

## EVALUATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS' INITIATIVES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

### *AVALIAÇÃO DAS INICIATIVAS DOS ADMINISTRADORES ESCOLARES PARA OBJETIVOS DE DESENVOLVIMENTO SUSTENTÁVEL*

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**ABSTRACT**

The concept of sustainable development is defined as a form of development that aims to meet the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations. The increasing importance of sustainable development is beginning to show itself in the education curriculum. One of the most important goals pointed out by UNESCO, it is important that school administrators, who are the most important actors of education, have educational knowledge, skills and attitudes for sustainable development. In this research, it is aimed to evaluate the opinions of school administrators in vocational high schools on sustainable development goals and to determine the deficiencies in this subject and to contribute in this direction by collecting the necessary data for taking the right steps. Qualitative research methods were applied in the research, and 15 school administrators working in Northern Cyprus vocational high schools participated in the research. The semi-structured interview form prepared by the researcher was used for data collection. The data

obtained in the research were analyzed with the content analysis method. As a result of the research, it is seen that school administrators have knowledge about sustainable development. Among the opinions of school administrators who put forward their views on the 17th article of sustainable development, providing equal rights to the society, providing economic contributions, providing access to clean water and energy, recycling, ensuring the sustainability of agricultural development, and cooperation with stakeholders come to the fore.

**Keywords:** sustainable development goals, education, vocational high school, school administrator.

### RESUMO

O conceito de desenvolvimento sustentável é definido como uma forma de desenvolvimento que visa atender às necessidades do presente sem comprometer as necessidades das gerações futuras. A importância crescente do desenvolvimento sustentável começa a manifestar-se no currículo educativo. Um dos objetivos mais importantes apontados pela UNESCO, é importante que os administradores escolares, que são os atores mais importantes da educação, tenham conhecimentos, habilidades e atitudes educacionais para o desenvolvimento sustentável. Nesta investigação pretende-se avaliar as opiniões dos administradores escolares de escolas secundárias profissionais sobre os objetivos de desenvolvimento sustentável e determinar as deficiências nesta matéria e contribuir neste sentido, recolhendo os dados necessários para tomar as medidas corretas. Métodos de pesquisa qualitativa foram aplicados na pesquisa, e 15 administradores escolares que trabalham em escolas secundárias profissionais do Norte de Chipre participaram da pesquisa. Para a coleta de dados foi utilizado o formulário de entrevista semiestruturada elaborado pela pesquisadora. Os dados obtidos na pesquisa foram analisados pelo método de análise de conteúdo. Como resultado da pesquisa, verifica-se que os gestores escolares possuem conhecimento sobre desenvolvimento sustentável. Entre as opiniões dos administradores escolares que expuseram os seus pontos de vista sobre o artigo 17º do desenvolvimento sustentável, proporcionando direitos iguais à sociedade, proporcionando contribuições económicas, proporcionando acesso a água limpa e energia, reciclagem, garantindo a sustentabilidade do desenvolvimento agrícola, e cooperação com as partes interessadas vêm à tona.

**Palavras-chave:** objetivos de desenvolvimento sustentável, educação, ensino médio profissionalizante, administrador escolar.

### **Introduction**

The concept of sustainable development has emerged as a new paradigm for addressing environmental issues, bringing together environmental, economic and social values that have been at the center of the world agenda for a long time. In order to ensure sustainable development, managers adopt multilateral management as a new management model. In this context, the concept of environmental governance has been developed based on the concepts of sustainable development and governance in the fight against environmental problems. This research was also conducted from this point of view.

Sustainable development goals entered into force in the United Nations in January 2016 and studies have been started in the TRNC since 2017. In addition to these studies, in this study, it is aimed to contribute to this study by collecting the necessary data to evaluate the initiatives of school administrators in vocational high schools for sustainable development purposes, to identify the deficiencies in this regard and to take the right steps.

1. What are the school administrators' views on sustainable development goals?
2. What are the forward-looking suggestions of school administrators for sustainable development goals?

