includes independence, impartiality and a rigorous methodology, (4) independence of evaluator from external influence, (5) impartiality of assessment in absence of biases, (6) ethical conduct with respect to beliefs, manners, and customs, (7) transparency for stakeholder accountability and trust building, (8) human rights and gender equality integrated in the process, (9) national evaluation capacities for evaluation localisation, and (10) professionalism of conduct with integrity.

The impact that is proposed to be in motion therefore needs a value or standard of evaluation. Relevant to the case of the youth development arm of APPGM-SDG is such that a frame of functioning in the assessment of the same can be classified as to its extent with regard to impact to individuals and the society at large, personalisation and generalisation of the impact, and the interaction of the impact sub-categories among itself. This approach is an intra-sustainable factor to which proceeding out of the context of SDG implementations, it is able to produce action-oriented impact and output producing impact.

The model for the evaluation on the impact is categorised in systemic approach as adopted from the Meta Integral framework (APPGM-SDG, 2022). Beneficiaries are impacted through (1) deep impacts that cover personal development of individuals in relation to “B-Values” as proposed by Maslow, (1967) such as the value of justice, wholeness, aliveness, truth, and the like. (2) Clear impacts that are directive on the skills development that is nourished through the initiative such as soft skills and hard skills that includes the example of content writing, and public speaking. (3) Wide impacts that contain in itself networking opportunities and collaborative prospects with local, national, and international talents and organisations; and (4) high impact that introduces the individual, group, and community to the sustainable development system and its workings for the localisations of the same.

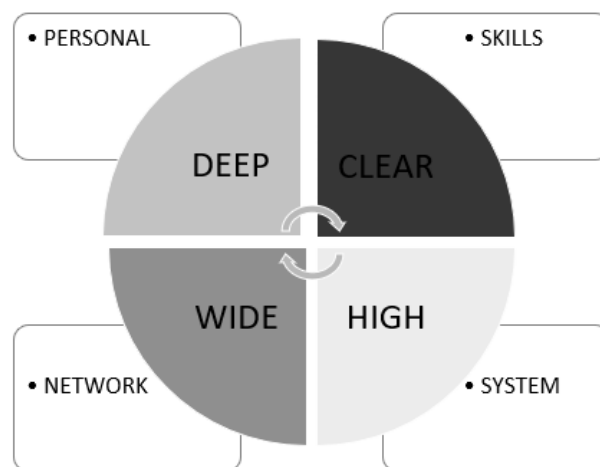


Figure 1: Impact evaluation model, adopted from (MetaIntegral, 2018)

5. REFLECTION

5.1 Leveraging Partnership

In view of the impact orientation of the initiative, a model for a right kind of leverage of partnership can be adopted to be utilised in the said system; this is such that stakeholders in the social system that influences and interacts with the developments of society and the SDGs directly or indirectly can make a cause-effect relationship for the mobilisation of individuals through the organisation to curate projects and create impact. The impact curated by APPGM-SDG on youth development is evident of its programmes having impacted large scale groups of youths in local, national, and international platforms

through collaborative partnership models inclusive of organisers, co-organisers, and strategic partnership.

Changemakers then leverage partnerships with stakeholders through a teleological frame by the following aspects:

1. Identification of joint interest and formulation of shared values.
2. Managing expectations from a dynamic view of responsibilities from benefactors and beneficiaries.
3. Documenting and empowering collaborated glory on the positive impacts achieved.

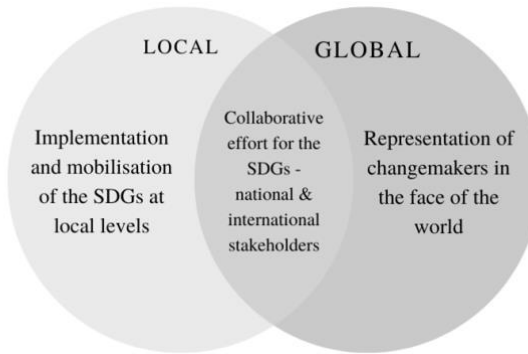


Figure 2: Partnership model of impact

5.2 Model of Advocacy

The integrative pillars of advocacy that hold the initiative’s objectives and purpose intertwines with multi-stakeholder partnerships, the cumulative progress in the evaluation of the localisations and mobilisations of the SDGs. Criteria’s that are evaluated in the assessing of advocacy includes the following, as cited by United Nations Development Programme (2017):

1. Creating networks by the joining of forces through the implementation and mechanism partnerships for sustainable developments
2. Making transparent and accountable the initiatives that are driven by the building of alliance and trust with stakeholders.
3. Accumulating data and knowledge on explicit and implicit actions of the projects, therefore building evidence of the same.
4. Keeping stakeholders informed of developments of projects through dynamic communication; therefore, making impacts visible.
5. Developing multi-level governance through alliance with the ministries and levels of the government.

