**Operation Day`s work and International week.**

**Project 2020: «Push the limits»**

**Hilstad skole, Norway**

**Age group:** 13-15 years old. All of our students from 8th to 10th grade are participating.

**Teachers:** 5 students who are trained by older students. Tella (13), Jenny (13), Amanda (13), Arselan (13), Stine (13).

**Lessons:** 12 cross curiculum lessons ending in one day working to collect money

**Period:** 19-29 October 2020

**Aim:**

* Strengthening and empowering youth: Youth should be active participants involved in all phases of the project cycle; including planning, implementation and evaluation.

• Youth should be involved in the decision-making process.

• Youth participation should always be the result of individual teen choices, including what form of involvement young people want.

• Involvement opportunities should to be fun and interesting, so that young people can develop by attending.

• Various forms of youth participation depend on whether it is formal education

initiatives, support to youth organisations or other informal training.

* Learn about how they can influence the world for the better.
* Learn about the situation in South Sudan and Uganda.
* Collect money for projects in these countries.

**Resources:** https://www.od.no/pushgrensene

**Lesson 1-2:**

Introduction of the topic. Watching movies.

Reflection in pairs and groups.

**Lesson 3-5:**

• Game: First impression

• Game: Balloon trip: Choose important rights

**Lesson 6-8:**

• External lecturers

**Lesson 9-10:**

• Game: 4 corners

• Game: North and south.

**Lesson 11-12:**

• Kahoot.

• Opinions

**Thursday 29 October**

The students are working to collect money. They collect 300 NOK each.

**More information:**

**Operation Day’s Work (ODW) Guideline on youth participation**

**Operation Day’s Work is a solidarity campaign by, with and for youth. The campaign is organised by the “School Student Union of Norway”.**

**1. By youth ODW mean:**

**People from 13 to 19 years of age (flexible only upwards under exceptional circumstances, to be agreed upon prior to signing of the ODW contract).**

**2. Youth is ODWs target group because;**

** ODW volunteers, participants and audience in the Norwegian solidarity campaign are youth from 13 to 19 years of age (recognition/solidarity).**

** ODW also see the youth as an important target group in a development context, as this particular age group is often overlooked and neglected.**

** Strengthening youth is essential in order to create future opportunities for sustainable livelihoods.**

** Young people are key resources in planning for better and more relevant development assistance. Young people are also vital in terms of challenging the status quo and introducing new ideas.**

**3. The role of youth during the programme:**

**Youth participation is a learning process, the first step is to understand and accept the concept. This should be followed by a process of involving young people and gradually increase the quantity and quality of youth participation. ODW want to avoid the view of youth solely as beneficiaries. However, an absolute definition of youth participation might undermine local needs and preconditions. Youth participation should be both goal and strategy.**

**Youths’ role:**

** Youth should be active participants involved in all phases of the project cycle; including planning, implementation and evaluation.**

** Youth should be involved in the decision-making process.**

** Youth participation should always be the result of individual teen choices, including**

**what form of involvement young people want.**

** Involvement opportunities should to be fun and interesting, so that young people can**

**develop by attending.**

** Various forms of youth participation depend on whether it is formal education**

**initiatives, support to youth organisations or other informal training.**

 **Reasons for including youth in the decision-making:**

** Youth have the right to participate in the shaping of the society/measures that affect them.**

** ODW wish to see commitment and ownership to the project as a whole. The goal should be that youth are empowered to run the activities.**

** If the youth have been involved from the start the assumption is that the activity will be more relevant and subsequently lead to a more sustainable development.**

** Personal development of young people who actively participate.**

** Influencing the future.**

** Young people bring new ideas / different perspective than adults.**

** Sets the foundation for Democracy (training in leadership, etc.).**

** See young people as part of the solution rather than problem (focus on young people's positive contribution).**

**ODW and the partner organisation(s) must have a common platform regarding youth participation at the beginning of the cooperation. This means that the partner organisation already at the application stage must explain its strategy with regard to youth participation and how they are working on this subject with their partners.**

