

Role of Volunteer Activities in Achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals

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In 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets. The goals cover the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Among 17 sustainable development goals, some goals really need role of volunteer activities and some may be achieved better by actions made by governments. I believe that volunteer activities are doing a key role in achieving UN SDGs, especially in achieving 'Quality Education', 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure', 'Climate Change', 'Life Below Water', and 'Life on Land.' Many young adults are ready to use their passion and energy in volunteer activities helping people around the globe and contribute in achieving SDGs. Also, retired experts in various fields are waiting to share their expertise and knowledge they have gained throughout years working in that field.

Firstly, volunteer workers can do key roles in education, industry, innovation and infrastructure because those parts need many people's activities on site, beside from monetary support from various governments. We can dispatch volunteer workers to places where there is need for hands on activities that requires many people to work on site. The goals that I have mentioned above are goals that requires many people's work right at the places that needs people's help. For example, Korea has 'World Friends Korea' volunteers. As one of programs for Official Development Assistant (ODA), the Korea government is dispatching about 5000 volunteers every year to Africa, South America, Asia, Middle East, and CIS countries. Volunteers dispatched as 'World Friends Korea' do various activities including education, medical services, labor services and culture exchange. Those activities are mostly related to 'Quality Education', and 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.'

Also, goals related to environment (Climate action, life below water, and life on land) need campaigns around the world to tell people about importance of conserving nature and preserving environment. Those goals cannot be achieved with short-term activities done by volunteers or governments. It needs public consensus on the need to preserve environment and people's move and participation in their daily lives. Campaign projects are one of the ways to let people know importance of conserving nature and urge their participation in actions needed for nature preservation. For campaigns, we need lots of volunteers to conduct campaigns all around the world.

Volunteer activities is a way that recipient and volunteers can both benefit from.

Recipients benefit from activities that volunteers do in many countries, they can get direct education from volunteers and live with better infrastructure made by volunteers. By doing volunteer activities, volunteers can see how people in other countries live, understand their culture and broaden their views.

Volunteer activities are doing an important role in many parts in achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially in parts that need many people's work or service. Without volunteers, tremendous amount of money would have been spent to achieve same work that volunteers have done until now in goals like 'Quality Education', 'Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure', 'Climate Change', 'Life Below Water', and 'Life on Land'. Also, through dispatching volunteers to various countries, volunteers can also learn and experience many things during volunteer activities. Volunteering is not only beneficial to recipient countries but also is valuable experience for volunteers. Volunteer activities are doing a key role in many parts of UN SDGs and are beneficial to both recipient and assisting countries. Millions of volunteers from various countries are helping people around the globe and will also keep on helping in the future, contributing in UN Sustainable Development Goals.