A Paraguayan Experience

UNIVERSITY SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SDG’s

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Linking USR and SDG…

1. The creation of the USR Seminar.

2. Learning from a Community: The Recycled Orchestra case.

3. Conclusions
What has the university been doing to make a real contribution to a better world and a change of mentality?
Social Responsibility Program at UNIBE

- Internal Stage
- External Stage

USR- Seminar
First Stage

Second Stage
USR- Seminar

• University Social Responsibility Seminar (USR) was included as part of the curricula of all the careers. The USR Seminar takes place during the first semester of the second year of all faculties: Business and administration, legal sciences, nursing, psychology and education.
USR-Seminar Objectives

• Contribute to the search of solutions with an SDG approach to assess problems that afflict our society

• Engage students and professors to real problems the local community is currently dealing with;

• Create awareness about the importance of democratic participation and social justice in local communities.
The methodology the USR-Seminar works on is **project-based learning**.

Students must implement a social project as a requirement to conclude the seminar. The project is then presented in a open event during the second semester of the year.
USR- Seminar Goals

- Curricula innovation
- 279 Projects
- 10 communities have been beneficiary of those projects
- 1000 students
During the year 2019, one of communities chosen to work on the USR-Seminar was Cateura. Cateura is a landfill located in Asuncion surrounded by four slums of the city. Recycling and garbage recollection is the main activity for people who live in Cateura.
Even all the difficulties encountered in Cateura, a group of former recycling workers under the coordination of a NGO started a project to elaborate musical instruments from part of the garbage, things that were made of metal, iron, wood. Since its creation, the orchestra achieved satisfactory outcomes: they were invited to play in concerts and events all over the world.
• Working with the community that shapes the orchestra was a quite rewarding experience for the university.
• Undergrads from Psychology, Nutrition and Nursery schools developed projects related to the SDG 3-Good Health and well being and the SDG-4 Quality Education.

• The community also showed to the university students how they elaborate the instruments and somehow our students and professors were learning an example of how to work on the SDG-11 Sustainable Cities and Development.
Earlier this year, an agreement between the Iberoamerican University and The Recycled Orchestra was signed. Thanks to this agreement, some of children of the community will receive scholarships to study at the university. Besides, the recycled orchestra will develop some workshops and activities in the university and also some research groups will start working to learn more about Cateura and the way to improve the living conditions there.
Conclusions

1) This experience is an example that university social responsibility should not only be a declaration of good intentions, but should involve hands-on programs with long-term outcomes connecting the society.

2) To work on with communities can help to achieve another SDG: the establishment of partnership for goals SDG N° 17.

3) Through the USR-Seminar, our university learned that the transfer of knowledge is not only from the university to the community, but also from the community to the university.

4) Giving the students the possibility of making contact with communities’ realities as part of their educational process encourages them into critical thinking. The impact and transformation of lives are evident at all levels, inside and outside the university.

https://www.facebook.com/cuellardeisasi/videos/pcb.10213916890107483/10213916886747399/?type=3&theater
Freire (1997) used to say “Teaching is not only transferring knowledge, but creating possibilities for their own production or construction”

Aguije! Thanks!! Muchas gracias!!!

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