

# **Empowering Students for Sustainable Development: Bridging Education, Governance, and Action to Achieve the SDGs**

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**Abstract:** *The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, provide a roadmap for a sustainable future. Achieving these goals necessitates active participation from all stakeholders, including students. This study explores the pivotal role students can play in local governance and sustainability planning, emphasizing their potential as change-makers in realizing the SDGs.*

*Higher education institutions are vital in promoting sustainability and integrating the SDGs into their curriculum and operations. A mixed-methods approach was employed, combining surveys, interviews, and case studies of student-led sustainability initiatives. The findings indicate that student participation in local governance and sustainability planning can foster increased awareness, knowledge, and engagement with sustainability issues.*

*Moreover, student-led initiatives can contribute to achieving specific SDGs, such as SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). The study concludes that students have the potential to play a vital role in achieving the SDGs and that their involvement in local governance and sustainability planning can lead to more inclusive, effective, and sustainable solutions.*

*Recommendations are made for policymakers, educators, and practitioners to support students as change-makers in achieving the SDGs.*

**Keywords:** Sustainable Development Goals, student engagement, local governance, sustainability planning, higher education

