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COURSE NAME:
**UN Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**

ASSIGNMENT TITLE:
**Sustainable Cities and Communities**

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**1. Why is the UN's goal of Sustainable Cities and Communities important, in your opinion?**

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were approved by United Nations in 2015 with the aim to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 almost everyone has peace and prosperity. Sustainable Cities and Communities is United Nations' goal number 11. It aims to renew and plan human settlements in a way that gives opportunities for all, with access to basic services, energy, housing, transportation and green public spaces, with reduced resource use and environmental impact.

It ensures safe and affordable housing and basic services. All slums will be upgraded.
It aims to provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all. To improve road safety by increasing public transport, taking note of those in vulnerable situations.
It aims to strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

It will reduce the environmental impact of cities by paying special attention to air quality and waste management.

It will provide universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible green & public spaces to everyone. It will support positive, economic, social and environmental links between urban, and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

It will substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies. It plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement holistic disaster risk management at all levels.

**2. How is the state of Cities and Communities in the world?**

Currently there is a high increase in cities population. It is estimated that more than half of the world's population lives in cities with the migration trend to continue. The estimate shows that by 2050 more than two thirds of the world will be urban dwellers. Over the next 35 years India is expected to double the number of urban dwellers.

It is estimated that in 2018 about 4.2 billion people, which is 55 percent of the world's population, lived in cities and by 2050 the urban population is expected to reach 6.5 billion. According to researchers cities

occupy just 3 percent of the earth's land but account for about 60 to 80 percent of energy consumption and about 70 percent of carbon emissions.

About 828 million people are estimated to live in slums and the number keeps rising. About 90 percent of urban expansion is expected in the developing countries.

**3. What changes need to happen to achieve Sustainable Cities and Communities?**

It is important to invest in public transport as it also prevents intensive emissions and consequently air pollution. Lack of proper access to public transport has a big impact on people as it becomes difficult to find a proper job and improve their basic quality of living. People should start to commute in a sustainable way and save the car trips for big groups. Taking public transport, cycling or even walking is a good option to directly impact the reduction of gas emissions.

There is need to reduce and manage food waste. Much of the food consumed in urban areas is thrown away. Food waste that is not recycled or reused is filling up the landfills, where it decomposes and generates methane, a greenhouse gas.

People should respect and walk in allocated spaces for pedestrians. Many pedestrians lose their lives on the world's roads making it more than necessary to create and follow a pedestrian quality space such as walk-ways to reduce the risk of accidents. It also preserves the created green spaces within the communities.

People should start to take care of public spaces and inspire each other to contribute to better public spaces. There is need to water the greenery, trim and plant a lot of vegetation, renovate sports areas and

organize a clean-up. Water features should be incorporated in as many places as possible. Companies should invest in parks and green spaces to create a positive impact on employees. Green spaces give a feeling of less job pressure and greater job satisfaction. They also provide a sense of rest.

A frameworks toward a zero-emission should be created. Companies need to improve their infrastructure sustainability. They should also build facilities according to sustainable building practices that will help to reduce energy consumption. Companies can also encourage workers to use bikes by providing bike racks and to use public transport by building facilities near existing stations.

Businesses should invest in the research, development, and deployment of products and services that improve access to strong buildings, transport, green spaces, and services. Investing in research and development for sustainable infrastructure technologies assures that urban projects do not negatively impact the environment.

There is need to develop participatory platforms so that all voices can be heard. It is extremely important to understand what residents need, especially for the poorest citizens who need the greatest support but are often unheard or unseen at decision-making meetings. These platforms could be round-table discussions, workshops, and formal meetings.

**4. Do you think it is possible to achieve Sustainable Cities and Communities around the world? Why or Why not?**

Sustainable cities and communities are a possibility.  According to the video Cities of the future: The world in 2050, the idea revolves on the infrastructure and architecture. There are a number of pilot projects focusing on sustainable cities and communities in a number of cities around the world. The first Forest City to fight pollution is under construction in Liuzhou China. It will be a community of about 30

000 people and mostly covered with an estimated 1 million plants as well as about 40 000 trees. This greenery will absorb tens of thousands of carbon dioxide. The city will help to decrease the average air temperature, improve local air quality and improve biodiversity within the region.

Another Forest city in Malaysia has its first phase already completed. It is planned to complete in 2030. In Dubai a project called Sustainable city has already been built. It has got about 500 homes all under solar power. All water is recycled on site and the city grows its own vegetables in green houses. There are no cars in this city. Masdar city in UAE is planned to complete in 2025. It is designed to be zero carbon and zero waste. The city is designed to be 15 degrees cooler than the surrounding areas. Its natural building materials are meant to deflect the scotching desert heat.

Self-sufficient city Xiong'An Beijing is designed to be constructed entirely of timber and use atleast 80% less energy than the traditional buildings by using solar panels, natural ventilation as well as green roofs for insulation. Green houses for growing food have also been incorporated within the design. The city of Amaravati in India is designed to have about 60% covered in greenery or water. All buildings will be Solar powered. Its transportation will include electric cars and water taxis. Other examples of sustainable cities are Copenhagen in Denmark, Stockholm in Sweden, Vancouver in Canada and Reykjavik in Iceland. The examples in the video show that it is possible to have sustainable cities and communities.

Focus should be on greenery and environmentally friendly landscape materials. Living within proximity to greenery, having more access to pathways, access to medical supplies and upgrading the waste methodologies will assist in creating sustainability. Waste policies are a central component to assist with the growth of communities.

**5. How can education lead to a world with Sustainable Cities and Communities?**

For a sustainable future, people should start to think and act more responsibly towards our environment. People should understand a right choice from a wrong choice and should have the information and skills needed to follow through on whatever choice they make. Education is the answer.

Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) empowers learners of all ages with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to address the interconnected global challenges such as climate change, environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, poverty and inequality. Education provides the skills people need to thrive in the new sustainable economy, working in areas such as renewable energy, smart agriculture, forest rehabilitation, the design of resource-efficient cities, and sound management of healthy ecosystems.

The power of education within the context of sustainable development was given centre stage when the United Nations General Assembly declared the United Nations Decade on Education for Sustainable Development from 2005 to 2014. The Decade helped focus attention on the fact that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development. (2011/12/05 Kazuhiko Takemoto, United Nations University)

Education is the one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty. According to UNESCO, 12% drop in global poverty could be archived if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills. UNESCO also found that one extra year of schooling increases an individual's earnings by up to 10%, and each additional year of schooling raises average annual gross domestic product by 0.37%.

Education ensures availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. As communities become better educated about the links between their sanitation and health

they see substantial improvements in sanitation. As societies become more educated they will be able to create modern water and sanitation facilities.

Education ensures clean energy. It ensures access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all. Clean and accessible energy is an essential building block of a country's social, economic and environmental development. Educated citizens are more inclined to recognize and adopt new practices and technologies that will help them prosper.

# Bibliography

Video: Cities of the future: The world in 2050

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https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/05/why-education-is-the-key-to-sustainable-development