

Introduction

Education is important for growing knowledge capital, and creating bonds within communities based upon shared values and understanding. Individuals who are better educated, have improved cognitive skills and so are more able to escape poverty and achieve their personal and professional ambitions [1]. As a result of this increase in upward socio-economic mobility, people, communities, organisations and societies prosper. In recognition of this, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG-4) relates to the provision of Quality Education (Fig 1).



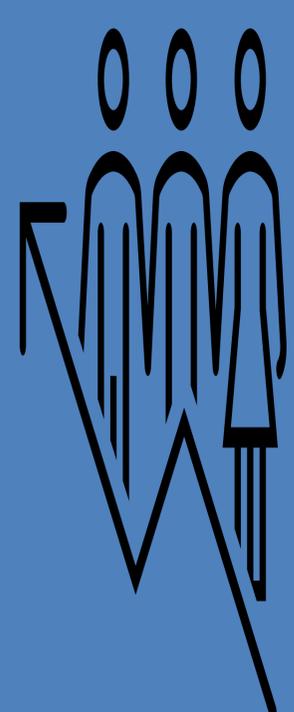
Figure 1. The 17 UN Sustainability Goals [2]

What is Quality Education?

UN SDG-4 is about ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, and the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities to everyone [3]. The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) details Quality Education as being one that is “pedagogically and developmentally sound and educates the student in becoming an active and productive member of society” [4]. With a focus upon the quality of the available educational provision, to drive this agenda forward requires good teachers, the provision of high-quality learning resources, and the establishment of a safe and supportive learning environment in which students can thrive [5, 6]. These criteria apply equally to Higher Education as they do to other learning contexts.

9 Dimensions
of Quality Education

1. Is a human right & should be freely available to everyone
2. Supports individual PPD* (inc. emotional & social intelligence)
3. Provides learning personalised to the needs of each individual
4. Provides a safe (physically & emotionally) learning environment
5. Prepares individuals for an ongoing sustainable lifestyle
6. Develops community awareness & engagement
7. Forms the basis for equity & equality in society
8. Promotes and supports responsible citizenship
9. Enables people, communities, organisations & societies to prosper



*PPD = Personal & Professional Development

Figure 2. 9 Dimensions of Quality Education

References

1. Lövdén, M., Fratiglioni, L., Glymour, M., Lindenberger, U. and Tucker-Drob, E. 2020. Education and Cognitive Functioning Across the Life Span. *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, 21 (1), 6-41.
2. United Nations. 2021. *About Us*. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us> Accessed 24th May 2022.
3. United Nations. 2021 *Sustainable Development Goals: 4 Quality Education*. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/> Accessed 24/05/2022.
4. Slade, S. 2017. What Do We Mean by a Quality Education? *Huffpost*. 22nd Feb 2017. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/what-do-we-mean-by-a-qual_b_9284130 Accessed 24th May 2022.
5. Rashid, G. 2019. Why We Need Quality Education. *The Independent*. 31st August 2019.
6. Leverage Edu. 2021. *What is Quality Education?* <https://leverageedu.com/blog/quality-education/> Accessed 24th May 2022.

