

Voluntary Services

EMPL4013

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Introduction

- As a group through our discussion we found we all had links to a voluntary organisation. We decided to see where the passion to help would make a difference. Deciding to focus on a few voluntary organisations.
- We considered how the organisations contribute towards community participation. Most if not all these organisations concentrate in a specific area; we have chosen just a few of them to see where their unique input, not only helps an individual but by extension how it helps the surrounding community.
- Touching on how different organisations work, we will see if any help provided will achieve sustainability and how their contributions are important to help with global citizenship.

Community participation

- The British Red Cross completed a case study called 'community involvement in post disaster re-construction'. In this study they found the thinking is to move to self-sustainability, there is a need to depend on local resources. In doing this there is a progression from recovery to normality much quicker (Davidson, et al., 2007).

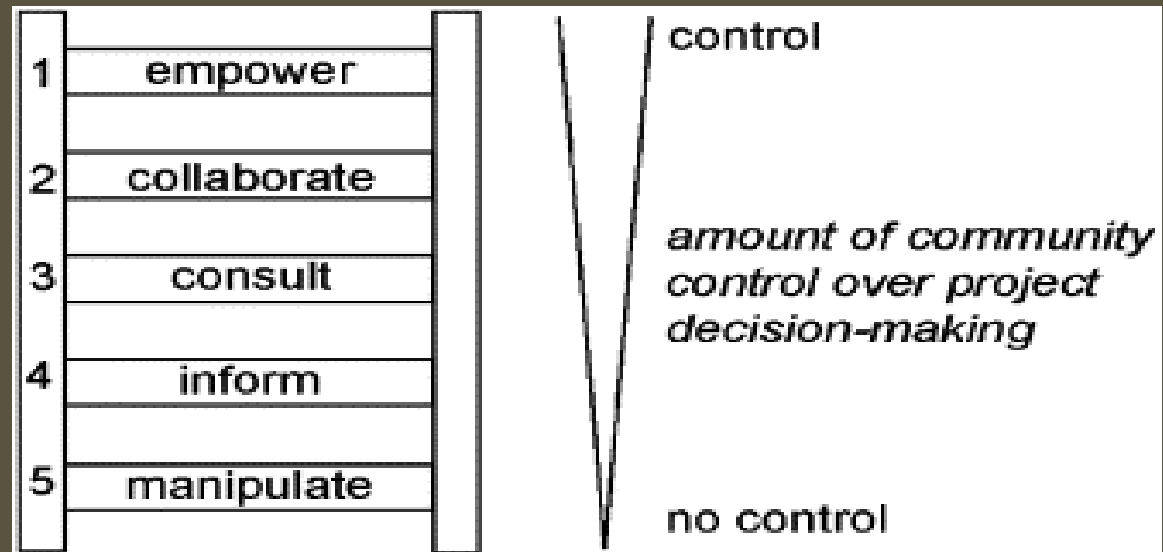


Diagram from (Davidson, et al., 2007)

(Davidson, et al., 2007) uses a quote by 'Sullivan (2003) who says, Finding a link with community participation after a tragedy and psychological recovery, noting that it (involvement) "alters their status from passive pawns in the process, to once again active and contributing directors of their own destiny "their position as inactive pawns changes in the procedure to active players, managing their own future" (Lawther, 2009)

Project Implementation Stage

- Community participation
- Stakeholders involvement
- It's a bridge.



Picture courtesy of (Akinbile, 2015)