**The role of the partner organisation:**

** Identify and address cultural barriers related to real youth participation.**

** Employ relevant UN declarations, laws and guidelines to advocate for youth**

**participation.**

** Ensure that all relevant information reaches all youth involved.**

** Developed internal guidelines on youth involvement which are implemented in all**

**involved organisations.**

** Meet youth with respect and listen to them.**

** Have/develop skills on communicating with youth.**

** Provide easy access to decision-making for young people throughout the project**

**cycle, including**

**o easy access to relevant training, support, information and resources so that**

**young people have the opportunity to become fully involved;**

**o clear and central roles and responsibilities for youth in relevant structures**

**within the various organisations, in order to ensure the best possible insight**

**and understanding of the project; and**

**o accountable and clear framework for the degree of participation and**

**involvement.**

** Avoid creating unrealistic expectations and therefore disappoint youth participants.**

**ODW’s role:**

** Advocate for a strong youth perspective in the programme activities.**

** Offer advice on youth participation.**

** Facilitate information-exchange between partner organisations.**

** Use the ODW's own experience as a youth driven organisation and the “School**

**Students’ Union’s” efforts to strengthen democracy and student participation in school policy.**

**Youth Participation**

- **A short introduction. Created by the youth group in 2018.**

**What is youth participation?**

Youth participation is about youth's right to be heard, and the right of young people to actively participate in influencing and taking part in matters that directly affect them or that youth care about. Youth has democratic rights, that is, the right to engage, in accordance with the UN Children's Convention. It is a fundamental democratic principle that those affected by a decision must be included in it, is not it?

If Erna Solberg wanted to evaluate the quality of education in school today, it would be just right and reasonable that the students also had the opportunity to say how they experienced the education. They are, after all, those that go to school?

In this example, there will be a number of things that are important to keep in mind in order to achieve good youth participation. Primarily the young people themselves have to decide who will represent them. The young people who evaluate the quality must always have sufficient information. That is, they will get knowledge of what they can give input about, the deadlines they have to relate to and similar. The youth must get sufficient information. This is absolutely essential for real youth participation. Youth should not be a "trophy" for Erna to boast that youth have been represented. They must be active throughout the process and their opinions should be as important as the adults.

But who does the "youth" group really belong to?
There is no legal definition of who youth are. The UN defines youth as those between the ages of 15-24, others point to youth as a life phase and some like those who are not married or have children. As of today, Operation Day’s Work refers to young people as every personbetween 13-19 years old, but we are still not "locked" to this.

**Why youth participation?**

The National Council for Norway's Youth Organization (LNU) states: "You must recognize youth as an individual transitional phase, but at the same time understand that youth is a significant and permanent group where the demography argues for working specifically with youth." By that it is said that youth is not one lasting phase, but because of the fact that there are so many youth in the world, it is wrong to ignore this group.

Youth participation is not only correct and very important. According to the UN Children's Convention, youth have the right to say something about matters concerning them. Half of the world's population is under 30, and 28% between 10 and 24 years old. Growth in the number of young people will continue. Strengthening youth participation will strengthen the role of young people in society. By doing so, we get a better society because young people take part, make their voices heard, are included and involved.

Including youth opens up new perspectives and ideas. Youths think differently and think more openly than adults. Youth and adults in teams are therefore a perfect combination. Then adults must be willing to give up their power and be open to new inputs.

In aid, youth involvement is equally important. By investing in education and health for young people, we can help the whole population get out of poverty. Youth must not remain an unused resource, but ensure a good transition from child to adult. Then their opportunities grow for the future. Young people will be able to meet the future, to take stock of the community around them and their development, as well as being positive contributors. Youth participating in learning about democracy and development can play an important role in community development later in life.

Compared to women and children, youth are often given lower priority in the world of aid. Youth is often overlooked, although we know that youth is an important resource and that the results of the efforts are often better and more sustainable by including them. Youth must be viewed as part of the solution, not the problem.

Young people have opinions, wishes and thoughts about society around themselves and their own lives. Young people want and can make change, they just need to get the opportunity. Young people are not passive recipients, but change actors in their societies and their lives.