



PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AT SCHOOLS: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Kuo-Hung Huang, Ming-Chung Chen, Ching-Ching Cheng

National Chiayi University, Taiwan

E-mail: kuohung@mail.ncyu.edu.tw, mtchen@mail.ncyu.edu.tw,
chingching_cheng@mail.ncyu.edu.tw

Yumiko Takagi

Kagawa University, Japan

E-mail: takagi.yumiko@kagawa-u.ac.jp

Promoting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within school environments is crucial for fostering a generation equipped to address global challenges. One of the primary achievements has been the increasing awareness and integration of SDGs into curricula (Boeren, 2019). Many schools worldwide have incorporated lessons, projects, and activities that address specific goals, such as SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), and SDG 5 (gender equality). This integration fosters a deeper understanding of interconnected global issues among students, encouraging them to turn those concerns into active steps to overcome the issues (Stephens et al., 2008). These hands-on activities provide practical experience and solidify the concepts learned in the classroom, empowering students to take tangible action within their communities.

Through the University Social Responsibility (USR) program, the university is vital in supporting social sustainability, including social equity, economic development, and environmental protection. Integrating SDGs issues into curricula is a significant trend in universities worldwide (Huang & Do, 2021). The goal is to immerse students in a solution-oriented learning experience and prepare them to become agents of social change. For instance, action research-based university projects showcase innovative approaches to addressing real-world challenges. University programs integrating rural community development into student learning have successfully merged academic objectives with community problem-solving, enriching both student experiences and local capacities.

Additionally, several studies emphasize the transformative potential of SDG 4 in fostering inclusive and equitable education. Research on online lesson studies and e-learning platforms demonstrates their ability to overcome geographical barriers, particularly in underserved areas. For example, reflective practices among teachers have improved significantly through online platforms, promoting professional growth and enhanced teaching quality. Articles also discussed policymaking and implementation of security measures, health, and educational equity.

The articles in this theme issue collectively emphasize the intersection of education, sustainability, and community engagement. They underline the importance of innovative teaching practices, emotional intelligence, and sustainable facility design in achieving broader societal goals. Promoting SDGs at schools represents a complex yet rewarding endeavor. While significant achievements in quality education, gender equity, and early childhood development are evident, challenges such as resource inequalities, digital divides, and cultural barriers persist. Educators and policymakers can advance the dual goals of sustainability and social equity by

integrating innovative practices, fostering emotional intelligence, addressing systemic issues, and strengthening community ties.

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Kuo-Hung Huang (Corresponding author)	PhD, Professor, Department of E-learning Design and Management, National Chiayi University, 85 Wen-long Village, Ming-Hsiung, Chiayi 621, Taiwan. E-mail: kuohung@mail.ncyu.edu.tw Website: http://web.ncyu.edu.tw/~kuohung ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5716-7731
Ming-Chung Chen	PhD, Professor, Department of Special Education, National Chiayi University, 85 Wen-long Village, Ming-Hsiung, Chiayi 621, Taiwan. E-mail: mtchen@mail.ncyu.edu.tw
Ching-Ching Cheng	PhD, Professor, Department of Early Childhood Education, National Chiayi University, 85 Wen-long Village, Ming-Hsiung, Chiayi 621, Taiwan. E-mail: chingching_cheng@mail.ncyu.edu.tw Website: http://web.ncyu.edu.tw/~chingching_cheng ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1090-771X
Yumiko Takagi	PhD, Professor, Faculty of Education, Kagawa University, 1-1 Saiwai-cho Takamatsu, Kagawa, 760-8522, Japan. E-mail: takagi.yumiko@kagawa-u.ac.jp ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8432-3867