



MOBILE PHONE APPS: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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Abstract

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, every society and every individual has a responsibility to eradicate poverty, protect the environment and ensure that all people live in peace and prosperity. To meet this responsibility, activities must be organized that support the goals of sustainable development. The increasing daily use of mobile technologies in education, are said to have significant potential to raise awareness of sustainable development goals. This will be possible through mobile phone application as mobile applications are the gateway to the transfer of human knowledge. Learning is a continuous process and now the focus has completely shifted to e-Learning. Thanks to mobile phones and various function-oriented apps, students can learn at their own pace and take their time understanding things because everything is just a click away. The integration of mobile into the teaching-learning process has ushered a new era in education. It has made the teaching-learning process more interactive and practical. One can impart quality education to anyone, from anywhere. Overall, implementing mobile applications and technologies can provide many benefits for a quality education environment. This document covers the use of mobile applications to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the specific mobile application of the individual goal.

Keywords: Quality Education, Mobile Application, SDGs, e-Learning,

Introduction

The world is changing and improving dynamically in all existing areas. Be it culture, society, modernity, sports, education, and categories, they won't really end. And one of those super spontaneous areas of growth is technology, which is being upgraded at an amazing rate. Nowadays various changes have been introduced in the way we face technological advances. Numerous features have been introduced that not only help in various daily activities but also have improved our standard of living in many ways. This shows how technological progress gives fruitful results and also contributes to the general development in various economic and non-economic fields known to us. It is also useful for reaching the SDGs. The United Nations has launched many mobile

applications to achieve the SDGs. Poverty eradication is the main pillar of sustainable development, and there is conclusive evidence that health and education are directly correlated with poverty rates in an observed community.

Sustainable Development Goals and Mobile App

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call from the United Nations to eradicate poverty, protect our planet, and ensure that all people live in peace and prosperity SDGs comprise 17 interrelated goals (Turan Çimşir & Uzunboylu, 2019). Poverty has been a problem for all societies in all eras of human history. Poverty is seen today as a global problem and understood primarily as a humanitarian and social problem and less as an economic problem. In today's world, where injustice is so

globalized and poverty remains at very high levels, an important question is what it takes to reduce the problems caused by these two issues. In addition to the answers to this question, it is also important how willing and consistent people are to solve these problems. Although ending poverty and hunger, raising healthy people, quality education, and reducing inequalities are just some of the goals of the United Nations Development program (UNDP2030), there are also 17 problems to solve to make the country to make it a liveable place. Since these problems are the most important global issues to be discussed, every state, organization, and individual has the responsibility to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in order to solve them. Information technology applications such as mobile technologies are a driving force in education for the Sustainable Development Goals (Al-Sharikh et al, 2021.). On the other hand, UNESCO reported that information technology applications play an important role in facilitating awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (Wagner et al, 2005). When the studies conducted in this area are analysed, it is revealed that mobile technologies have the potential to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development goals (Bleck et al., 2012). Although there are a large number of studies on sustainable development in the literature most of these studies focus on a single goal, such as quality education, good health, or gender equality (Crompton, 2017).

However, since the Sustainable Development Goals are interrelated, it is believed that studies on mobile application usage should be strengthened, with a focus on all goals in terms of quality and quantity.

Specific application for Specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

I have compiled a list of mobile applications that can be used to promote the Sustainable Development Goals into our everyday lives.

Neighborly App (Goal-1 No Poverty)

Neighborly promotes "sentimental education" by enabling users to meet people in poverty and make a meaningful impact on their communities. After downloading the app, users are redirected to cyny.org to donate. Once users donate, they receive a confirmation email with their coordinates. From there, users can get more specific information on how to help in their area. By understanding the exact issues and learning about people living in poverty, poverty is personalized and seen as meaningful.

Share the Meal App (Goal-2 Zero Hunger)

Share the Meal is a mobile application developed by the World Food Program (WFP) to enable users to take action to alleviate world hunger. In this app, users slide between four different windows to find out where the global food crisis is striking. The different windows show the situations in these countries and how the app has helped.

WHO Information App (Goal-3, Good Health and Well Being)

The WHO's official information app provides real-time updates on news, stories, fact checks and other health-related information. It is available in the 6 official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, and Russian).

DuoLingo App (Goal-4 Quality Education)

DuoLingo is a free app that promotes global citizenship by inviting users to learn new languages including Spanish, German, French, Russian, and more. Once users sign up for an account, they can choose a course and its difficulty level based on their previous experience with the language. DuoLingo's program works with users' schedules and allows them to learn new languages by requiring the user to spend just a few minutes a day on the app. DuoLingo promotes better understanding by enabling people to communicate in a common language.

