

Strengths and Opportunities for Implementing Sustainable Development (SD) Programmes in Secondary Schools in Sri Lanka

07 Nov.

SSH78

K.G.C.Kandangama^{1(*)}

¹*Department of Secondary and Tertiary Education, Faculty of Education, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Sri Lanka*

(*) E.mail: kgkan@ou.ac.lk

Sustainable Development (SD) is related to economic, social and environmental development. According to United Nations 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development, there are seventeen SD goals to be achieved by both developed and developing countries such as Quality education, No poverty, Gender equity, Zero hunger, Climate action etc. Therefore, the aim of the study was to identify strengths and opportunities for implementing SD programs in secondary schools in Kandy District. The study was based on survey research design with stratified sampling method for data collection. Thirty two secondary school principals were selected from Kandy district. Questionnaires and interviews were used to collect quantitative and qualitative data. According to principals' responses in relation to strengths; human and physical resources were identified by 75% principals, community support and positive attitudes by 70% principals, school plans and participation of teachers and students by 65%. With reference to opportunities identified by principals; school syllabuses 75%, various programs in school and community relationship 70%, location of school, teacher attitudes and co-curricular activities 65%, meetings, special activities and school culture 50%. In conclusion, it could be identified that strengths and opportunities for implementing SD programs in secondary schools mainly related to human and physical resources, community support, positive attitudes, school syllabuses and co-curricular activities. Further, it could be suggested to implement a model action plan in secondary schools to enhance the effectiveness of SD programs to achieve the all factors related to SD goals in education.

Keywords: Development, sustainable development, SD programs