

How University Student's Education Volunteering Activities Can Contribute to Achieve SDGs

Woo Sanghyun, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

In last december, Korean actress Ku Hye-sun visited at Chad with Korean Committee for UNICEF to participate in volunteer activity.¹⁾ Chad is central African country and is sometimes referred to as the "Dead Heart of Africa." Because of long civil war, there are so many problems in Chad: famine, infectious diseases, disputes, climate changes, violences and so on. United Nation was well aware of necessity of giving support and assistance to children who lives in similar situation throughout the world, which let them decide to develop SDGs in 2015. SDGs include 17 goals, which deal with issues related to social and economic development. Among these, there is Goal 4: Quality Education in SDGs. Goal 4 aims to "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."²⁾ When considering the characteristic of this specific goal, education volunteering activities from university students can contribute big portion for achieving it.

Due to poverty, child labor, early marriage, disability, compulsory service as child soldier, more than 60 million children can't receive elementary education in the world.³⁾ In addition, in one out of four countries, more than half of children failed to meet minimum math proficiency standards at the end of primary school, and at the lower secondary level, the rate was 1 in 3 countries.⁴⁾ Many services for children are already on the way in UNICEF. Students who be highly educated can play an important role in businesses managed by UNICEF by teaching primary education to children. If circumstances require, UNICEF can train them to educate kids.

Futhermore, children who live in poor surroundings need textbook and school things. Although they have a desire to study, they can't use anything helpful to study. In fact, we can support school supplies to kids through donation. There are already many fund-raising backed by UNICEF for children. Recently, Officenex, company that professionally produce office supplies, supported school things to Odoganda, school placed in Kenya.⁵⁾

1) Park Jeong-seon, "Ku Hye-sun stepped in with UNICEF for children in Africa", The Daily Sports, last modified December 10, 2018,

http://isplus.live.joins.com/news/article/article.asp?total_id=23196525&cloc=

2) "The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018," (UN: United Nations Publications, 2018), 6p.

3) "UNICEF Business: Education," UNICEF Korea, accessed December 28, 2018, https://www.unicef.or.kr/active/business_education.asp.

4) "Progress For Every Child in the SDG Era" (UNICEF: Division of Data, Research and Policy UNICEF, 2018), 58p.

5) Lee Du-ri, "Officenex supported school things to African children", MoneyToday, last

But many people are indifferent to children who can't receive primary education or don't know about this situation. If university students promote fund-raising program and hold an event to raise money for children who require elementary education, it is a great help to them. For example, students that major in video production can help it by uploading videos about fund-raising campaign on medium that many people all over the world use, like Youtube.

Simultaneously, university students can contribute to Goal 5: Gender Equality by achieving Goal 4. Goal 5 aims to "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." Globally, around 2017, an estimated 21 percent of women between 20 and 24 years of age reported that they were married or in an informal union before age 18.⁶⁾ This means that an estimated 650 million girls and women today were married in childhood. Women who are educated have a lower probability to have married in adolescence. If rate of early marriage gets lower, infant survival rate gets higher. Therefore, students should teach sex education to boys and girls in poor countries with elementary education. Also, a lot of girls in poor environment can't use sanitary pad. In Africa, one in ten girls can't go to school due to lack of sanitary napkin during menstrual period.⁷⁾ University students can improve girls' living and rights by supporting feminine sanitary products to them.

In the end, university students can contribute to save a lot of life and nourish a hope that raises up developing country by participating in education volunteering activities. Children are hope in every country of the world without question. Students who have much better environment than children in developing countries should support them to create equal opportunities in the world. It is noblesse oblige and not rocket science. And university students have abilities to educate children in Africa. We can teach the fundamental theories of mathematics to children who don't be educated in elementary school. Also, we can provide sex education to them to improve girls' rights. Above all, it demands that people pay careful attention to children. If a lot of people are concerned about children who can't receive primary education, sex education and actively volunteer to educate them, it is helpful to reach the SDGs. So, promoting education volunteering activities is one of the most important things on supporting children. What's more, it requires national support to provide good education to children. The countries that receive educational aid from such students should support fully them: procedure to get a visa, process of emigration and immigration, providing a place for volunteering activities and so on.

modified December 6, 2018,

<http://news.mt.co.kr/mtview.php?no=2018120613133867270&type=1>.

6) "The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2018," (UN: United Nations Publications, 2018), 6p.

7) "Seven Problems Facing Girls in the world", Plan International, last modified July 21, 2016, accessed December 29, 2018, <https://www.plankorea.or.kr/news/news/view/4518>.