### **Significance of Research**

Looking at the intervening two centuries, it is seen that the harmful effects of human activities on nature have increased. Due to the way of life of human beings, environmental problems occur from time to time, natural resources are consumed unconsciously, and living spaces are destroyed. For these reasons, many organisms are in danger of extinction (Bahar, Bağ and Bozkurt, 2008). Recycling, environmental protection, renewable energy, etc. to assimilate and simulate sustainable environmental approaches where the next generation will live comfortably. It is important to do research in the fields. In addition, presenting the current state of the research in terms of content, method and analysis is also necessary in terms of guiding future research (Bahar and Kiras, 2017). Examining the work of the discipline of sustainable development from primary to higher education helps to summarize the development of the discipline to date. In the history of sustainable development, the dimensions of sustainable development are the most discussed topics by revealing different perspectives of researches at home and abroad. The research reveals the current situation and which working groups examine sustainable development. It is thought that it will be beneficial for those who want to work on sustainable development issues, which have gained importance in recent years in terms of both the mapping of the general framework

of sustainable development and content analysis (Adrianoa & Rosa, 2023; Başgelen Akkaş, 2019).

In these days when the world is approaching poverty, hunger, gender inequality and other substances step by step, we should work on these 17 items and the idea of "how can we make the world more livable" and raise our awareness. In this context, with this research, it is very important to evaluate the attempts of our school administrators in our schools, who prepare our children for life with the education they receive before they are put into life. The results of this study will be a guide for us in the future and will enable us to analyze our work on this subject more deeply. In addition, at the end of this study, the awareness of school administrators in these educational institutions is determined.

### ***Education and Sustainable Development***

Education is the process for individuals to be included in life, to lead their lives productively and to be an individual that benefits the society they live in (Aydın, 2019; Canaran & Mirici, 2020). At the World Sustainable Development Summit held in 2002, UNESCO was selected as the executor of the Agenda 21 Action Plan. In this way, UNESCO accelerated the studies on education for Sustainable Development and prepared a program to plan other studies on the subject.

Education is at the center of sustainable development. In this sense, it can be said that education and sustainability are mutually dependent (Engin, 2010). It would be wrong to say that education consists only of lessons given in schools. In this sense, providing sustainable development education in all institutions and organizations will increase the awareness of sustainable development (Atmaca, 2018). Although educators take part in the most important pillar of sustainable development, it is not possible for them to achieve the goals of sustainable development alone. For this reason, strong partners are needed to raise awareness of sustainable development. These partners are the media, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions, etc. (UNESCO, 2009).

Education for sustainable development refers to values that will affect people's lives such as cultural, social and economic practices. For this to happen,

education must be included in all processes for sustainable development (Gökmen 2014). It has been stated as “Education for sustainable development aims to integrate the principles of a sustainable life into education programs starting from preschool in order to provide individuals with the knowledge, awareness and skills necessary for a sustainable life” (Kahriman Pamuk, 2019). From this point of view, arrangements should be made at all levels of education so that the education needs for sustainable development can be met (Uğraş and Zengin, 2019).

### ***School Management and Sustainable Development***

The role of school principals is important in ensuring the sustainability of the education sector. In fact, the most important task of school leaders in terms of sustainability is to protect other disadvantaged groups in the school and to provide equality of opportunity. In fact, according to UNDP (2015), despite the recent increase in access to primary education, the proportion of children from the poorest families out of school is four times higher than the number of children from the richest families. Resources are still needed to improve access to education. On the other hand, education also plays an important role in raising social awareness in line with sustainable development and in raising awareness on sustainable development issues through the processes planned by educational institutions and leaders, and in providing students with knowledge. Dealing with these issues and problems requires managers with a critical responsibility in the field of education (Michelsen & Fischer, 2017; Eren & Gül, 2022). In this direction, educational components such as imagining a better future, critical thinking and participation, reflection, partnership for change and systemic thinking should be taken into account when designing educational elements for sustainable development (ARIES, 2009).

## **Methodology**

### ***Research Model***

This study is conducted using a fact-based scientific model and a qualitative research method. In phenomenology, the purpose of a research model is to reveal the experiences, ideas and related meanings of the individual (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013). The phenomenon examined here is the determination of the use of sustainable development goals in education according to the views of school administrators.