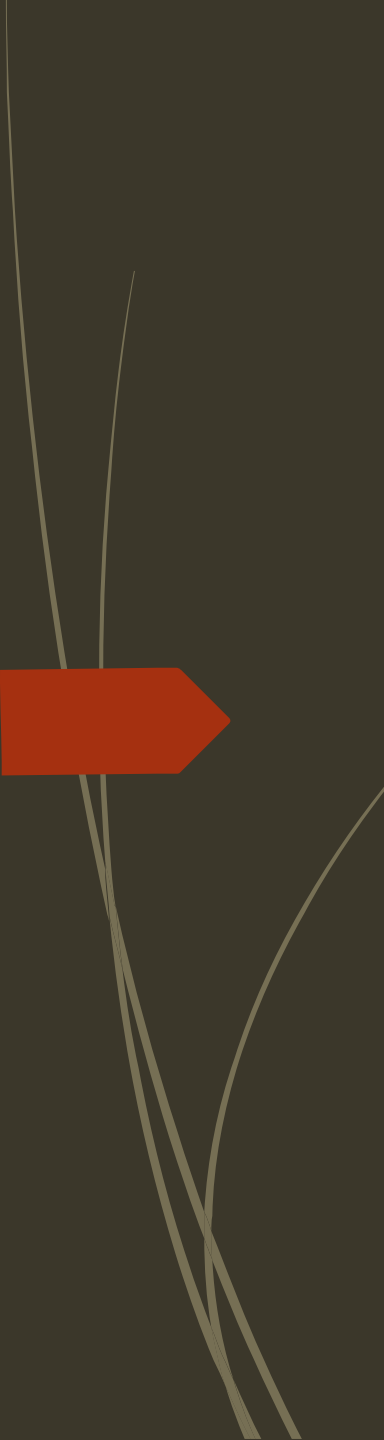
Global Citizenship

We found that voluntary groups knowingly or not work with the view of Global citizenship as their work helps people find independence, show each other respect, connecting people with their needs whatever they may be, be they physical, mental or environmental. Their aim is to help vulnerable groups have equal opportunities as possible.

According to (Arendt, 2017) Global Citizen is someone who:

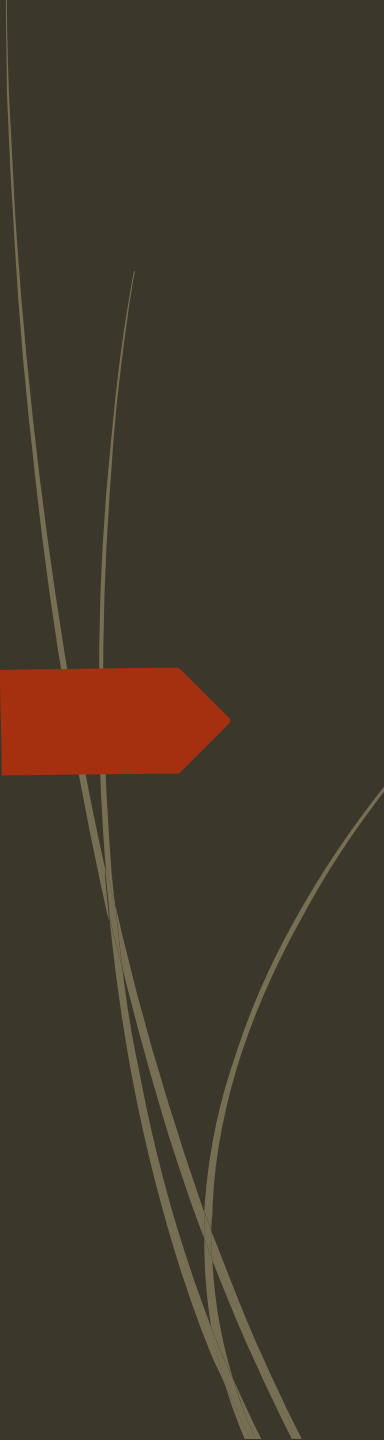
- Knows their part as a citizen; is mindful of the surrounding world.
- Acknowledges and values difference
- Can appreciate how the world works
- The prejudice in the community infuriates
- Is involved in the community at a local, even global level
- Making the world unbiased and a workable environment by being proactive
- Responsible for their own doings.





Contact

- Contact- Is the charity for families with disabled children in the UK
- They campaign for rights of families with disabled children
- They offer education and benefit support.
- They provide local family events and trips which is a huge relief for families who struggle to get out in the community with their children
- What Contact's aim is to remove the obstacles that place restrictions on people preventing them from being part of society fully.



Contact

- In the following case study: (How Short Break provision can make a radical difference for a young person moving into adulthood, 2010);
- Mike's parent said,
- "Mike has grown self-confident and independent.
- He not only travels on his own but has a part time job which is a huge development for him.
- Now when he is invited out he has the capability to just go and meet them.
- He also has a better understanding of the world and when confronted with a new circumstance he deals with it much better.

Vulnerable Children

(Sin & Lyubomirsky 2009) states “Positive psychology interventions increase wellbeing through the cultivation of positive feelings thoughts and behaviour” (Sparks, 2009).

- Sparks is a charity who work on the mental status of children to prevent them from future challenges by providing the skills needed to overcome many forms of issues.
- Principal Activities: 1. Strengths/values card activities 2. Appreciative coaching questions to build resilience 3. Gratitude 4. Acceptance 5. Relationships 6. Loving kindness meditation (Spark, 2009). With these management skills prevention of much more serious problems is possible. Helping the individual and the community at large.