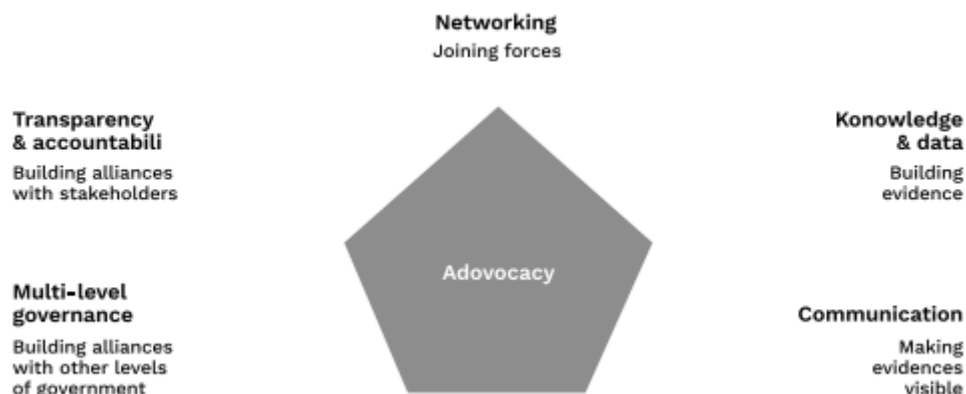


Figure 3: 5 Key elements of advocacy adopted from (United Nations Development Programme, 2017)

6. CONCLUSION

The impact curated from the active involvement of the youth development arm of APPGM-SDG in partnership and advocacy models is an ongoing process in its meta evaluation of the sustainability of the impact that it shows in individuals, community, institutions, and societies at large. Striving toward a model of impact that is made from local to global stances. The relevant implementation of SDG 4.7, and SDG 17.16 is pivotal in the context of educational impact orientation that is driven from collaborative partnership across the levels of the social structure that seemingly influence each sub-systems in its motivation to localise and mobilise sustainable developments in society. The initiative hopes that the modular approach to creating a linearly progressing impact through education, advocacy and the intertwine of partnership that makes cohesive the model will be utilised for the developments of the global goals in its immediacy to progress the same through localisation and mobilisation of multifaceted groups of the society. Therefore, it stands to experiential evidence that a model for sustainable impact can be produced with the cohesive intertwining of advocacy and partnerships from a local to global approach.

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8. APPENDIX

The Journey of Youth Development in the Secretariat of APPGM-SDG - 19 SDG awareness and capacity-building programs to youth-based communities with the model of partnership within 13 months.

	Date	Program	Role	Target Group	Level
1	12.06.2021	YOUNG ASIAN VOICES: The UN WE Need-ASIAN Youth Consultation	Organiser	80 young people from 16 countries to provide their feedback on the UN We Need	International
2	21.07.2021	Junior JCI online camp by JJC Penang Chinese Girls High School	Speaker	90 of secondary school students learned about the SDG 16	State
3	27.08.2021	Sunway International School Career Week by Sunway Education Group	Panellist	100 of high school students learned about the Career experience as a researcher and liaison officer in APPGM-SDG and working on SDG development agenda in the country	Local
4	02.10.2022	Changemakers @ Lembah Pantai by Digital Social.Com	Funder and content curator	16 youths under mentorship to be the community changemakers	Local
5	11.06.2021	The Malaysian Youth SDG Summit 2021 co-organize with RCEG KL	Organiser	900 registrars learn about the SDGs development effort by Malaysian Youths	National
6	09.11.2021	Workshop Series: Sustainable Development Goals by Penang Chinese Private School	Speaker	40 of secondary school students learned about the SDGs	Local
7	23.11.2021	Talk Show- The Sustainable Development Officer by 行业内人	Speaker	300 community leaders learned about career experience localising SDG in the Malaysia	Online
8	10.12.2021	Online Workshop- Integrating SDGs in School by Penang Chinese Girls' Private High School	Trainer	40 Chinese private school teachers learned about integrating SDG in school syllabus.	Local
9	5.12.2021	<i>Konvensyen Relawan Untuk Malaysia 2021</i> by UNISEL	Speaker	100 youths learned about “Pengalaman Implementasi Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari di Kalangan Belia”	National
10	15.12.2021	myCSO Transformation Day 2021 by Philandure	Speaker	200 organisation leaders learned about “PhilX: Youth & Social Engagement”	National

