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Exploring the Potential of the Photovoice Method in Teaching Sustainable Development in Higher Education

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Abstract

Growing attention at both global and national levels is being directed toward sustainable development. Universities play a crucial role in fostering young people's understanding of sustainability principles, their significance, and their integration into everyday life. However, for this educational process to be effective, it is essential to identify appropriate teaching methods that engage students, facilitate knowledge transfer, and develop sustainability-oriented thinking, as well as the ability to apply these principles in practice.

The aim of this presentation is to reveal the potential of the photovoice method in teaching a "Sustainable Development" module to university students by actively involving them in the learning process. The presentation explores a case study of applying the photovoice method in a university setting, where students evaluated public spaces in their study city and proposed ideas for their improvement. At the end of the semester, student interviews and a content analysis of their work demonstrated that the photovoice method increased student engagement with the course and supported the application of sustainability principles in decision-making.

In conclusion, the findings suggest that the photovoice method is a valuable pedagogical approach, as it promotes active learning, critical thinking, and the practical application of sustainability concepts, thereby enhancing the overall effectiveness of sustainability education in higher education.

Keywords: Engaging Education; Photovoice; Sustainable Development