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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



The Role of Libraries in Supporting Sustainable Development Goals - Special Reference to Sri Lanka



The SDGs at a glance

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an ambitious set of 17 goals and 169 targets that were defined and developed through an unprecedented dialogue among UN Member States, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders.



<p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	<p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	<p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>						
<p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p>	<p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p>	<p>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p>	<p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</p>	<p>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</p>						
<p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	<p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	<p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	<p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	<p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	<p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	<p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>				
<p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p>	<p>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p>	<p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>				

To find out more about the links between the SDGs and the work of local and regional governments, see:

“The Sustainable Development Goals: What Local Governments Need to Know”

www.sdgs.uclg.org



LIBRARIES & SDGs



- ❑ Libraries are key institutions to help achieving the SDGs
- ❑ All libraries play a significant role in providing access to data, research and knowledge that supports informed research and public access to information about climate change (*IFLA, 2018*)
- ❑ Worldwide, 320,000 public libraries & more than a million all other libraries ensure the SDGs
- ❑ Sri Lanka – 1,176 public libraries & more than 7,500 all other libraries ensure information and the skills to use it are available to everyone, making them critical institutions for all in the digital age.
- ❑ Libraries provide ICT infrastructure, help people develop the capacity to use information effectively, preserve information to ensure ongoing access for future generations.

LIBRARIES SUPPORT ALL THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Libraries and access to information contribute to improved outcomes across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by,

- Promoting universal literacy, including digital, media and information literacy and skills, with the support of dedicated staff
- Closing gaps in access to information and helping government, civil society and business to understand local information needs better
- Providing a network of delivery sites for government programmes and services
- Advancing digital inclusion through access to ICT
- Serving as the heart of the research and academic community
- Preserving and providing access to the world's culture and heritage



Libraries support this goal by providing public access to information, training in new skills, and services that give people opportunities to improve their lives.



Libraries provide people with access to research and data on crops, market information and farming methods that supports resilient, productive agriculture.



Libraries are essential providers of access to medical research that supports improved public health outcomes. Public access to health information helps people to be better informed about their health and stay healthy.



Libraries are at the heart of schools, universities and colleges in every country around the world. Libraries support literacy programmes and provide a safe space for learning for people of all ages. Libraries support researchers to reuse research and data to create new knowledge.



Libraries support gender equality by providing safe meeting spaces and programmes for women and girls on rights and health. Libraries conduct ICT training and literacy programmes that empower women and help them to develop entrepreneurial skills.



Libraries provide public access to information on water and sanitation. In some cases, libraries play a central role in bringing safe drinking water to the entire community.



Many public and community libraries around the world are the only place where people can get reliable access to light and electricity to read, study and apply for a job.



Public access to ICT and training at libraries enables people to become more entrepreneurial. Skilled library staff can help people with find the right job, complete online applications, and write support materials.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Libraries provide access to high speed Internet, research infrastructure and skilled professionals. In many countries, public and educational libraries are the major or only providers of public internet access at low or no cost.

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



Equitable access to information, freedom of expression, freedom of association and assembly, and privacy are central to an individual's independence. Libraries help to reduce inequalities by providing safe, civic spaces open to all and located in urban and rural areas across the world.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



Libraries have an essential role in safeguarding and preserving invaluable documentary heritage, in any form, for future generations. Culture strengthens local communities and supports inclusive and sustainable development of cities.

12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



Libraries are sustainable institutions. They share resources in the community and internationally. Libraries provide communities with information on sustainable practices relevant to their situation.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



All libraries play a significant role in providing access to data, research and knowledge that supports informed research and public access to information about climate change.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



Libraries provide access to data, research and knowledge that supports informed research and community decision making about fundamental aspects of life including the sustainable management of fishing, biodiversity and water conservancy.

15 LIFE ON LAND



All libraries play a significant role in providing access to data, research and knowledge that supports informed research and decision making about environmental aspects of life including conservation of resources, land use and biodiversity.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



To realize access to information fully, everyone needs both access and the skills to use information effectively. Libraries have the expertise and resources to help governments, institutions and individuals communicate, organise, structure and use information effectively for development.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Libraries partner at all levels with local, regional and national civil society institutions, governments and organizations from private sectors to offer community based programmes and services that engage and empower citizens, in turn, strengthening societies.

Library Activities align with the SDGs in Sri Lanka



“CoderDojo” at Libraries

This programme aims to improve Scientific, Technological, Engineering, and Mathematical (STEM) knowledge among Sri Lankan students, has launched its latest innovative initiative titled ‘CoderDojo at Libraries’. A Dojo is a free, global, volunteer-led, community-based programming club for young people where they can learn to code, build a website, or create an app or game. They are a space for young people to explore technology in an informal, creative, safe, and social environment. CoderDojo sessions are usually run-in person, so that young people can collaborate and code in a fun, social space.



Bus Library Project



To uplifting the country's educational landscape by way of encouraging more readers and bringing books closer to the country's youth, SLT-MOBITEL, the National ICT and Telecommunications Services Provider in partnership with Manusath Derana completed the project which is aimed at transforming decommissioned Busses into fully fledged libraries. The prime objective of supporting and empowering rural schools by providing quality access to information technology and knowledge.



