

Chapter 2

Educators as Catalysts for Peace: Advancing Peace Education Through the SDGs and Sustainable Education

ABSTRACT

This chapter explores the pivotal role educators play in advancing peace education within the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the broader framework of sustainable education. In a world marked by complex global challenges, the imperative for fostering a culture of peace, justice, and sustainability has never been more pressing. The study examines the multifaceted impact of educators in shaping the mindset and values of students towards creating a more harmonious and equitable society. The research begins with an analysis of the global need for peace education, providing a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities in fostering peaceful communities. It highlights the significance of aligning peace education with the SDGs, emphasizing the interconnectedness between quality education (SDG 4) and the broader objectives of peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16).

INTRODUCTION

In a world characterized by unprecedented challenges, the pursuit of sustainable development and global peace has become an imperative calling for concerted efforts across various domains. Education, as a transformative force, stands at the forefront of shaping the next generation's worldview, values, and commitment to creating a more harmonious and sustainable future. This research embarks on an

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exploration of the pivotal role that educators play in advancing peace education within the broader context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the principles of sustainable education.

Background

The global need for peace education is underscored by the persistent threats of conflict, inequality, and environmental degradation. Informed by a brief overview of these challenges, this research illuminates the significance of cultivating a culture of peace and social responsibility. It emphasizes the role of education as a catalyst for positive change, laying the groundwork for a comprehensive understanding of peace education's global context.

Significance of Aligning with SDGs

This chapter investigates the intrinsic link between peace education and the SDGs, with a specific focus on SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). By aligning peace education initiatives with these global goals, educators can contribute not only to the development of informed and empowered individuals but also to the realization of a more equitable, just, and sustainable world. This section establishes the conceptual framework that underpins the research.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this research is twofold. Firstly, it highlights the indispensable role educators play in promoting peace education, shaping the attitudes and perspectives of learners. Secondly, it elucidates the intricate connections between peace education and the specific targets outlined in the SDGs, underscoring the need for a comprehensive approach to education that addresses both local and global challenges.

Research Objective

The study aims to: a. Investigate the strategies employed by educators in tertiary institutes to promote peace education. b. Examine real-life examples from both global contexts and New Zealand, showcasing successful cases and positive outcomes. c. Identify the challenges educators face in promoting peace education and propose recommendations to overcome these challenges.

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