

Designing the Future of Education: Integrating Learning Experience Design with UNESCO's ESD and Global Citizenship Goals in Higher Education

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ABSTRACT

The learning experiences we deliver in higher education fundamentally shape the minds, hearts, and actions of the younger generation, serving as the cornerstone for preparing them to become the architects of a more sustainable and tolerant world. In this critical context, Learning Experience Design (LXD) has emerged as a pivotal pedagogical approach, essential for preparing students to navigate the complexities of the 21st century and contemporary civilization with an informed, tolerant, and globally aware perspective. LXD applies user-centered design principles to create educational programs that are not only effective and engaging but also deeply empathetic. LXD prioritizes understanding and addressing the emotional and experiential needs of students, ensuring that learning is not just about knowledge acquisition but about fostering deep connections to the material, to each other, and to the global challenges we face. Integral to realizing this vision is aligning LXD with the principles of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), a UNESCO initiative that empowers learners with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes essential for promoting a sustainable future emphasizing the importance of living in harmony with the Earth and with one another. It advocates for an education that encourages understanding, respect, and appreciation for diversity, cultural differences, and the value of peaceful coexistence, directly contributing to the cultivation of tolerance. This research aims to synthesize the principles of LXD with the goals of ESD, proposing a forward-looking model for designing and developing the learning experiences of the future. By doing so, we endeavor to outline how educational institutions can create a holistic learning ecosystem that not only educates students about pressing sustainability challenges but also shapes them into individuals who value tolerance, empathy, and proactive engagement with the world. The ultimate goal is to offer a blueprint for higher education that prepares students to thrive and lead in a complex, multicultural global environment, thus making a significant contribution to the sustainable development and harmony of our planet.