SUSTAINABILITY

We looked the different voluntary groups to see how they perform as sustainable projects and how this helps the community. First we needed to know what Sustainability is...

- Sustainability is the safeguarding of the environment to fulfil the requirements for future generations by the means of economic activities (Boddy, 2014).
- According to (Stefan Schaltegger, 2016) “Business activities are the root cause of many environmental and social problems and thus a major source of sustainability concerns.”
- It has been pointed out by Porter and Kramer (2011) that too often companies put to a disadvantage the “most important customer needs (including sustainability) and the broader influences on long-term success”, for short term gains.

➤ [Picture curtsey of google](#)





Leadership and Entrepreneurship

- According to Thompson et al (2000) a vast amount of hurdles must be jumped in order to become a successful entrepreneur.
- Richard Branson a well-known entrepreneur, maintains it is key to have and maintain social responsibility; Although, being diagnosed with dyslexia and not graduating with a degree, his determination to succeed has made him overlook such hindrances, and use them to his advantage making him one of the most successful businessmen in the country. Here is a list of just a few characteristics of an entrepreneur.
- Determination
- Focused
- Calculated Risk Taker
- Knowledge of the Markets
- Money Management
- Adaptability
- Passion and Self-Motivation

Change for Children

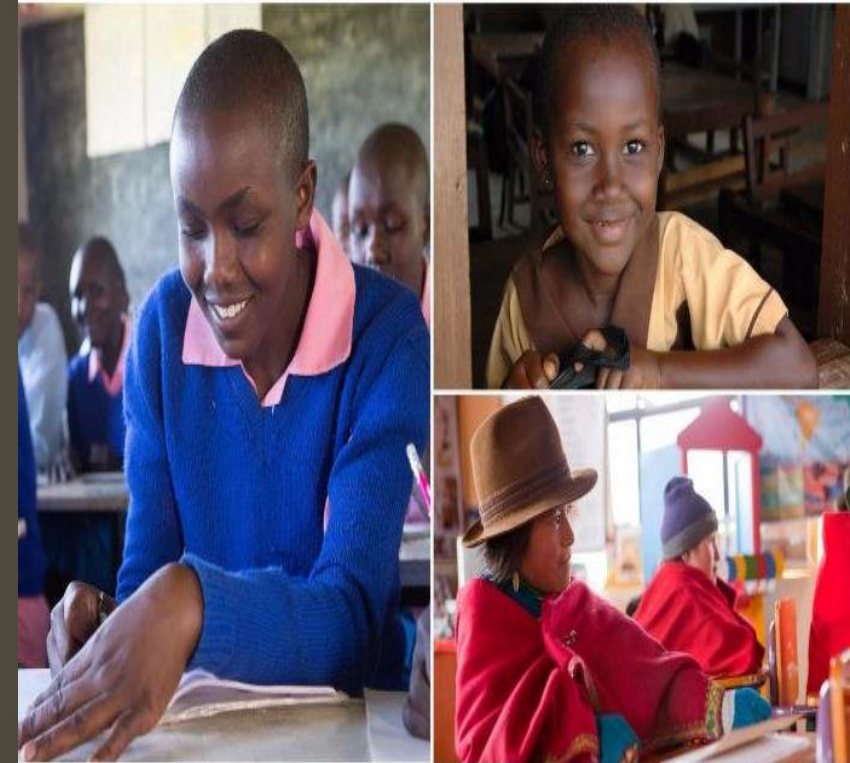
Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic runs an onboard charitable appeal, "Change for Children" This appeal on average raises £45,000 per month helping support global sustainable development programmes. This is achieved through in-flight collections of spare currency, so any loose change you drop it in the collection bags when you are departing the aircraft.

One area he helps is called WE Villages through this they provide.

- Education
- Water
- Healthcare
- Food
- Income-generating opportunity

(Gunner, 2016)

