

Educational Response, Inclusion and Empowerment for SDGs in Emerging Economies

How do education systems contribute to raising global citizens?





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Mustafa Öztürk Editor

Educational Response, Inclusion and Empowerment for SDGs in Emerging Economies

How do education systems contribute to raising global citizens?



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Preface

"Stop acting so small! You are the universe in ecstatic motion." - Rumi

Realizing the vision of sustainability at a rather later age, I was inspired by a 2-week lifelong learning program that I attended a decade ago in Vienna. The awareness I gained during the program, which motivated its participants on acting with clear mind and good consciousness about sustainability, made me think how little I knew about this vision and what I should do more to internalize and spread it in my personal, social, and professional environment. This enlightenment has changed my direction in life both as an individual and an educator. It helped my academic activities evolve around sustainability, leading me to a great place – Teachers College of Columbia University, where I met so many education activists who believe in "an equal, just, sustainable and happy world" and who see themselves as "the universe in ecstatic motion."

After so many enlightening courses, workshops, seminars, webinars, and so on, what I call awareness has now turned from a perceptive concept into an active capacity. I know that the universe is governed by thought, but it is changed by action. I, as an educator, wholeheartedly believe in the power of thought, but I also think that we need the power of action in education. Bringing more action-oriented awareness in the educational sphere would only help us raise individuals and generations who are able to build a sustainable future for humanity and nature. This awareness should stimulate a transformation, and this transformation begins within us because a real change starts when we change. And, the best way to create "a chain of change" is to learn and disseminate what others in other settings do to activate the transformation towards a sustainable future. Hence, this edited book is highly meaningful and impactful in terms of reaching other educators of sustainability around the world and reading their stories of education from different levels and areas. In this way, we are no longer "a drop in the ocean," but we become "the entire ocean," as an echo miraculously expressed centuries ago by Rumi.

Ankara, Turkey November 2021 Mustafa Öztürk

Acknowledgments

This book is an outcome of a great partnership among members of academia, research, and practice who represent diverse educational and social settings across the world and who have a spirit of excellence in sustainability vision. I, as the editor, am grateful for this fruitful partnership and would like to thank all the contributors to this volume who did great work and made this book possible to reach readers.

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Above all, we owe the progress to all individuals and organizations who enabled this work to be published. These individuals and organizations include learners, educators, schools, institutions, partners, and networks from Austria, China, Colombia, Egypt, Hungary, India, Kenya, Mexico, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Poland, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the UK, the USA, and Vietnam.

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Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to the subseries advisors, *Arjen Wals* and *Nicole Ardoin*, for their valuable feedback on the book proposal, and I sincerely thank *Zachary Romano* and *Herbert Moses* for their kind and patient support during the editorial process as well as the other staff at Springer Nature for their interest and hard work.

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Abbreviations

21CS 21st Century Skills AU African Union

CAE Critical Environmental Agency
CCE Climate Change Education
CDA Critical Discourse Analysis

CECADESU Center for Education and Training for Sustainable

Development (in Spanish)

CESA Continental Education Strategy for Africa

CLP Cultural Liberation Pedagogy

CoHE Council of Higher Education (Turkey)

CONABIO National Commission for Biodiversity (in Spanish)

COVID-19 Corona Virus Disease

CPD Continuous Professional Development

CRP Culturally Relevant Pedagogy

DESD Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

DoNE Directorates of National Education (Turkey)

EA Environmental Agency
ECE Early Childhood Education

ECOSOC Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

EE Environmental Education
EFL English as a Foreign Language
EK Environmental Knowledge

EPA Environmental Protection Agency
ESD Education for Sustainable Development

EU European Union

GAP Global Action Program
GCE Global Citizenship Education
GDP Gross Domestic Product
GEC General Education Curriculum

GIZ German Society for International Cooperation (in German)

GoK Government of Kenya HDI Human Development Index IB International Baccalaureate

ICT Information and Communication Technology

KNBS Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation
MDGs Millennium Development Goals

xii Abbreviations

MEAL Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning

MGIEP Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and

Sustainable Development

MoE Ministry of Education

MoET Ministry of Education and Training

MoFEPT Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training

MoNE Ministry of National Education (Turkey)
MoSHE Ministry of Science and Higher Education

