The Interplay of Education and Partnerships
Antara Majumdar & Sushmita Gelda (Beyond the Block)
Harriet Ross Tubman Academy - Buffalo, NY – Calcutta Rescue - Kolkata, India
Stewardship for a Sustainable World: Education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

ABSTRACT
A sustainable model of education inspires students to be leaders within and outside their immediate community. Beyond the Block is a partnership program that helps students enact change by globalizing their education. In the future, we hope Beyond the Block will become a core program in all schools that value interdisciplinary learning, creativity, and commitment to social change.

INTRODUCTION

Goal 4: Quality education challenges students to think beyond their immediate circumstances and engage in peer-to-peer learning.

Goal 11: Students develop a sustainable mindset by having conversations on issues such as school lunch, air pollution and recycling within their school and with their peers in Kolkata.

Goal 17: In this project a school in downtown Buffalo partners with a NGO school in Kolkata, India to give students an opportunity to become informed about how global issues play out in local settings.

Figure 1 – Students develop leadership skills by learning about career and educational opportunities, language skills in order to overcome their weaknesses and build on their strengths.

Stage 1: Letters

Harriet Ross Tubman Academy (School 31) is a K-8 school located in Buffalo, NY. Ninety-four percent of its students come from a disadvantaged background. Calcutta Rescue Center is a NGO located in Kolkata, India. It serves approximately 650 children from neighboring slums.

Figure 2 – (Left) Students from Calcutta Rescue shared their experiences and sent drawings that represent their life in Kolkata. (Right) Students from School 31 respond with letters and asked questions about the students’ daily lives in Kolkata. (September 2015)

Stage 2: Media

Figure 3 – (Top) Students discuss their school meal schedule and their questions on nutrition in American school meals. (Bottom) Two students share their experience with starting a recycling program and ask questions regarding recycling activities in India. (November 2015)

Stage 3: Workshops

Figure 4- (Top) Students enjoyed learning conversational Hindi with Dr. Hakala (University at Buffalo). (Bottom, left) The Girl Develop It workshop involved students learning about how to code and the career changes of a web designer. (Bottom, right) Dr. Gail Seigel discussed over Skype her career as a scientist and author.

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STAGE 1: LETTERS

STAGE 2: MEDIA

STAGE 3: WORKSHOPS

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Fun: Through future activities such as Skype sessions we hope students will feel a greater connection with their counterparts.

Networking: This includes interactions between students in both countries as well as between students and leaders in both countries.

Global Literacy: Books and media help the students understand cultural exchanges that have occurred throughout history.

Our Vision

Our vision is for this partnership to become a model for schools and NGOs to engage in sustainable education. By doing this we hope to inspire students to be leaders within and outside their immediate community. We also hope to build a global community where students have a greater understanding of each other and their respective cultures.