

Angle: The need for youth to be involved in the fight against climate change.

YOUTH'S ROLE IN CLIMATE ACTION

Aahana K Pandher attended a webinar about encouraging youth for environmental ownership and found out more about how us youths can help contribute to ecosystem restoration in Singapore that will in turn protect and revive ecosystems.



Outside of our homes is the actual home we all live in and share equally. Nature has been and is continually being exploited to meet the material demands of us people and as youths, we have the power to change the world for the better.

Keynote women speakers and Spunkgo hosted an event on the 12 of June called **Encouraging Youth for Environmental Ownership** which highlighted many issues regarding environmental deterioration and how there is the need for youths to understand such issues to bring about change. The two main speakers for this webinar were Lauren Sorkin, the executive director at Resilient Cities Network and a climate change specialist, and Simarna Singh who is also the UN Global Youth Ambassador and the sustainability consultant for the Sustainability Consult in the UAE and an international speaker on sustainability.

According to Lauren Sorkin, the earth's global temperature has increased by twice the amount since 1981. This should not come as a surprise, considering how 50% of the global population currently lives in cities, which is currently responsible for 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Simarna Singh, who was the second speaker at this webinar, also mentioned how despite there being articles dating back to the 2000s about climate change and despite the fact that 21 years have passed "we are still speaking about the same situation and this situation has only amplified and gotten worse."

By attending such events, it helps to nurture empathy among youths and be the sprightly emblem of change we can count on. Youth involvement in the fight against climate change is crucial as youth are the future of tomorrow and unfortunately they are the ones who will have to face the brunt of climate change if action is not taken in time. Therefore they feel that youths should be educated and made aware about this issue so that they too can play a part in this crucial fight against climate change.

It is really up to us, people living in concentrated city centres to make a change. Participants like Dominic Lee felt that this webinar was very useful in giving him insight into this issue. He believes that his peers and other youths should also attend such events so that they are also made aware of this pertinent issue.

As a person who came across this webinar by chance, he was not aware of the urgency of this issue prior to the session. Although the webinar was informative and has helped youths like him to stir up the motivation to do something about climate change, such events are not enough to inspire students to want to take solid steps towards climate restoration.

Indeed, confidence among youths need to be cultivated in a variety of areas, and this can start with direct engagement with the community. Youths in Singapore have been getting more passionate about such issues, as seen from how the National Youth Fund administered by the National Youth Council has increased from under \$1 million to \$3 million within three years, catering to current issues including social and environmental issues.

Despite the optimism among youths wavering at around 9% when asked about whether promptness can be achieved to address climate change in time, as much as 89% of youths think that a significant difference still can be made from their actions according to the United Nations.

Word count: 560 words

Resources

1. <https://sdgs.un.org/sdg-good-practices>
 - [This website includes a list on the global goals for sustainable development that has been set by the United Nations to help push countries towards choosing and prioritising more sustainable options and alternatives.](#)
2. <https://www.unicef.org/environment-and-climate-change/youth-action>
 - [This website by UNICEF gives me examples of initiatives by youth all over the world that are trying to advocate for change. It also includes a list of initiatives that youths can participate in to play a part in this important fight. One of the initiatives it mentions is the “Voices Of Youth”. The “Voices Of Youth” is said to be a dedicated platform for young advocates to offer inspiring and original insights on issues that matter to them.](#)
3. <https://thalesetd.medium.com/the-role-of-young-people-in-the-fight-against-climate-change-aadf0d06b496>
 - This is an article by Thales Dantas who is a Ph.D. candidate in environmental engineering (UFSC) and is also a member of the WEF Global Shapers Community Sustainability and Circular Economy specialist. This article helps to provide perspective on why youth engagement is crucial in the fight against Climate Change.
4. <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/environment-climate-change/>
 - This website gives me statistics on the different ways people and countries are being negatively affected by climate change. This website also includes details on initiatives carried out by the United Nations.