In this study, semi-structured interview method, which is one of the qualitative research methods, was used. Qualitative research focuses and is based on the interpretation and analysis of features that are difficult to measure, such as observations or words (Glesne, 2014).

### ***Working group***

The study was carried out with the participation of 15 school administrators working in vocational high schools in Northern Cyprus in the 2022-2022 academic year. The participants of the study were determined by representative sampling, which is one of the convenience sampling methods. Glesne (2014) stated that a representative case sample can be used in research to determine what happens under normal conditions. In this context, the participants were determined on a voluntary basis from among the managers working in vocational high schools. Adhering to the confidentiality of the identity of the research participants, codings such as P1, P2, P3 were used for the participants instead of the names of the participants in the research report.

### **Data collection tool**

Semi-structured interview form was used as a data collection tool. During the preparation of the interview form, a draft form was prepared by scanning the literature. While preparing the interview questions, the keywords created in line



with the purpose of the research were scanned in the theses and field indexes written in this field and related researches were examined. The research interview form consists of two parts. In the first part of the form, depending on the personal data of the researchers, gender, age, education level, marital status, working time at school, having children and the number of children are included. In the second part, the opinions and suggestions of the participants of the research are included.

### ***Data analysis***

In the study, content analysis methods were used to clarify the basic concepts and the relationships between the concepts. The basic process of content analysis is to collect similar information within the framework of certain concepts and topics, and to organize and explain them in a way that the reader can understand (Yıldırım & Şimşek, 2013). The codes obtained through content analysis were interpreted, classified and the same subjects were similarly themed. The themes are classified according to their general meanings. Finally, the categories are given by each question, and the categories are given numerically by frequency.

### **Results**

In this part of the study, the answers of the participants were gathered under the themes and examined.

#### ***No Poverty***

In the research, the participants were asked firstly, "What do you think about the no poverty, one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" The question was asked and the answers given are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 – Opinions of the participants on the item "no poverty", which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
No Poverty	Economic opportunity should be provided	6
	No idea	3
	Equal rights and opportunities should be offered	3
	Policies should be established	3

Source: Researchers.

The opinions of the participants on the no poverty, which is one of the sustainable development goals, are as follows: Economic opportunity should be provided (n6), I have no idea (n3), Equal rights and opportunities should be offered (n3), Policies should be established (n3). The opinions of the participants are as follows;

“Every individual should be given equal economic opportunities” P5

“I think it is one of the most important items. I think everyone should have equal rights and opportunities. Large socio-economic differences in society need to be minimized.” P8

“The policies of economic input and output should be revised, and especially the institutions and organizations where the expenses are made should be strictly controlled to prevent excessive demand for money” P12

### **Zero Hunger**

Table 2 – Opinions of the participants on the item "zero hunger", which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Zero Hunger	Contribution should be made at the economic and socio-economic level	8
	Agricultural support should be offered	4
	The principle of equality should be applied	1
	It should be government policy.	2

Source: Researchers



The research participants were asked, "What do you think about the "zero hunger" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context? The question was asked and the answers of the participants were gathered under four headings. These are: Economic and socio-economic contribution should be provided (n8), Agricultural support should be provided (n4), Equality principle should be applied (n1), State policy should be (n2). Participant responses are as follows;

"The socio-economic status of competent and responsible employees should be paid well. Otherwise, sustainable development will not work with short-term and continuous job change." P2

"I believe that the desired goal will be achieved with the implementation of the policies put forward. In this context, my thoughts are primarily that developed countries should mobilize all necessary opportunities in this direction in order to eliminate poverty in economically, socially and culturally backward countries, and that every country should act to meet all kinds of needs of all individuals within itself, and to follow the principles of equality of all individuals, women, men and children. I think it should be treated with care." P4

"Providing necessary food sources, supporting agriculture." P11

### ***Good Health and Well-Being***

The research participants were asked, "What do you think about the item "good health and well-being", one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" question was posed. The answers given by the participants are given in Table 3.

