

PROJECT PLASTIC



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With aims to reduce plastic waste

- by **Team GreenR Minds** -

Aim

The aim of our project was to raise awareness of young local Vietnamese students on plastic waste, which is currently a globally prevalent environmental issue. We were shocked by the amount of single-use plastic that was used every day by people who did not know about their impact on the environment. We thought that a good solution to this problem would be to educate the children, as they are the future of Vietnam and it will enable the next generation of the country to make more environmentally conscious choices. We hope that this project will also allow more people to know about the issue through the students telling their family and those around them about what they have learned.



Highlights from our experience

When we conducted our lesson to the local Vietnamese students from our community partner during the 1st session of Project Plastic, they looked engaged throughout the whole lesson of teaching and doing activities. Moreover, afterwards we held a reflection session to celebrate achievements of our progress and push ourselves towards improvement.

Funds and donations

As our project was done in school, British International School of Ho Chi Minh City provided us with classrooms to plan and hold the project in, trays of fruits from the school food provider to serve to the local Vietnamese students during their visit, and stationery such as coloring pencils, paper and pencils.

Special recognition

We have involved our community partner by inviting a local school here in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, over to our school to teach them the importance of a sustainable world, especially regarding the problem with single use plastics since it is a big issue here in Vietnam.

Sustainability

For our 2nd session, we have 3 sustainable activities planned. One is educating people by using a PowerPoint. We believe that this is a more sustainable alternative to handing out worksheets as we would not be wasting paper. In addition to that, we are planning to make a cave-like structure made out of used plastics to show people how much plastic is filling up landfills. Finally, we will let students make plant pots out of used single use plastic bottles. This means the plastic bottles can be reused.

Knowledge and skills gained

While planning the lessons, we had to use our creativity to come up with activities that could keep young students engaged. On top of that, during our first session of Project Plastic, we had to use our decision making skills to cope with difficulties that came up on the spot. Another major skill we all developed were leadership skills. We stood in front of students to present and lead group activities. Besides these skills we have also developed time management, reflection, perseverance, teamwork and adaptability.

approx. 160
people involved

approx. 210 hours put in
(1st session: 176 h 2nd session: 25 h)

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Sustainable Development Goals tackled

Goal 4: Quality Education

In our first session of Project Plastic, which took place right before the commencement of the Global Goals Competition, and as we hope to repeat in our second session that will follow shortly after the termination of this competition, we informed the Vietnamese students from the local school about plastic waste. Through this, they had a chance to learn about a global environmental issue that they might not have been previously aware of. We believe that this gave the students an opportunity to consider the impact of their actions on a greater, global scale. For example, the students' knowledge of the impacts of plastic waste on marine creatures may lead them to bring reusable bags to the supermarket, whereas they may not have been conscious of the impacts of their action before our information session.

Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Of course, as students it is hard to achieve more sustainable and responsible production of goods and services. However, we believe that through this project, we helped the Vietnamese students adopt a more responsible and sustainable style of consumption, while reconsidering our own lifestyles during the process. For example, during this project we have found out that almost all students have littered on the street before. However, after the information regarding how marine animals can consume plastic waste and die, some students may have been inspired to not litter, and use less single-use plastic bag, plastic bottles, or straws.

Goal 14: Life Below Water

A lot of the facts and statistics that was used in our lessons to the Vietnamese students were about the impact of plastic waste on the ocean and the organisms in it. For example, many local students were surprised to hear that microplastics could have a negative impact on marine animals, and the toxins in microplastics could move up the food chain and affect us, humans, as well. We believe that this is a great example of how Project Plastic may have helped students be more conscious of their actions and thus aid in achieving Goal 14: Life below water.



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Organisations

involved

- British International School Ho Chi Minh City
- Our school's community partner - a local Vietnamese school

Knowledge about community

From inviting the Vietnamese students from our local community partner, we have learnt that they are not only showing great interest towards the idea of sustainability but some of them are also actively advocating and putting them in practice in their everyday life. For example, during our first session of Project Plastic, we found out that some of the local students that we invited were already using reusable bottles to carry water every day. This has made us hopeful that sustainability can be well integrated into the daily life of all individuals living in our local community.