

Ocean Literacy – Implementation of SDG:s in Teacher Education



Agneta Rehn¹ & Kerstin Sonesson^{1,2}

¹Faculty of Education and Society, Malmö University, Sweden.

²Faculty of Humanities, Sports and Educational Science, University South East Norway, Norway

Introduction

The Marine Education Centre (SMKC) in Malmö, Sweden, developed a new program, *The Sea, SDGs and Me. Save the sea from plastic*, in order to develop awareness on the SDGs, especially SDG 14, and knowledge of ocean literacy to students in compulsory schools.

Altogether, students in 18 school classes from grades 2-9 and their teachers participated in the new program during the autumn semester 2018 and answered a questionnaire after completing the program.

Development

As experts in ESD, outdoor and science education, we were asked to evaluate the new program to ensure the linkage of the learning activities and the program with the Swedish Curriculum, as well as suggest improvements.

In the evaluation, we involved teacher students in two courses, *Science Subjects, Technology and Education* and *Teaching for Sustainability*, who participated in the new program as a part of their courses. The experiences and reflections of the 50 teacher students involved were included in our evaluation report.



Objectives

- To introduce Swedish teacher students in Science and International students in ESD to the SDGs and Ocean Literacy.
- To involve teacher students in development work and evaluation of a new program at an Education Centre.
- To evaluate the experiences and reflections from the teacher students.

Results

The teacher students appreciated participating in the program and being involved in a «real case» of development and evaluation.

Lisa: *Interesting content and enjoyable activities.*

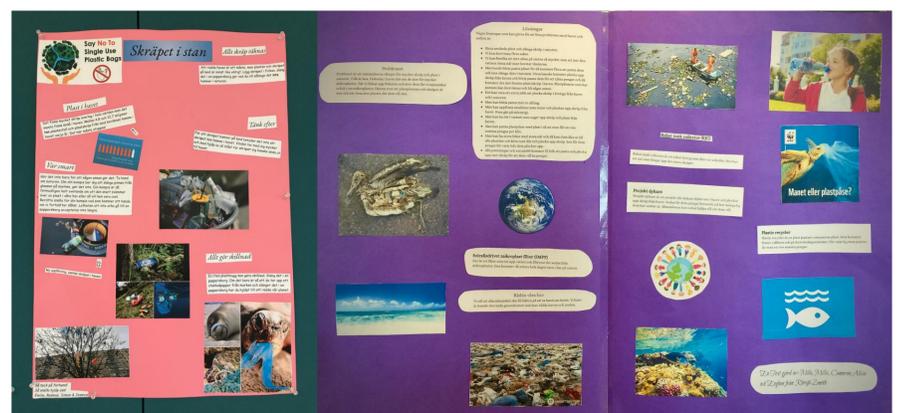
Sam: *I learned about the SDGs, life below water and plastic in the sea.*

Erik: *Learnt a lot from outdoor education and from experiencing activities outside school and university.*

Samantha: *The challenge we received made us discuss and develop our thoughts and ideas.*

Maria: *We came up with different solutions to the challenge and learned from each other at the presentation.*

Eva: *The program has contributed to my commitment.*



About the program

The program consists of two lessons with hands-on activities at SMKC, a challenge-based group activity in the classroom, and student presentations on solutions.

Lesson 1: Activity: Learning about the SDGs.
Theory regarding plastic in the sea.

Lesson 2: Outdoor activities: Explore life below water and collection of litter by the seashore.

Classroom activity: Group work on a given challenge:
How to save the sea from plastic?

Lesson 3: Student presentations.

Conclusions

The teacher students appreciated participating in the program. Besides learning about SDGs and ocean literacy themselves, they also reflected on the benefits of bringing a group of students outside the classroom and the importance of combining theoretical issues and practical activities at a local level for raising awareness of global challenges and the SDGs.

Acknowledgement

The project was funded by The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management. The City of Malmö lead the project.