Table 3 – Opinions of the participants on the item "good health and well-being ", which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Good health and well-being	Free and accessible health services	9
	Providing equal opportunities	2
	Health insurance coverage should be expanded	2
	No idea	2

Source: Researchers

In Table 3, opinions on the item " good health and well-being ", which is one of the goals of sustainable development, are examined. Participants are as follows: Health services are free and accessible (n9), Equal opportunities are offered (n2), Health insurance coverage should be expanded (n2), I have no idea (n2). Participant statements are as follows;

“Since health is one of the most important life resources of people, it should be organized under equal opportunities and conditions for everyone and applied in all hospitals.” P7

“There should be a choice of health insurance that people at all levels can afford.” P10

“Although communicable diseases and early maternal and child deaths are common in developing countries, the risk of substance abuse and chronic disease is quite high in developed countries. I think that 2030 is an early date to see improvement in these issues and I advocate that more extensive and comprehensive studies should be carried out in public health centers to raise awareness about health.” P15

### **Quality Education**

The research participants were asked, "What do you think about the "quality education" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" question has been asked. The answers of the participants were gathered under five headings.

Table 4 – Opinions of the participants on the item of quality education, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Quality education	Equal right to education should be ensured at all levels	7
	Teacher training programs should be structured	4
	Education should be free/Scholarship provided	2
	No idea	2

Source: Researchers

The majority of the participants expressed the view that the right to equal education should be provided at all levels. 4 of the participants stated that teacher training programs should be structured, 2 of them stated that education should be

free and scholarships should be provided. Two of the participants stated that they did not have an opinion in this direction. Some participant opinions are as follows;

“It is necessary to develop programs for the education and training of teachers, and to implement programs that will support the professional development of teachers. Thus, a higher quality and skill level of teachers will enable students to receive a higher quality education.” P3

“Providing the necessary resources, making education compulsory and supervising to make education accessible to all.” P9

“Every stage of education should be qualified and a correct guide. Education should be modeled according to the interests of the individual with equal rights.” P13

### **Gender Equality**

The participants were asked, "What do you think about the "gender equality" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" The question was asked and the answers given by the participants are given in Table 5.

Table 5 – Opinions of the participants on gender equality, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Gender equality	Equal rights should be offered	10
	Training should be given in this direction.	3
	No idea	2

Source: Researchers

The majority of the respondents (n10) stated that education rights should be provided. 3 of the participants stated that training should be given in this direction, while 2 participants stated that they did not have any ideas. The answers of the participants in this direction are as follows;

“A person should learn that men and women are equal first in the family he grew up in and then at school.” P2

“The importance of gender equality and the provision of job opportunities for every individual in every field will provide a great benefit to the development of the whole society. Equal opportunities should be the right of every individual.” P6

“The most fundamental element in achieving gender equality is education. Therefore, the development and correct application of the previous article will also help ensure gender equality in societies.” P14

### **Clean Water and Sanitation**

“What do you think about the “clean water and sanitation” item, one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context? The answers given by the participants to the question are analyzed in Table 6.

Table 6 – Opinions of the participants on the item "clean water and sanitation", which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Clean water and sanitation	Provision and protection of clean water resources	8
	Everyone should have access to clean water	3
	Necessary infrastructure should be provided	2
	Goals are not realistic	1
	No idea	1

Source: Researchers

Opinions of the participants on clean water and sanitation, which are among the sustainable development goals; Providing and protecting clean water resources (n8), Everyone should have access to clean water (n3), Necessary infrastructure should be provided (n2), Targets are unrealistic (n1), I have no idea (n1). The answers given by the participants are as follows;

“It is necessary to protect water resources, establish water treatment systems and establish effective management mechanisms in the distribution of water.” P3

“Imposing necessary sanctions to keep water resources clean.” P6

“The sanitation clause, which is one of the most fundamental rights, is at a very backward point, especially in developing countries. The lack of clean water sources and the unsuitable sanitation conditions can cause many infectious diseases and therefore health problems. I think that the year 2030 is not realistic in line with the stated articles.” P11

**Affordable and clean energy**

The research participants were asked, "What do you think about the " affordable and clean energy" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" question was posed. The answers given by the participants are given in Table 7.