SD Talks (Gal-4 Quality Education)

SD Talks is a mobile app that offers expert panel discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals to

facilitate better understanding. Sponsored by the United Nations System Staff College, SD Talks provides information on the three pillars of the United Nations' work, including peace and security, development, and human rights.

SDGs In Action App (Goal-4 Quality Education)

SDGs in Action is a mobile app that provides relevant news on the Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 depends on our ability to inform ourselves about the goals and work on their implementation at the local level. As this article demonstrates, technology is a great tool to educate and empower people to take action to achieve Sustainable Development Goals in their local communities, because local is global.

Coursera App (Goal-4,8,10 Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduce Inequality)

Coursera is an online learning platform that aims to reduce educational inequality by offering users over 2,000 courses in a variety of different fields, including science, math, foreign languages, and social studies. Run by two professors, Coursera offers college-level lectures and allows users to earn certifications for their work (which typically costs \$50, but financial aid is available). Through its variety of offerings and low cost, Coursera enables people from all over the world to learn different skills to help them through college or the job market in general. The fact that Coursera provides tools for people, regardless of income level or gender, can significantly reduce overall inequality.

Women's Human Right's App (Goal 4,5,10- Quality Education, Gender Equality, Reduce Inequality)

Developed by the Swiss Centre of Expertise of Human Rights, Women's Human Rights is a free application that centralizes all international documents related to women's rights. Users can browse through a range of international agreements or search by keyword based on their interests. The Women's Human Rights application reduces gender

inequality by centralizing information and giving women access to their rights. By understanding their legal rights, women can identify and defend themselves against discriminatory behaviour

Water Project Toolkit App (Goal-6 Clean Water and Sanitation)

The Water Project Toolkit (WPT) aims to promote a sustainable water sector by providing logistical guidance to improve the quality and effectiveness of sustainable water development projects. Based on internationally agreed principles, the WPT serves as a resource for those involved in water sector development, helping them adopt sound and environmentally sustainable practices in areas such as institutional management, socioeconomic and public governance, finance, environment and education, capacity building, communication and technology.

Work it App (Goal-8,9,10 Decent work and Economic Growth, Industry Innovation and Infrastructure, Reduced Inequality)

Comprised of current and former Walmart employees, WorkIt empowers users to learn about their rights in the workplace and, more importantly, how to speak up for themselves. WorkIt offers free advice to help users learn more about their workplace and identify potential discrimination situations. By helping workers understand their rights, WorkIt creates better working conditions and economic growth.

Gender Climate Tracker App (Goal-5,7,10,11,12,13- Gender Equality, Affordable and Clean Energy, Reduce Inequality, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action)

The Gender Climate Tracker centralizes information on the link between gender and climate change. In the green drop-down menu on the right, users can read about how climate change is exacerbating pre-existing inequalities, particularly when it comes to gender. After reading the introduction, users can click on "Gender Mandates in Climate Policy" and get a list of all UNFCCC decisions related to

gender. The centralized resource list gives users quick access to the exact language being used. In addition to studying the language of these texts, the app provides a statistical analysis of the role of gender in UNFCCC decisions to understand the overlap between these documents. Learning about the relationship between climate and gender can trigger action towards both goals and potentially lead to collaboration between stakeholders and/or NGOs. Not only does the app provide opportunities for partnerships, but it can also educate the average user and drive large-scale policy changes.

Vote Spotter App (Goal -16,17 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions, Partnership to achieve the Goal)

Vote Spotter App allows users to study various bills and motions and, more importantly, view their representatives' voting history to make more informed decisions in the elections. After entering their address and zip code, users receive a personalized list of their representatives and their contact details. Users can then create an account and register their personal legislative interests so they can see their representatives' voting history and voice their opinions in a large-scale effort to promote transparency.

Conclusion

In the discussion above, we understand that all apps are a dynamic collaborative tool that highlights how innovation contributes to the achievement of the SDGs. The apps include the latest sustainable development news from around the world, as well as case studies that illustrate the impact of the mobile industry on achieving goals. Features such as shares, likes, ratings and a ranking are intended to encourage engagement with the apps and increase global activity to achieve the SDGs. In this context the above discussed apps provide a wider range of facilities related to the educational field and therefore directly contribute to enhance the SDGs. By making the people aware towards these apps. We can provide a quality education which will directly in development of SDGs.

Recommendations

- 1- Spreading awareness among students of the Sustainable developmental Goals Apps.
- 2- Collaboration between teachers and society to achieve sustainable development goals by improving the quality of education by the application of modern technology and strategies.
- 3- The society in general must have a spirit of cooperation in achieving the goals of the Ministry of Education to achieve the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

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