NASMLA National Assessment System for Monitoring Learning

Achievement

NCC National Curriculum Council (Pakistan)

NEMIS National Education Management Information System

NESSP National Education Sector Strategic Plan

NGO Nongovernmental Organization

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OMEP World Organization for Early Childhood Education (in

French)

OXFAM Oxford Committee for Famine Relief

PISA Program for International Student Assessment

SDG4 Quality Education

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals SEL Social Emotional Learning

SEMARNAT Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (in Spanish)

SES Socio-economic Status SNC Single National Curriculum

STEAM Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math

TEPs Teacher Education Programs

TIMS Teacher Information Management System

TVET Technical and Vocational Education and Training

UN United Nations

UNCED United Nations Conference on Environment and

Development

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNECE United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

UNEP United Nations Environment Program

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization

UNICEF United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

USAID US Agency for International Development

WEF World Economic Forum

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Introduction

The world needs many of its citizens, particularly the next generation, to have the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to tackle the greatest challenges of the twenty-first century, and shape a sustainable future for all humanity. Current industrial and technological innovations alone are likely to fail in driving a systemic change needed to transform the existing model to a more sustainable way of life. In order for a larger and more applicable transformation to take place in our world, the principles of sustainable development should be adopted at communal and cultural levels – unquestionably starting with individual behaviors and progressing towards collective actions. The most important area that will make this possible is "education." The main function expected from education is to inform learners about the vision of sustainability, instill the required sensitivity in them towards the issues that concern the whole world, and create an effective change in their behaviors regarding all areas of life.

A transformation being possible through education has to be both multidimensional and multilateral, and the realization of this transformation depends on the activation of systemic, continuous, innovative, adaptive, and transformative learning methods accepted and practiced in the analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation processes of education. Starting at an early age and being reinforced until adulthood, ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) and GCE (Global Citizenship Education) aim to (a) equip children with the knowledge, skills, and values that are critical for their development and success in a rapidly changing world; (b) enable the creation of effective learning environments and tools; (c) increase the quality of education; (d) enrich the content; and (e) support educators in this endeavor.

One way of getting a broader understanding of globally prioritized issues such as sustainable development or global citizenship is to hear local, national, or regional voices from the educational sphere. Consistent with this need, this edited book is prepared to see educational response, inclusion, and empowerment for the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in emerging economies. Emerging economies is defined as newly industrialized countries that have not reached the developed status yet, but have, in a macro-economic sense, outpaced their developing counterparts. Despite having a lower-to-middle per capita income, these countries are experiencing rapid growth and being more important in world economics as they have a significant influence on the global growth. Progressing from a low-income, less developed, and pre-industrial economy into a modern, industrial, and developed economy with a

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higher standard of living, they appear as a transitional zone or a linking bridge between the developed and the developing.

There is no universal consensus on exactly which countries qualify as emerging economies. However, there are several different lists that have become generally accepted for establishing emerging market countries. According to the MSCI (Morgan Stanley Capital International) Index, 24 developing countries qualify as emerging economies including *Brazil*, *Chile*, *China*, *Colombia*, *Czech Republic*, *Egypt*, *Greece*, *Hungary*, *India*, *Indonesia*, *Korea*, *Malaysia*, *Mexico*, *Pakistan*, *Peru*, *Philippines*, *Poland*, *Qatar*, *Russia*, *South Africa*, *Taiwan*, *Thailand*, *Turkey*, and *United Arab Emirates*. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has a similar list of 23 as well.

Considering the best known definition of sustainable development, conventional economic progress might fail in meeting the needs of millions of people today and might risk future generations' ability to meet their own needs. In this respect, the current emerging economies are particularly expected to respond to the growing demand for new ways of life to conserve the Earth and sustainably manage its resources. Being at the forefront of economic growth, emerging economies tend to utilize technology and innovation faster and more enthusiastically than many other countries. On the one hand, they have a higher rate of growth compared to developed countries; on the other hand, they are plagued by higher socio-political instability and unease, and thus desire to create a better quality of life for their people. All these facts make emerging economies interesting cases to read about. Hence, this edited book highlights how education in emerging economies succeed in extending conventional economic methods to sustainable issues or departing from money-based calculations and business-dominated values to real-life considerations regarding ethical, environmental, and humanistic values. In the book, the readers have a chance to look at the educational response, inclusion, and empowerment for the SDGs in those countries and the place of global issues within national education systems in terms of policy, curriculum, practice, and perspectives.