Table 7 – Opinions of the participants on the item “affordable and clean energy”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Affordable and clean energy	No idea	7
	Clean energy consumption should be ensured	4
	Structure in this direction should be provided.	2
	Clean energy targets should be set	1
	not possible	1

Source: Researchers

Most of the participants stated that they had no idea about the " affordable and clean energy" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals. Clean energy consumption should be provided to 4 participants, 2 participants should be structured in this direction, 1 participant should set clean energy targets, and again 1 participant expressed the opinion that this is not possible. The statements of the participants are as follows;

“Clean energy should be provided from the most natural sources, namely solar energy. Big facilities should be built so that everyone can benefit from it.” P1

“It cannot be done because the system will crash.” P9

“I think that this article, which is parallel to climate change, should be studied more comprehensively and the countries that cause the most damage to nature should be determined and the clean energy target should be aimed.” P13

### ***Decent Work and Economic Growth***

Table 8 – Opinions of the participants on the item “decent work and economic growth”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Decent work and economic growth	Individual should be provided according to the job	5
	Provide training and skills development opportunities	3
	Professional development should be provided	3
	Correct career choice guidance should be made.	2
	No idea	2

Source: Researchers

What do you think about the "decent work and economic growth" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context? Their answers to the question are as shown in Table 9. These are: Individuals should be provided according to the job (n5), Education and skill development opportunities should be provided (n3), Professional development should be provided (n3), Correct career choice guidance should be made (n2), I have no idea (n2). The opinions of the participants are as follows;

“For sustainable development, people should be selected according to the job. As long as the understanding of business is not over, there will be no economic growth in our country.” P5

“Every individual should work on their talents and abilities. For this reason, people's interests and skills should be discovered at a young age and they should be trained on it.” P8

“Everyone should get a job according to their abilities and interests.” P12

### ***Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure***

The participants were asked, "What do you think about the item "industry, innovation and infrastructure", which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" The question was asked and the opinions about the answers of the participants are discussed in Table 9 below.



Table 9 – Opinions of the participants on the item “industry, innovation and infrastructure”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Industry, innovation and infrastructure	Domestic production and industry should be supported	5
	Financial incentives should be provided.	4
	Infrastructure should be provided	4
	Entrepreneurship should be encouraged	2

Source: Researchers

The opinions of the participants on the item "industry, innovation and infrastructure", which is one of the sustainable development goals; Domestic production and industry should be supported (n5), Financial incentives should be provided (n4), Infrastructure should be provided (n4), Entrepreneurship should be encouraged (n2). The statements of the participants are as follows;

“The incentive system should be created and the industry should be developed.” P7

“It should be acted with the spirit of entrepreneurship and economic freedom.” P11

“In the industry, all infrastructures should be redesigned and changed by experts based on the latest technological developments.” P14

### **Reduced Inequalities**

“What do you think about the item “reducing inequalities”, one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context? The question was asked and the answers given by the participants were examined in Table 10.

Table 10 – Opinions of the participants on the item “reducing inequalities”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Reduced inequalities	Policies should be established	5
	Equal rights should be given	3
	No idea	3
	Legal system needs to be updated	2
	Corruption must be prevented	1
	An environment of tolerance should be provided.	1

Source: Researchers

In order to reduce inequalities, the participants expressed their views that policies should be formed (n5), equal rights should be given (n3), I have no idea (n3), the legal system should be updated (n2), corruption should be prevented (n1), an environment of tolerance should be provided (n1). The statements of the participants are as follows;

“All stakeholders need to come together to reduce inequality. This requires governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, community leaders and other relevant stakeholders to work collaboratively. In order for everyone to live under equal conditions and opportunities, policies that promote social equality must be adopted and implemented.” P4

“The legal system must be constantly updated. The applicable laws must be put in place.” P9

“It is one of the most important substances. Opportunities should be given to each individual equally.” P14

### ***Sustainable Cities and Communities***

“What do you think about the item “sustainable cities and communities”, one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context? question was posed. The themes that emerged regarding the answers of the participants are discussed in Table 11 below.