11	10.12.210.0 8.01.2022	Train the Trainer Workshop- Integrating SDGs in School by Penang Chinese Girls' Private High School	Trainer	50 Chinese private schools Teachers in Penang learned about integrating SDG into the curriculum syllabus.	Local
12	22.03.2022	The Role of Youth in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals- Round Table Discussion co-organize with KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific	Organiser	40 young leaders from 31 youth organisations shared about their suggestions and challenges	National
13	03.05.2022	Talk Show: We are part of the Global Goals by Earnplus	Speakers	100 secondary school teachers learned about SDGs	Online
14	22.05.2022	2022 Student Leader camp - INVALT by Higher Education Malaysia Association	Panellist	200 student leaders learned about "Sustainable Project Management."	National
15	11.06.2022	The Malaysian Youth SDG Summit 2022 co-organised with IYC KL	Organiser	180 physical attendees and 1000 online viewers learn about the SDGs development effort by Malaysian Youths	National
16	12.06.2021	Sustainability and SDG Project Management co-organised with RCEG KL	Organiser	25 youth organisation leaders from 6 states learn about SDG project management skills	Local
17	14.07.2022	Youth Leadership in Post-Covid Sustainable Development	Organiser	23 national delegates from 10 countries to provide their feedback on the youth roles in building back better and implementing SDGs	International
18	27.07.2022	Workshop series- Enhancing Civil Participation : Youth in Public Policy and Eyes in the Community by Digital Social.Com	Speaker	90 youths learned about SDG as global goals and civil engagement	National
19	June 2022- June 2023	Youth SDG Agent collaborate with 10 national youth-based organisations	Organiser	67 youths from 30 parliament constituencies apply to undergo 1 year capacity building program as the active community builder and to localising SDG	National

Strategic Partners of the Malaysian Youth SDG Summit 2021 and 2022

2021	2022
1. AdVirtus Collective	1. AdVirtus Collective
2. Alumni Parlimen Belia Malaysia	2. AIESEC in UMS
3. Catalyst 2030 (Malaysia)	3. Alumni Parlimen Belia Malaysia
4. Chevening Alumni Malaysia (CAM)	4. Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM)
5. Enablerz Consulting & Solutions	5. Batu Lanchang Vocational College
6. EYP Asia	6. Boleh Space LLP
7. Fly Technology Agriculture Sdn Bhd	7. Borneo Komrad
8. HIGHER EDUCATION MALAYSIA ASSOCIATION (HEYA)	8. Champs Education
9. HOPE worldwide Malaysia	9. Community Transformation Initiative Berhad
10. I Culture Berhad	10. EYP Asia
11. Ignite Youth Foundation	11. Greenpeace Malaysia
12. JCI Entrepreneur	12. Higher Education Malaysia Association (HEYA)
13. Kiwanis Malaysia Academy	13. I Culture Berhad
14. Life SOAR Resources Berhad	14. JCI Junior Penang Chinese Girls' High School
15. Majlis Belia OKU Malaysia	15. JCI Malaysia
16. Malaysia Olympians Association	16. Kumpulan Latihan Kelanasiswa Malaysia
17. Majlis Belia Malaysia	17. Lions Club of George Town Mutiara
18. Malaysian Youth Diplomacy	18. Majlis Belia Daerah Temerloh
19. Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam - KUASA	19. Majlis Belia Malaysia
20. Philandure Sdn Bhd	20. Majlis Belia Negeri Selangor Daerah Klang
21. Precious Pages Resources	21. Majlis Belia Orang Kurang Upaya Malaysia
22. Projek57	22. Malaysian Indian Youth Council (MIYC)
23. Students' Representative Council of Universiti Malaysia Sabah	23. Malaysian Youth Diplomacy
24. Sustainable Business Network Association Malaysia (SusTNET)	24. Penggerak Belia Selangor
25. The Malaysian Hub	25. Persatuan Dinamik dan Inovasi Malaysia
26. The Young SEAkers (TYS) Malaysia Chapter	26. Pertubuhan Pembangunan Wanita Tamarai Pulau Pinang
27. Universiti Malaya	27. Philandure
28. Youth Trust Foundation	28. Precious Pages ZResources
29. YWILD Malaysia	29. RCE Kuala Lumpur
30. 企业家媒体	30. Selangor Youth Community (SAY)
	31. Society for the Promotion of Human Rights Malaysia (PROHAM)
	32. Sustainable Business Network Association Malaysia (SustNET)
	33. Universiti Malaya
	34. Urbanice Malaysia
	35. Wiki Impact
	36. World Wide Fund for Nature
	37. Yayasan Usahawan Malaysia
	38. YMCA Johor
	39. Youth Hub