Photo courtesy Google



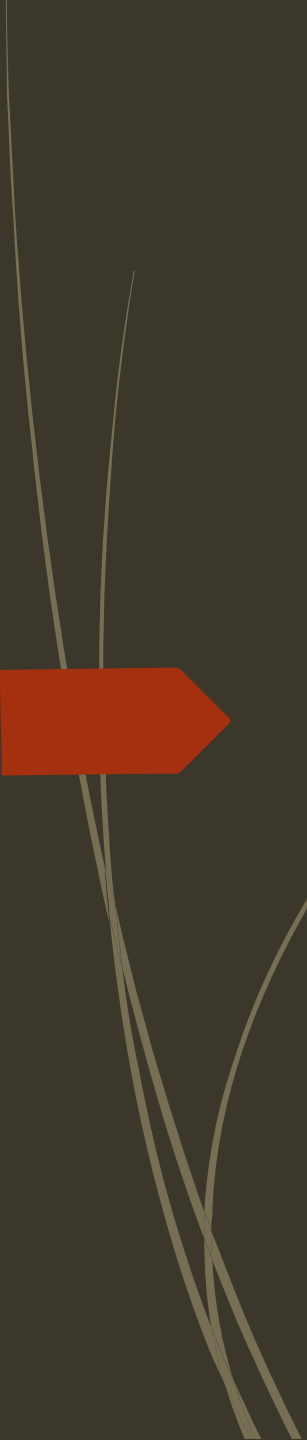
★ EDUCATION ★

The Homeless

- The Settle programme is a small-scale charity in comparison to the homeless problem at hand, but what they are proving is that if you put in the work needed eventually this will influence long term effect. Which is to keep people off the streets and out of problems that life brings.
- Their motivation is to building young people's strengths, not dwelling on their weaknesses. In doing this they can have a productive future which can add and not drain society.
- *"Settle was very supportive. I've learned how to deal with my problems without getting into bad habits and trouble."* Sam, age 19 (Sam, 2016)

➤ Picture courtesy of google





The Homeless

Looking at homeless people we chose the charity Settle whose focus is vulnerable young people. They provide help and support to young people by getting them off the streets and giving them the tools to manage on a day to day basis to stay off the streets. In turn helping provide a sustainable environment.

The Big picture

"In the past 2 years I've lived in 7 different places. I've had to stay on the streets sometimes.

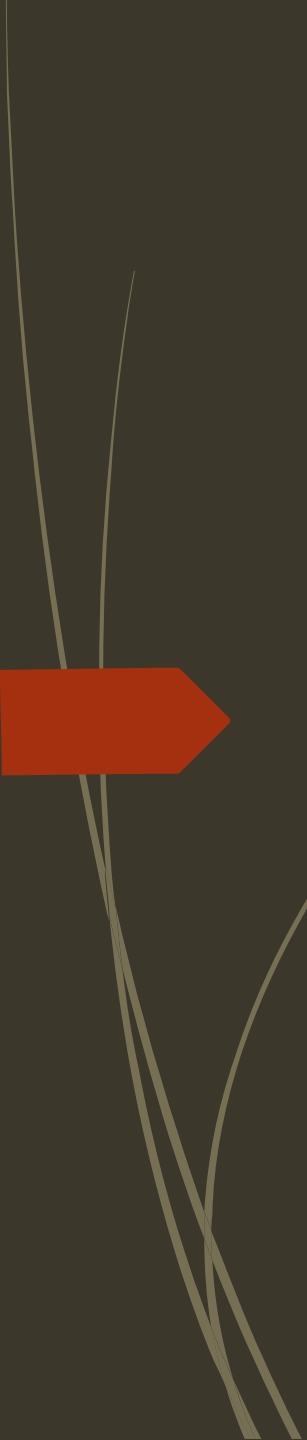
It's difficult. You can't focus on what you want to do. You have so many things plaguing your mind that you just don't give a crap anymore. You really don't.

You become depressed and then there is a phase after depression where you treat people like rubbish. You start to dump your own problems on other people and you lose the people who care about you.

You lose everything basically."

(person, n.d.)

Settle believe in a leadership management ethic where good intentions is not good enough. They have a vision to stop young people becoming homeless and are providing programmes to ensure on a day to day basis they have the tools to stay off the streets.



Conclusion

As we can see in their own unique way voluntary organisations help their local and in some cases international community. Helping improve the life of an individual has a ripple effect.

Although the key objective is to help and support the effected person, in helping them inadvertently they help the wider community.