Table 11 – Opinions of the participants on the item “sustainable cities and communities”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Sustainable cities and communities	Creating eco-friendly cities	6
	Inspections should be made	3
	Transportation and social activities should be provided.	2
	Trained architects and engineers	2
	Necessary resource investments should be made	2

Source: Researchers

The opinions of the participants on the subject of cities and communities, which are among the goals of sustainable development, are as follows; Creating environmentally friendly cities (n6), Inspections should be made (n3), Transportation and social activities should be provided (n2), Equipped architects and engineers should be trained (n2), Necessary resource investments should be made (n2). The statements made are as follows;

“Transportation and social activities in cities should be increased at the right rate.” P3

“I think it is especially important for people and nature to implement environmentally friendly cities.” P6

“This article needs to be revised and developed for countries. I think it is an item that can be realized with the necessary investment of resources.” P12

**Responsible Consumption and Production**

Table 12 – Opinions of the participants on the item “responsible consumption and production”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Responsible consumption and production	Consumption awareness should be developed	4
	Courses in this direction should be added to the curriculum.	3
	I don't know	3
	Local production should be provided	2
	Recycling policies should be developed	2
	Responsible production investments should be made	1

Source: Researchers

In Table 12, the opinions of the participants on the item "responsible production and consumption", which is one of the sustainable development goals, are given. Consumption awareness should be raised in 4 of the participants for responsible production and consumption, which is one of the sustainable development goals, 3 courses in this direction should be added to the curriculum, 3 I do not know, 2 domestic production should be provided, 2 recycling policies should be developed, 1 On the other hand, they stated that responsible production investments should be made. The opinions of the participants are as follows;

“According to this, realistic lessons should be put in schools for responsible consumption. Production and consumption other than necessities should be reduced.” P1

“We should support and consume domestic production instead of products from foreign countries.” P8

“It is an item that needs to be studied with careful consideration of the development of recycling policies and climate change. Responsible consumption is very important in fighting climate change.” P13

### Climate Action

“What do you think about the “climate action” item, one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context? The answers given by the participants to the question are analyzed in Table 13.

Table 13 – Opinions of the participants on the item “climate action”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Climate action	Policies should be established	5
	Action plans should be created	4
	No idea	2
	Greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced	2
	Awareness should be increased	2

Source: Researchers

The statements of the participants regarding climate action, one of the sustainable development goals, are: Policies should be established (n5), Action plans should be created (n4), No idea (n2), Greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced (n2), Awareness should be increased (n2). The answers given by the participants are as follows;

“Climate change is caused by an increase in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Therefore, reducing greenhouse gas emissions plays a key role in tackling climate change. To achieve this goal, greenhouse gas emissions worldwide need to be rapidly reduced and reduced to zero.” P5

“Developing policies that cause the least harm to nature and complying with legal obligations” P10

“Although the studies on climate change are insufficient worldwide, all countries need to act urgently in cooperation. Sustainable development goals should be reworked and planned in this context and an emergency action plan should be created.” P14

### **Life below Water**

The research participants were asked, "What do you think about the "life below water" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" question has been asked. The answers of the participants were gathered under 2 opinions.

Table 14 - Opinions of the participants on the substance of life below water, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Life below water	Marine pollution should be prevented	12
	Waste management should be provided	3

Source: Researchers

Participants' views on the item "life below water", which is one of the goals of sustainable development, are grouped under two headings. While the majority of the participants (n12) stated that marine pollution should be prevented, 3 participants stated that waste management should be provided. Participant statements are as follows;

"Sustainable management and protection of water resources is important for the protection of aquatic life. Conservation of water resources is important to ensure the preservation of biodiversity in aquatic ecosystems and the use of water resources in the future, by providing high-quality freshwater resources." P2

"Water is our essential ingredient for life. Unfortunately, water is in the first place among the depleted resources. With conscious water consumption and the use of recycled water, many areas can be brought to life." P7

"We must not litter the seas and protect aquatic life." P10

### **Life on Land**

"What do you think about the "life on land" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" The answers given by the participants to the question are analyzed in Table 15.



Table 15 – Opinions of the participants on the item “life on land”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Life on land	Recycling should be provided	8
	Afforestation should be done and forests should be protected	5
	Natural life should be supported	2

Source: Researchers

The views on the item “life on land”, which is one of the sustainable development goals, are as follows: recycling should be provided (n8), afforestation should be done and forests should be protected (n5) and natural life should be supported (n2). Statements made by the participants;

“Forests should be protected and natural life should be supported.” P1

“Recycling and tree planting should be given importance.” P9

“Terrestrial life is another important element affected by climate change. Sustainable development goals have been insufficient in this context. More comprehensive studies and activities are needed to protect forests and support biodiversity.” P14

### ***Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions***

“What do you think about the item “peace, justice and strong institutions”, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context? question was posed. The answers given by the participants are given in Table 16.