The project's objectives are multifaceted, aiming to enhance access to electronic resources, minimize paperwork, and encourage the usage of digital libraries for educational purposes. By embracing the digital era, the initiative sought to bridge the gap between traditional libraries and the modern, tech-savvy audience. The project aims to address the decline in physical library visits, particularly among youth, by establishing Digital Libraries across Sri Lanka's districts.

These digital libraries, equipped with ICT tools and connected to national and international digital repositories, provide easy access to electronic resources and educational materials.



Public Library Automation Project



National Library Facilitates Skills Development Programme collaboration with Commonwealth of Learning - Canada

The COVID-19 pandemic has created an economic crisis leading to a decrease in available jobs worldwide. Sri Lanka is no exception. In response, the National Library of Sri Lanka (NLSL) decided to invest in education and training programmes to reskill and up skill job seekers entering the workforce. The programme offers scholarships and access to more than 5,000 courses from world-renowned universities and institutes and certifies course completion. Courses cover topics such as digital transformation, entrepreneurship, web development, leadership, problem-solving and critical thinking. The programme's evaluation revealed a life-changing impact for programme participants.



Conducting Reading Camps and Declare the National Reading Month



The National Reading Month was declared in the year 2004. National Library of Sri Lanka together with the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and National Heritage declared the month of October as “National Reading Month”. Main objectives of this project are, to give publicity to the published books among people and encourage/ motivate people to read books. Reading camps are organized mainly for the benefit of public and school libraries with a view of promoting reading habits and creating awareness among people on current techniques of reading.

Awareness Programmes for Librarians on SDGs




Meet an Expert | 15th Programme


Global Goals in Action in Sri Lanka

27th June, 2022 | 2.30 p.m.

Attend the physical session at the National Library Auditorium, 14, Independence Avenue, Colombo 07

Or Join us on  zoom

Mrs. Chamindry Saparamadu
Director General
Sustainable Development Council

 NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SRI LANKA

Organized by
National Library & Documentation Services Board



Conducting awareness programs for librarians on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can empower them to support and promote sustainable development within their communities. National Library of Sri Lanka conduct the workshops, seminars and conference relating to SDGs and it mainly focuses on increased librarian knowledge of SDGs and the potential for libraries to contribute. Also Strengthened library-community partnerships on SDG initiatives and to enhanced library programs that support specific SDGs, benefiting the community.



Research Support

Libraries support research and innovation by providing access to scholarly publications, databases, and research tools. They also offer spaces for collaboration and knowledge exchange, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among students and researchers.

National Library of Sri Lanka conducted the Annual & International Research Conference in relation to the SDGs. It was conducted 4th National Library Research Symposium under the theme of Libraries for a Better World : Achieving Sustainable Development Goals and 5th Symposium under the theme “Libraries as Partners of Enhancing & Sustaining Quality Education”. There were presented research papers and research works in relation to SDGs.

4th NATIONAL LIBRARY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
NatlibSYMPO 2021
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Libraries for a Better World: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals

29th October, 2021
Free Online Registrations Now Open

GUEST OF HONOUR	CHIEF GUEST	KEYNOTE SPEAKER	GUEST SPEAKER
 Prof. Kapila C.K. Perera Secretary of Ministry of Education, Sri Lanka	 Mr. Robert Juhkam Resident Representative United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Sri Lanka	 Ms. Loida Garcia-Febo International Library Consultant Chair, ALA 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Task Force	 Ms. Chamindry Saparamadu Director General Sustainable Development Council Sri Lanka

Organized by:
National Library of Sri Lanka

5th NATIONAL LIBRARY RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
NatlibSYMPO 2022

8th September 2022

“LIBRARIES AS PARTNERS OF ENHANCING AND SUSTAINING QUALITY EDUCATION”

A Study on Awareness and Perceptions of Librarians in Sri Lanka on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



This survey was conducted by Research Division of the National Library of Sri Lanka to get information on awareness and perceptions on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) among Librarians in Sri Lanka.

Statement	Number of Responses		
	Aware	Not aware	Not sure
Awareness of the SDG goals introduced by the UN in 2015	164 (65.6%)	47 (18.8%)	39 (15.6%)
Awareness of Sustainable Development targets and global indicators along with each goal as given in the Agenda	128 (51.2%)	86 (34.4%)	36 (14.4%)
Awareness of the completion year of this SDGs implementation by the UN	123 (49.2%)	86 (34.4%)	41 (16.4%)
Awareness of the Sustainable Development Council of Sri Lanka	102 (40.8%)	111 (44.4%)	37 (14.8%)
Attended to the conferences & workshops about SDGs	59 (23.6%)	187 (74.8%)	4 (1.6%)

Challenges / Issues Faced by the Librarians & Library Professionals in Implementing & Achieving the SDGs



- Lack of awareness due to not keeping them up to dated
- Poor practical knowledge of the library staff on how SDGs can be implemented and achieved
- No awareness on how to relate the activities to SDGs
- Lack of resources such as finance, ICT facilities, technology and required staff
- Challenges in Institutional Coordination given fragmented mandates
- Challenges in localization of SDGs
- Limitations in Data – both availability and frequency in compilation
- Absence of a transformative mindset

Thank You



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