

Youth: your future starts now

Environment education and youth development pre-project at the State School Marques de Sapucaí, in Delfim Moreira MG

General objective:

Support students and their teachers in the process of developing in young people their several potential skills that will be useful and necessary in their future, when they'll need to participate in the governance of their communities in conditions that we cannot predict.

Specific objectives:

1. Organize a group or "club" (permanently open to the registration of every interested students) to develop, in a participatory manner, a series of community and environment interest activities, where young people will have the opportunity to acquire skills related to sustainability, local governance and inclusive "young and green" entrepreneurship.
2. Facilitate the implementation of projects basic for social and environmental sustainability, that depend inevitably and increasingly the participation of citizens - and especially the young ones - who have more time, energy and motivation to guarantee a better future for themselves and theirs.
3. Provide opportunities for young people to acquire skills that will serve them in the future, including professionally, by learning to plan and develop projects - and working together in their implementation.
4. Develop a methodology for youth development projects that could be used in other regions of Brazil, exchanging experiences and innovations on the Internet.

Justifications

1. No local development project can succeed without community participation, especially the young people' involvement – not only to undertake various needed activities, not only to take to their families and communities the project's proposals, but also to build their capacities to take on the tremendous responsibilities that will face them in about 20 or 30 years.
2. Without the youth, without their involvement since now, without their empowerment and the development of new leaders, our Brazilian communities will fail to adequately address the enormous future challenges that the present promises us.
3. At the same time, many – maybe most – young people are subject to factors today that put them at permanent risk, such as drug use, teen pregnancy, urban and domestic violence, without any opportunity to better understand the reasons for their frustration and anger, and how overcome them effectively and productively.
4. Please, you may believe: *the activities of our "club" may give a new meaning to their lives.*

Project development and planned activities

1. The first step is already being done: minimally detailing the project, with the participation of the school's Principal and the interested teachers, to design a plan that will be really attractive to the most conscious students – the most eager to help, learn and earn.
2. On August 25 we will realize the first meeting with the students, invited by [mini-posters](#) and the short visits to their class rooms.
3. In the beginning of September, a first meeting of the “club”, with the interested people (students and teachers), to define the its basic organizational frame, the first activities and the necessary training and assessing of potential partners and supporters.
4. Among the activities, the students registered in the “club” will be invited to learn more about the environmental conditions of the neighborhoods where they live, and to contribute to the city and other institutions and associations in order to introduce more sustainable social practices – such as residues' management, urban greening, urban agriculture, the control of vectors.
5. Another important interface is open to promoting leadership and participatory governance skills, including [ethics education](#) and the “[democratic arts](#)” – learning how to assess the community needs, elaborate and develop projects, raise funds and other resources, communicate with the community, call for volunteers, organize productive meetings, brainstormings, build coalitions etc.
6. The activities shall be decided by all the students enrolled in the "club", with our advice to avoid further frustrations.
7. They'll give opportunity to young people carry out actions that concern them, such as in the areas of communication (mural-journal, internet); biology / ecology (composting); agronomy (school, domestic and community gardens, urban agriculture, food marketing); management / business entrepreneurship (*green* income generation), computer science (internet, applications, databases).
8. The Internet and social networks will be used as tools of interactivity among participants, Delfim Moreira's population at large, and the interested people in Brazil and abroad.

Attractiveness

To increasingly attract the students to participate, the "club" will prioritize concrete and objectives activities that can offer experiences and emotions that will serve them later in their adult life.

Among them, meetings, tours, practical, meaningful and viable projects planned together, exchanges via internet with other young people in Brazil and around the world on common challenges, and initiatives related to entrepreneurship and income generation exploring activities favorable to society and nature.

Necessary Resources

The project will be based on already available resources at school, the town hall, the community. We will promote the collaboration of volunteers from their families and other residents, businessmen, religious leaders, and take advantage of synergies with local associations, service clubs, NGOs etc.

In continuation, we may apply for government programs resources, international donors etc.