Table 16 – Opinions of the participants on the item “peace, justice and strong institutions”, which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Peace, justice and strong institutions	Peace education should be given	6
	Control should be provided	4
	hard to reach	3
	I don't know	2

Source: Researchers

Regarding the item of peace, justice and strong institutions, which are among the sustainable development goals, the participants gave the answers: Peace education should be given (n6), Supervision should be provided (n4), Hard to reach (n3), I don't know (n2). Statements made by the participants;

“Where there is justice, there is also peace. Where there is control, there are strong institutions.” P5

“For peace, it is necessary to teach people at a young age that they should be educated in schools at an early age and that they should be fair, and that this will add a lot to them.” P9

“Auditable systems should be established and fairness should be equal for all.” P12

### ***Partnership for the Goals***

The participants were asked, "What do you think about the "partnerships for goals" item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, and what should be done in this context?" question was posed. Almost all of the research participants stated that cooperation should be ensured. 1 of the participants answered I don't know. The distribution of the responses of the participants is shown in Table 17.

Table 17 – Opinions of the participants on the item "partnerships for goals", which is one of the sustainable development goals

Theme	Code	Number of view (n)
Partnerships for goals	Cooperation should be provided	14
	I don't know	1

Source: Researchers

The statements made by the participants are as follows;

“For the development goals of countries, partnerships should be established between various actors such as international financial institutions, donor countries and non-governmental organizations. These institutions can cooperate on issues such as technological innovations, information sharing, financing and other resources. In addition, regional cooperation and cooperation at the international level are also important.” P4

“All institutions should act together.” P1

“Many items for sustainable development should work together and in cooperation. Collaborative work will have stronger feedback.” P15

## Discussion and Conclusions

Sustainable development is a development approach that emerged towards the end of the 20th century and is developing day by day. It has been understood that the resources in the world are not unlimited, and that industrialization and population growth harm the world, and this has increased the importance of sustainable development. As a result of the initiatives made by the scientific world, international organizations, sensitive states and voluntary individuals, it is seen that the number of studies aimed at ensuring sustainable development is increasing day by day. Thus, although it is thought that a sustainable development will be achieved, it is basically tried to ensure the sustainability of human life and quality of life.

When the opinions of the participants on the last item of poverty, which is one of the sustainable development goals, are examined within the scope of the research, the necessity of providing economic opportunities comes to the fore. In addition, it has been put forward that equal rights and opportunities should be offered and policies should be formed. In addition, they expressed the opinion that a group of participants did not have an opinion in this direction. Yıldırım and Göktürk (2004) revealed that poverty reduction and welfare levels should be supported with solid foundations within the scope of sustainable development policies.

When we look at the opinions of the participants about the end of hunger item, which is one of the sustainable development goals, it is seen that the view of contributing to the economic and socio-economic level of the majority of the participants stands out, as is the end goal of poverty. Besides, providing agricultural support, applying the principle of equality and being a state policy are among the expressions put forward. Maurice (2015) and Holden (2016) state that every country that develops and grows in line with sustainable development goals should aim to end hunger and poverty, and preventive sanctions should be made.

Major participant statements regarding health and quality of life indicate that health services should be free and accessible. While providing equal opportunities and expanding the coverage of health insurance were other opinions, some

participants stated that they had no idea about this issue. Pınarbaşı and Piyal (2022) stated in their research that reducing the cost of health services is important in terms of sustainable health and quality of life. Research findings are similar in this respect.

Participants were asked what they thought about the quality education item, which is one of the sustainable development goals. In this direction, it has been determined that the right to equal education and teacher training programs should be structured. While Yapıcı (2003) states in the study that young generations will gain this awareness if educational institutions include sustainable development in their education programs; In his study, Kabadayı (2015) stated that the destruction of the environment can be prevented by educating families, women and children about the environment; In their study, Chisingui and Costa (2020) stated that sustainable development and sustainable development education are not yet a matter of consideration; Expósito and Sánchez (2020) in their study, train academics for sustainable development skills and organize their curricula; Sund and Gericke (2021), on the other hand, expressed their thoughts on how a transformation in education would be in line with sustainable development goals in order to improve and analyze environment and sustainable development teaching.

