

Volunteer Activities in Solving Sustainable Development Goals

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a goal for all countries between 2016~2030, and follow-up project of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The plan consists of a comprehensive international action aimed at simultaneously mitigating common threats to sustainable development, such as the global economic and social polarization, deepening social inequality, and destroying the global environment. There are four principles in SDGs, and they must follow the principles of generational equity, quality of life, social integration, and international responsibility. In addition, SDGs has 17 goals by category, including poverty, gender equality, and many kinds of detailed goals by category.

The long-term benefits often lead to the abandonment of short-term convenience. Environmental preservation and recycling can be a good example. It seems pointless because it is an act of no visible benefit at the moment. However, neglecting future prospects is no better than suicide. The same is true of volunteer work. It seems as if the act of merely rewarding and personal satisfaction does nothing to help in the short run. However, when the service begins to gather, it results in more than a paid labor force on a social level. This is a good example of the 2007 oil spill in Taean, Korea. About 10,000 tons of crude oil was leaked, and experts predicted it would take more than 10 years to recover. But in six months, Taean was almost completely restored. It is thanks to 1.23 million volunteers who cleaned over 30,000 tons of sorbent waste with their hands. Without volunteers trying to clean up waste whenever the waves hit, Taean's beaches would still be covered in oil and more animals may have died. Of the 17 goals of SDGs, there are many goals associated with environmental problems. Just as we were able to deal with the huge accident of the Taean oil spill, I think the power of the great volunteerism could be a big help in solving the environmental problem.

Volunteer work can also help protect a person's most basic rights. Among the goals of SDGs, poverty eradication, health and well-being are very basic human rights issues. More than 800 million people around the world are malnourished, and more than 700 million people live below the international poverty line. Also, while many people are living a comfortable life, more than 10,000 children die every day. Such many people do not enjoy even the very basic rights that humans should enjoy, and there are so many that it is very difficult to solve policy. Volunteering can be very helpful. There is very famous campaign to solve the human rights problem, it is the 'Saving Newborn' campaign, which is a volunteer campaign to save the newborn, because they

are week in immunity. This campaign doesn't require special financial burden or enormous effort. The way to participate in the campaign is simply to send your handmade hat to keep your baby warm, and additionally to sponsor medicine or clean water. In fact, the number of newborns who lose their lives within a month of being born dropped from 4 million in 2007 to 2.3 million in 2016. It is the power of volunteerism that reduced the number of newborns dying by nearly half. I think growing healthy can have a positive effect on the future in the long run, so the volunteering works are very powerful.

Among the goals of SGDs, there are problems that can be developed by narrowing the gap due to education. Good education, less inequality and gender equality are some examples that I think it can be solved through a good education. Deeply segregated areas still exist, with more than 200 million women being forced to circumcise, and the number of women married before the age of 18 reached 750 million. I think we should continue to pay attention to them and help them have equality by educating them where basic rights are not kept. In fact, not many people want to educate children in segregated areas, so it also needs the power of volunteerism. So many volunteers are volunteering to teach children who do not benefit from education. I have also done the educational volunteer activity, and many students are doing it because many universities know the need for educational volunteer work. The place where I did my education service was to help one student understand the heavy school content. She was a student who could not attend an academy, so the class was too difficult for her. I realized that there was a clear qualitative difference in education given by income. In some countries, students go on dangerous roads to go to school for hours, and even if they want to study, they cannot because they have no supplies. Because it's clear that small change can have a big effect, more volunteers should be interested in their education and help.

Many examples have led me to believe in the power of volunteerism. It is the volunteering work that brings small help together and make a big effect. Because the goals of SGDs are global issues, it takes a great deal of effort and resources and volunteering can be a big help. I hope many people will engage in volunteer work and achieve all the goals of SGDs.