Having been prepared with a polyphonic and multi-perspective approach with the contributions made from different contexts of education across the world, the volume consists of 4 sections including 15 chapters. Accordingly, the content is arranged in four groups of contributions representing (I) policy-level, (II) curriculum-level, (III) practice-level, and (IV) perspective-level cases from various emerging economies including Turkey, Mexico, Kenya, Egypt, Poland, Vietnam, Pakistan, China, Austria, India, Hungary, and some other transnational settings.

Policy-Level Cases

The first section of the book focuses on educational policies. In this section, there are chapters discussing the reflections of the SDGs on educational policies and legislations in emerging economies. Through a situation analysis or a framework development process, the chapters map the core concepts of sustainable development and global citizenship against national policies and

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laws by providing a synthesis of their importance and relevance within the overall structure of the national systems and illustrate how educational transformations could be designed.

In Chap. 1, the authors present an integrated document analysis performed on educational policy documents in Turkey and demonstrate how global perspectives of education find a way into the local policies and legislations. As one of the emerging economies, Turkey has prioritized the vision of sustainable development in its educational policies considering its importance for its own and the world's future. Through a highly centralized structure, all educational policies and national curricula are prepared and enforced by the central office of the Ministry of National Education, Turkey. Seeing policy documents as essential collections of information about the educational response, inclusion, and empowerment for the SDGs, the authors map the key elements of ESD against national educational policies and provide insights for future directions to accelerate the adoption and integration of ESD in all processes of education.

Focusing mainly on climate change, Chap. 2 outlines a multidimensional and locally grounded framework that would account for social, cultural, psychological, professional, institutional, and political factors involved in educational transformation processes. Sustainability is one of the greatest challenges Mexico is currently facing. Particularly, environmental degradation caused by water scarcity, loss of biodiversity, pollution, hurricanes, floods, and fires has been accompanied by rising inequality in the country. Therefore, there has been an increasing number of initiatives of integrating environmental education into Mexico's education system since 1990s. The authors mainly use a holistic framework to illustrate how the theoretical discourse on educational transformation could serve as a reference when designing and implementing education for climate action and resilience in the Mexican states of Chiapas and Yucatán, both of which suffer from various vulnerabilities to climate change.

Chapter 3 is a case from Sub-Saharan Africa and presents a stepwise process which is followed particularly when constructing a framework for monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning for Kenya's educational commitment to the SDGs, in particular to the SDG4. Considering the large proportion of young population in Kenya, quality education appears to be major issue for the government. Therefore, the authors see ESD as a critical angle for educational development and choose to support their case primarily with a document analysis on national policies and legislations as well as a consultative and participatory data collection method which enabled diverse technical experts and team members from the Ministry of Education to participate in the holistic and integrated design of the framework.

As the last chapter of the policy section, Chap. 4 first outlines the concepts of citizenship, globalization, global citizenship, and GCE, then discusses four priority areas for Egypt's 2030 Vision, and finally provides recommendations for the Egyptian education system. In response to the challenges of the recent revolutions of the Egyptian people from 2011 to 2013, the Egyptian government has presented and made numerous efforts to support social cohesion through citizenship education during the implementation of the new

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constitution and laws that focus on human rights, participatory democracy, and decentralized educational administration. Built on the vision of GCE, the chapter discusses priority areas as setting an educational framework for global citizenship; integrating GCE into the curriculum; increasing global citizenship and civil society awareness at schools; and reorienting education towards nature and environment.

Curriculum-Level Cases

Although pedagogical and social imperatives might be clear enough, the SDGs might still be challenging to prioritize in curriculum. The second section of the book consist of the chapters that report on curricular analyses or practices through different cases in which global competencies defined in the 2030 Education Agenda are mapped against local or national learning outcomes in curricular or co-curricular records. With the help of these chapters, national frameworks for global citizenship and sustainable development are portrayed through a synthesis of their importance and relevance within the curriculum of emerging economies.