It has been determined that equal rights should be provided for the gender equality article, which is one of the sustainable development goals. It is among the prominent opinions that trainings should be given in this direction. Taban and Kar (2014) emphasize that the concept of sustainable development should deal with the problems that arise against inequality.

There are many purposes within the scope of environmental elements, which is one of the elements of sustainable development. One of them is clean water and sanitation agent. Participants stated that clean water and sanitation should be provided and protected, as well as access to clean water for everyone. Another substance is accessible and clean energy. In this direction, the majority of the participants did not express their opinions. Some participants stated that clean energy consumption should be ensured.

Regarding decent work and growth, which is one of the social elements of sustainability, the participants expressed their views on providing individuals according to the job, providing training and skill development opportunities, providing professional development, and directing the right career choice. In their study, Telatar and Terzi (2010) revealed that qualified human capital in Turkey is provided especially by vocational and technical education, thus contributing to sustainability in this direction. In many studies in the literature, it is emphasized that the increase in qualified human capital positively affects economic development (Bildirici, 2017; Çalışkan, Karabacak, & Meçik 2013; Özel, 2012).

It has been determined that among the sustainable development objectives, domestic production and industry related to industry, innovation and infrastructure should be supported, financial incentives should be provided, infrastructure should be provided and entrepreneurship should be encouraged.

School administrators stated that it is necessary to establish policies in this direction, to provide equal rights, to update the legal system, to prevent corruption and to provide an environment of tolerance in order to reduce inequalities.

It has been determined that the participants have prominent participant views on the subject of cities and communities, which are among the objectives of sustainable development, creating environmentally friendly cities, conducting inspections, providing transportation and social activities, training well-equipped architects and engineers, and making necessary resource investments.

Regarding responsible production and consumption, the participants stated that consumption awareness should be developed and courses in this direction should be added to the curriculum. In addition, it is stated that local production should be ensured, recycling policies should be developed and responsible production investments should be made. In the studies conducted by Kılıç (2006) and Kılıç (2012), it is seen that a production-consumption balance should be achieved that will not disrupt the natural cycle. It is seen that the results expressed are similar to the results of this research.

The most frequently used expressions were the creation of policies and action plans for climate action, which is another environmental sustainability-

related item. In addition, it is stated that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced and awareness should be increased. In the study, Bilgili (2017) stated that in order to combat the increasing environmental problems, it is necessary for sustainable development to evolve into a structure that will protect natural capital economically. Gedik (2020), on the other hand, states that meeting basic needs, balanced use of resources, long-term economic growth and the desire to leave a better world to future generations cause the importance of sustainable development to increase.

Almost all of the participants stated that marine pollution should be prevented for life in water, which is one of the goals of sustainable development. Regarding terrestrial life, which is another item, expressions such as recycling, afforestation and protection of forests, and supporting natural life were put forward.

Regarding the item of peace, justice and strong institutions, which are among the sustainable development goals for social sustainability, the participants answered that peace education should be provided, supervision should be provided, it is difficult to reach, I do not know. It has been determined that almost all of the participants regarding the partnership for purposes item, which is the last sustainable development item, have the opinion of providing cooperation. Al-Hail et al. (2021) stated in their study that it is necessary to cooperate with parents, teachers and schools in order to realize sustainable development.

## Recommendations

- It is recommended to add a compulsory vocational course on sustainable development and its educational practices to the curriculum of education faculties.
- Practical trainings for sustainable development can be given to increase the awareness and skills of teachers and school administrators.
- Sustainable development projects can be developed by ensuring the cooperation of teachers, school management, society and all education stakeholders.



- It is recommended by the state to develop policies and projects for the establishment of equal rights for each individual of the society regarding each item of the sustainable development goals.
- Research can be conducted to determine the awareness and knowledge level of all education stakeholders regarding sustainable development goals.

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