

Education for the Future

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Education for the Future was a project designed to accomplish two objectives aside from the Global Goal: Quality Education. As the first objective there is acknowledging the level of education an average public school has in Guatemala. The second objective is raising awareness on the kids about their surroundings and events in Guatemala. This objective is the most important one because it's about getting to know what other people's realities are like in a comfortable environment. We consider quality Education is the first step to eradicate poverty in our country, which according To the United Nations (2015) "extreme poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development." (p.3).

To make this project enjoyable for both parties, the kids and the team, materials and visual aids were needed. To acquire these, the 6 team members accepted donations, and funds were raised for two weeks in our communities, like neighbors and classmates. The team agreed to raise these with bake sales. Each teammate participated with something, be it cookies, brownies, cake, cupcakes or even candy. Each element was sold from 5 Quetzales to 10 Quetzales depending on the treat's size or original pricing. It was a very successful bake sale, we raised a total of 450 Quetzales, including some donations made by fellow students. These were used to buy the snacks , drinks, play dough, crayons, and posters for the lessons. Which were a wise way to spend the money because they made the classes more interactive and to build a trust connection between the team and the kids.

Moving along, the best part of this experience is divided into two parts. The first was the simple act of making the kids smile. The physical expression that they actually enjoy our activities and having a different lesson for the day. The second part was getting to know the reality of these kids. It was more than just getting to know each of them individually: learning their names, their families and their passions. They described what their life is like, more than raising awareness in them about the chosen topics, they raised awareness on us, on what a large part of the Guatemalan population lives through day-to-day. We don't see this in our little social bubble of economic prosperity in a third world country because; "Economic inequality in child stunting was greater than economic inequality in maternal overweight (CI = -0.22 vs. +0.14). SCOM pairs were more prevalent among the poor and middle SES groups as compared to the rich households"(Jounghee lee et al ,2012).

During this experience we got to learn a few essential things. We didn't do something that is going to change the world but helping people with a spark of happiness that they're missing is something that returns more than enough of your efforts. We did something so significant for people that need support and making a person's day is something they might remember for a long time. The most valuable lesson we learned is that small actions can make big differences. It's not hard to make a small

improvement in your community and if everyone would help with a small contribution a community might strive.

This experience taught us many things but overall it granted us the ability to be empathetic as well as compassionate towards others and use compassion to help them overcome their struggles. Another important ability we developed is that of patience and organization. We had to plan each of our activities in order to be successful. Compassion is important because without it we wouldn't have the progressively growing society that has allowed us to prosper as a species. This same type of compassion will allow us to fulfill the goals of sustainable development and make the world, or better yet Guatemala, a better place. This compassion allowed us to obtain others skills such as team organization as well as being caritative, The team dedicated a total of 12 hours to the project and in that time every member developed compassion and hearing skills.

Out of the goals of sustainable development, our project was mainly based on quality of education. Most of the children in Guatemala don't get to have access to a good education, due to the places they live in and the resources they can access to. We wanted to make a small change in a public school near ours. We think that going a couple of days to that school and those kids really helped them out to solve problems in their homes and with their friends and family. We know this because in the different days that we went to this school, the children told us how they fixed their problems with the solutions developed in the class before. The problems that the children face can potentially be related to the education they receive, and therefore fixing these problems can eventually provide them a better education. We knew that going there a couple of times would not make a big change, however, it can be used as an example for other people to do the same thing, and actually make a big change on the quality of education in Guatemala with everyone's help. We realize this is no way to completely fix a problem as big as the one we are dealing with but are aware that we will be the spark that will light the fire. As it will inspire others around us to continue doing things such as educating the Guatemalan populus. Our dream is to make our school continue to indulge in this sort of program. Teachers did comply to make this a reality by helping as every step of the way just as much as parents funded this.

With this project we concluded that students need to acquire and develop problem solving skills and with this activity we gave them a glance to this new way of learning. Our goal is quality of education, therefore this activity provides the kids with critical thinking skills and teamwork abilities to solve problems. To us, Quality of Education is all about thinking outside the box and using what you already have to make a change. We show them that difficulties can become opportunities by making them see that they have the potential and ideas to overcome those difficulties. The kids came up with solutions on their own, it is so important to let the children express themselves in a healthy way because their ideas will be

accepted and they will be encouraged to continue thinking creatively and in an innovative way. This will help the students in the future by helping them think of new ways they could improve their lifestyle and solve

We consider that our project caused a big impact on the way in which the students think of their society and the problems that they face in their daily lives. We measured this on our last visit to the school. We know this by asking them to fill out a questionnaire the second time around to know whether these skills helped them out in their houses. When we asked them if they had discussed our activities with their families. The majority said that their families were happy they were doing these activities and asked them what they would change in their lives. The kids now have a voice in their families and have realized that they want a change, all they need now is motivation to do it. Many of these children usually don't have the opportunity to talk to someone about their struggles at home since many are physically, emotionally, and sexually abused. With our activities we taught them how to express these problems through creativity and art. One of our activities was creating something out of Legos by asking them about things that affect them and we helped them come up with a solution to this problem, this way they created the solution piece by piece with Legos which would also help them remember and actually consider the solution.

References

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