As a qualitative investigation, Chap. 5 focuses on discursive conceptualizations of global citizenship and sustainable development in the Polish national curriculum and demonstrates whether the curriculum creates opportunities to foster global citizenship. Poland, the former Soviet bloc country and foreign aid recipient, now transformed into an Official Development Assistance donor with a growing level of income, quality of life, and a stable economy, is hard to locate simply on a political and epistemological map. Neglected during the communist era and at the beginning of the transition period, environmental and sustainability issues started to gain attention in Poland at the end of the 1990s. Poland nowadays is the largest economy of the ex-Eastern bloc countries and has been reclassified in some indices from "emerging markets" to "developed markets." The critical discourse analysis done on the subject areas of History, Citizenship Education, and Geography puts forward three main points: global citizenship is almost non-existent in the curriculum; ESD and GCE are not presented as intertwining nor crosscutting approaches; and the curriculum offers no transformative potential.

Chapter 6 focuses on Vietnam's biology curriculum for high schools. Vietnam has nationalized the SDGs into 115 Vietnamese SDG targets as part of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reflecting the country's conditions and development priorities. Being considered an essential part of Vietnam's approach to ESD, environmental education is adopted across all disciplines, aiming to nurture learners with relevant knowledge about the environment and competencies for environmental protection. This chapter explores curricular references to the SDGs by using a list of themes from Hungerford's Environmental Knowledge framework which is suggested for environmental literacy development in learners. Besides identifying the SDGs that could be integrated into the curriculum being emphasized as the nationalized SDG targets of Vietnam, the authors recommend educators to consider local characteristics

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and school resources when selecting textbooks and organizing educational activities for learners to experience more personalized learning at schools.

Chapter 7 analyzes the national curriculum of Pakistan and discusses how well it is designed to prepare young people for global citizenship. Pakistan is a prime example of a country that faces domestic challenges that have implications for a globalized world. With nearly 140 million young people under the age of 30 and limited investments in education, the country risks raising a generation that have scarce access to economic opportunities, thus exacerbating inequality and its associated global challenges. Using UNESCO's GCE framework for a normative comparison, the author evaluates the emphasis placed on key global issues or concepts related to global citizenship within the national curriculum. Through a systematic textual analysis of the 2018 National Curriculum Framework and the curriculum documents for the subjects of *English*, *Urdu*, and *Social Studies*, the author concludes that the coverage of GCE in the curriculum is limited and there is an explicit focus on creating a national identity, which may conflict with the cosmopolitan values of global citizenship.

The last chapter of curriculum-level cases, Chap. 8 outlines a decade-long process of integrating ESD into the curriculum of a local kindergarten in Shanghai, China. ESD in early childhood education in China started with environmental education as early as the 1980s, and currently, there are more than 100 million children aged 6 and below in China, accounting for about one-fifth of the world's population of the same age. Telling the tale of the curricular practice of combining new activities for social-emotional learning and financial literacy education in early childhood education, the authors present the coordinated and discordant aspects of ESD integration into a curriculum, discusses the implications for a long-term and effective development of ESD practices, and provides valuable information for similar contexts aiming to implement ESD in early childhood education.

Practice-Level Cases

The most fundamental challenge with regard to policy and curriculum is to determine to what extent the vision and targets included in educational policies and programs could be put into practice. Some decisions or principles that seem perfect on paper may not be put into practice as planned. For this reason, it is important to ensure that policy/curriculum makers as well as practitioners adopt and internalize these principles at the same rate. Only in this way can these principles develop and become widespread in the desired direction. The third section of the book includes practice-level cases from pre-school education to adult education, representing both formal and nonformal learning environments from diverse geographical settings.

Highlighting the importance of ESD as a process of social learning and seeing the child as a competent citizen with formal rights, Chaps. 9 and 10 focus on pre-school education as critical period to encourage children to become well-educated individuals who can make right decisions for themselves as well as in situations concerning other people. Chapters 11 and 12