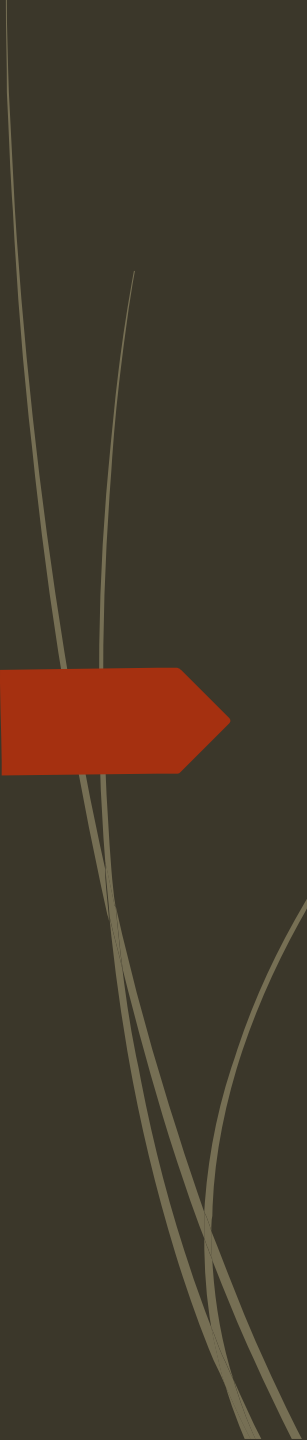
Sustainability and Global citizenship are significant offerings that the voluntary groups provide. Its important that we recognise this and do our best to support them.

Whether its with our time or money or other resources.

**Any
Questions**



Picture courtesy of Google



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Group Feedback





We are all aware of the UN (United Nations) but not in any real detail of the agreement on sustainable development. Yes, we all heard bits of information on the news about it but none of us really considered what this meant. Having this assignment encouraged us to study this in-depth. We had to find out what Sustainable Environment and Globalisation, Leadership and Entrepreneurship, Community participation really meant and how important it is for our and future generations.

Sustainable Environment and Globalisation is the result of the world being more connected. Although this has brought some positivity to the world it has also had some negative effects (ifsw, 2012). It affects the balance of economic, political and cultural power between nations, communities and individuals.

Leadership and Entrepreneurship, the entrepreneur has a sense of urgency passion and accomplishment (Smilor & Sexton, 1996). They take risks others would not take; work very hard and would go bankrupt and start all over again with a new plan still with lots of drive to succeed. Leadership is explained as to produce change and movement, establishing direction, aligning people, and in some cases just a distinguishing quality natural behaviour (Northouse, 2015)



Community participation is people helping themselves through any given problem or difficulty of their own free will. (Burns, et al., 2004) He explains that there are four methods of Community participation

1. Providing information
2. Two-way communication
3. Involvement
4. Collaboration

All of which require considerable knowledge of the communities being worked with. We felt good about the assignment as we set a plan in place right from the start. Day one Carol was assigned as the team leader and she suggested we meet every Friday to check on progress and put our work together and provide feedback on our findings and develop the presentation as we go along.

Although we did meet each Friday we had one meeting where all four members were in attendance and never as a group of five. Carol and Inaldina are the only two that made it to all the team meetings. Zenaba was added to the group as she was not in attendance when the groups were originally formed. What we did not foresee was life's challenges which meant the time we should have been able to dedicate to the assignment was limited therefore some had to take on more than others.



In the end Carol produced the Introduction, conclusion and the explanation for Sustainable Environment and Globalisation and Community participation. She also supported Inaldina, Zenaba and Nosa with their part of the presentation. David produced the Leadership and Entrepreneurship piece with the Change For Children contribution. Norsa produced the Homeless part. Vulnerable Children was done by Zenaba and Inaldina did the section on the charity Contact.

The challenges faced were illness of the team members and in some cases their family also dealing with unforeseen family issues. The team lent on Carol for support and guidance a fair bit to ensure the assignment could be completed.

From the beginning we decided to concentrate our efforts on community participation but were indecisive on how we were going to follow this through. Not having all members available at our meetings did not help this process. We did have WhatsApp, email and Skype groups set up, but we did not use them as efficiently as we could have.

At the beginning of the assignment we thought it would be plain sailing but due to delays now we found ourselves short of time. Carol decided to take on a larger role in putting the assignment together with clear deadlines and followed up by calling and emailing team members.



Through Carol's efforts and support from the team we were able to put together the assignment.

From this we have re-learned the importance of planning. Although we felt we had a plan in place in reality it was not. What we did was talk through what was needed and put a few notes together and said what we would be doing. If we had written it all out with a structured plan and set suitable deadlines we would have been a lot more accountable for our work and finished in a timely less pressured manner. It is a shame we relied on the thought that we are all working for the same result and not plan for any unforeseen circumstances. Had we made a physical working programme we could have caught the shortfall as it began and managed the timing a lot better. Planning helps offset uncertainties, anticipate problems, and is important in facilitating and control (Gamage, 2006).

Although the team are very happy with Carol's leadership of the project she feels it was poor management as a leader as she should have learnt from the previous teachings to have a structured plan and not a verbal agreement.

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