Opening New Worlds

Society sometimes blindfolds and isolates us from the problems that affect negatively the people around us. As students looking for a transcendental change in our society, we put all our knowledge and skills to identify some of the problems that affect our country. We were able to distinguish the lack of education in low-income areas as an aspect that harms not only each individual but the whole country, so we decided to focus on this scope. We used the Fourth Sustainable Development Goal as a reference and found a solution within our reach.

Objectives

Our group is made up of six students, Su A Ahn, Adriana Paz, Ximena España, Jihae Song, Daniela Anguiano, and Ayoung Choi. The objective of our project was to donate books to a group of low-income children in Guatemala to help them develop the habit of reading. Another goal for our p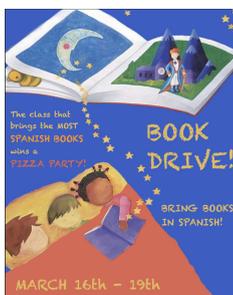roject was to involve the entire community of Colegio Interamericano de Guatemala to motivate them to help people in need and to raise awareness about the importance of supporting the ones in need. That's why we incorporated and worked together with the Early Childhood Education (ECE), Elementary, Middle School, and High School Principals. Our project satisfies the Fourth Sustainable Development Goal, Quality Education, which according to the United Nations (2000) is: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all." The goals were made to help those who don't have the same opportunities as we do and we hope it keeps making progress.
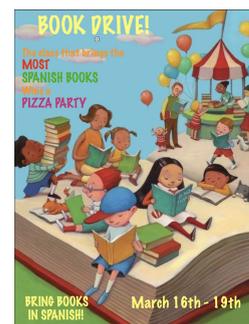
Our Process

After 26 hours of planning, we were able to make posters and write letters to parents and teachers to announce our project to the whole school. Despite the adversities, we were able to see success when we asked each of the grade level's Principal Directors to help us with the project. We faced many obstacles during the project and there were group members who didn't know what their role was in the project. Also, due to the lack of communication and organization, we couldn't invest the money, as we

have planned. Due to this, we were able to develop various skills, such as teamwork, coordination, analysis, critical thinking, and understanding of the current situation in our country. We never expected that we wouldn't get to carry out the project and because of that, we learned to always have a plan B. We also asked our teacher for help to find a way we could all collaborate and find new solutions.

Outcomes and Impacts

The Bake Sale was one of the best experiences we had were we collected around Q357.00. During this time we got to see how the community we live in wanted to help and how it was willing to give to the ones that don't have the same opportunity. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we didn't have enough time to invest the money we raised in our Bake Sale. Once this situation is over, we are planning on donating some books to Hogar Miguel Magone, since our funds are not as abundant. If our project would have been completed, the social impact would have been transcendental since we had planned to collect approximately 400 books, which would have benefited all the children at Hogar Miguel Magone. We believe that our project is sustainable because after we graduate the work that has been done will continue to have an impact on our community. It will cause an improvement in education in Guatemala, which is crucial for the development of our country. Approximately 54.8% of children in Guatemala live below the poverty level and even though they attend public schools, they don't have enough resources to afford the necessary materials to go to school (Bell, 2017). Therefore, we think that to continue with this goal, more contributions and donations of books are needed to make Guatemala a better place.

References

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