

Effects of SDG Vegetables Gardening on Ukhuwwah and Ta'awun among Higher Education Communities of Practice

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Abstract

This study explores the effect of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) vegetables gardening on Ukhuwwah and Ta'awun among communities of practice in higher education institutions. In higher education context, Ukhuwwah (bonding) and Ta'awun (mutual cooperation) are essential to sustain teamwork and collaboration among the communities of practice. Communities of practice (COP) refer to the dynamic interactions among staff of higher education. The study uses naturalistic observation method understands the effect of SDG vegetables gardening activities on Ukhuwwah and Ta'awun among communities of practice. The results suggest that socialization with solid purpose are easily bringing people to get together to achieve common outcomes.

Introduction

In recent years, community engagement has been discussed by academia and industry. This is in line with the stakeholders approach. Socialisation among people is essential for knowledge acquisition, sharing and retrieving.

Ukhuwwah and Ta'awun among communities of practice in higher education institutions are magical. In higher education context, Ukhuwwah (bonding) and Ta'awun (mutual cooperation) are essential to sustain teamwork and collaboration among the communities of practice. Communities of practice (COP) refer to the dynamic interactions among staff of higher education. The study uses naturalistic observation method understands the effect of SDG vegetables gardening activities on Ukhuwwah and Ta'awun among communities of practice.

Literature review

Socialisation can begin with a common place for everyone to be there and to do something important to their life. This is part of area-based activities under the urban, rural and regional town planning work scheme. According to Agger & Jensen (2015), the focal area of socialization allows for bonding and social capital development within local context.

In certain situation, community gardening enables people to be energetic and pragmatic. It gives freedom of expression with responsibility and sustainability. According to Barron (2017), community garden makes people socialized and expressed themselves. In addition, community could learn something new related to the nature and the surrounding eco-system.

The space of gardening is not necessarily big. A small piece of land dedicated for community garden is magical for people to appreciate public space and respect the community (Ernwein, 2014).

Ukhuwwah or bonding among people is very important. It begins with interaction to get to know among the community members. The ice-breaking in the taaruf process allows for more commitment in the conversation (Sarif, 2014). Taawun is resulted from the ability and the willingness of people to share (Sarif, 2015).

Methodology

The study uses naturalistic observation method understands the effect of SDG vegetables gardening activities on Ukhuwwah and Ta'awun among communities of practice.

Findings and Discussion

This part presents observation notes on a few scenes in the vegetables gardening project.



Suhaimi has been participating in vegetables gardening early 2019 under the SDG flagship of responsible consumption. Prior to this project, he has been into the vegetable gardening during his doctoral studies (2004-2007) in Perth Australia. In fact, he came from farmers' family.

Dolhadi joined the vegetables gardening project as part of the SDG flagship project. While Suhaimi has been entrusted as coordinator and mandor, Dolhadi has volunteered himself as watering person.



Watering is essential. This is not weekly task, but twice a day, morning and afternoon watering. Dolhadi used to think of using auto-watering system; however, there is no ready-made infrastructure.



A group of students were exposed to the vegetable gardening project. While doing strategic planning of community institutions as term paper assignment, the exposure to vegetables garden has widened the students' thinking horizon.



A group of lecturers from Department of Business Administration KENMS IIUM shopped at Sungai Buluh Nursery for some vegetable and herbal plants.



The support of top management is very significant. The involvement of Hon Rector of IIUM marked the hall fame of SDG vegetables gardening project.



Eggplants harvested from the vegetables garden are magical for fresh consumption.



Staff from Alumni Division also participated in the vegetables garden by planting some citrus plants.



staff from various departments discussed on how to make the vegetable garden is functional.





Ulam raja harvested from the vegetables garden is refreshing in lunch meal.



Suhaimi presented the vegetables gardening project at South East Asia Vegetable Symposium 9-11 July 2019.



Vegetable experts, researchers and industry practitioners from all over the world gathered at the symposium for sharing of knowledge and practice.



Conclusion

The effect of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) vegetables gardening on Ukhuwwah and Ta'awun among communities of practice in higher education institutions is visible, tangible and sensible. The project enhances *Ukhuwwah* (bonding) and *Ta'awun* (mutual cooperation). The observation suggest that socialization with solid purpose are easily bringing people to get together to achieve common outcomes.

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