

Uses of Sport for Youth Violence Prevention in El Salvador

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El Salvador







**“If we lose this
generation, I fear
our nation will be
lost forever”**

(Carlos Quintanilla Schmidt - former Vice-
President of El Salvador)





**“If we are to teach
real peace in this
world . . . We shall
have to begin with
the children.”**

Mahatma Gandhi





The Role of Schools

- *World Health Report on Violence and Health*
 - multi-sectoral and collaborative approaches that integrate prevention into social and educational policies were identified as critical to the prevention of violence.





The Role of Schools (con't)

- United Nations' Secretary-General 2006 Study on Violence Against Children
 - education is one of the best development investments due to quality education's link to strengthened human capacity that supports development across all sectors, especially improved health, more vibrant economic growth, and more democratic governance.





The Role of Schools (con't)

- United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
 - Education is more than a right associated with full personal development. It is also a key factor in determining the opportunities and quality of life accessible to individuals, families and communities





Importance of Pedagogy *(Salas, 1997)*

- Most young Salvadorans leave school without the physical, social or cognitive skills necessary to make healthy choices, particularly with respect to peaceful conflict resolution
- Among the factors that incite aggressive behaviour is ... the educational environment of the school, with its rigid discipline, rote learning, and absence of proper training for teachers

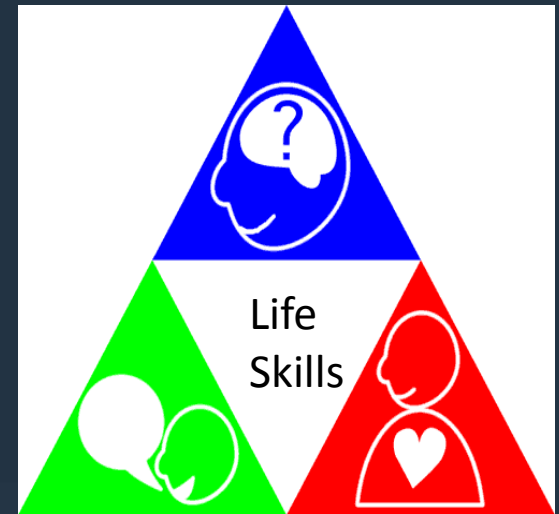




Importance of Pedagogy

- Simply telling children that it is right to make healthy choices is not enough to ensure that they will do so
- For effective transmission in an educational context, life-skills must be taught *intentionally* (Holt, 2009), and students must be given opportunities to *learn by doing* (Theokas, 2008).
- The *way* in which it is taught – the pedagogy – is critical to ensuring the desired learning impact (Coalter, 2007).
- Appropriately structured physical education opportunities in schools can enhance the development of character attributes and life skills that can help to reduce delinquent behaviours like **violence** (e.g., Andrews & Andrews, 2002; Dobosz & Beaty, 1999; Eley & Kirk, 2002; Ewing et al, 2002; Papacharisis et al., 2005)

Decision Making & Critical Thinking



Communication & Interpersonal

Coping & Self-Management



Role of Physical Education

- “Physical Education is the soul of the school.”
 - Teacher in San Salvador, El Salvador
- “Physical Education is the soul to give life to the youth”
 - Teacher in San Salvador, El Salvador
- “My students never miss a day when they have Physical Education class.”
 - Principal in El Salvador
- “I try to teach values, to motivate them to eat healthy, teach them hygiene, not only physical but also mentally. I think P.E. class can integrate a variety of topics from other areas.”
 - Teacher in Santa Ana, El Salvador





Role of Physical Education (con't)

- “Physical education is more than throwing a ball, playing soccer. It goes beyond that. It involves a series of elements such as mental health, physical health, ... the development of self-esteem ... and being able to practice other aspects such as values ... These values and principles that are taught through physical education is what will be transmitted into the homes and communities. [Physical educators] can become some sort of leader, because they will stand out.”
 - University Rector in El Salvador





Role of Physical Education (con't)

- We want to join and be part of a prevention program against violence. We need to remember that we live in a country full of violence, drugs, gangs, criminal youth. One of the reasons this is happening, it's because there are not enough outdoor activities for our teenagers, spaces and places where these children can use their free time wisely and in positive way.
 - President of Physical Education Association in El Salvador





Salud Escolar Integral: Teaching Non-Violence in El Salvador



PROMOVIENDO EL PROGRAMA

SaludEscolar INTEGRAL

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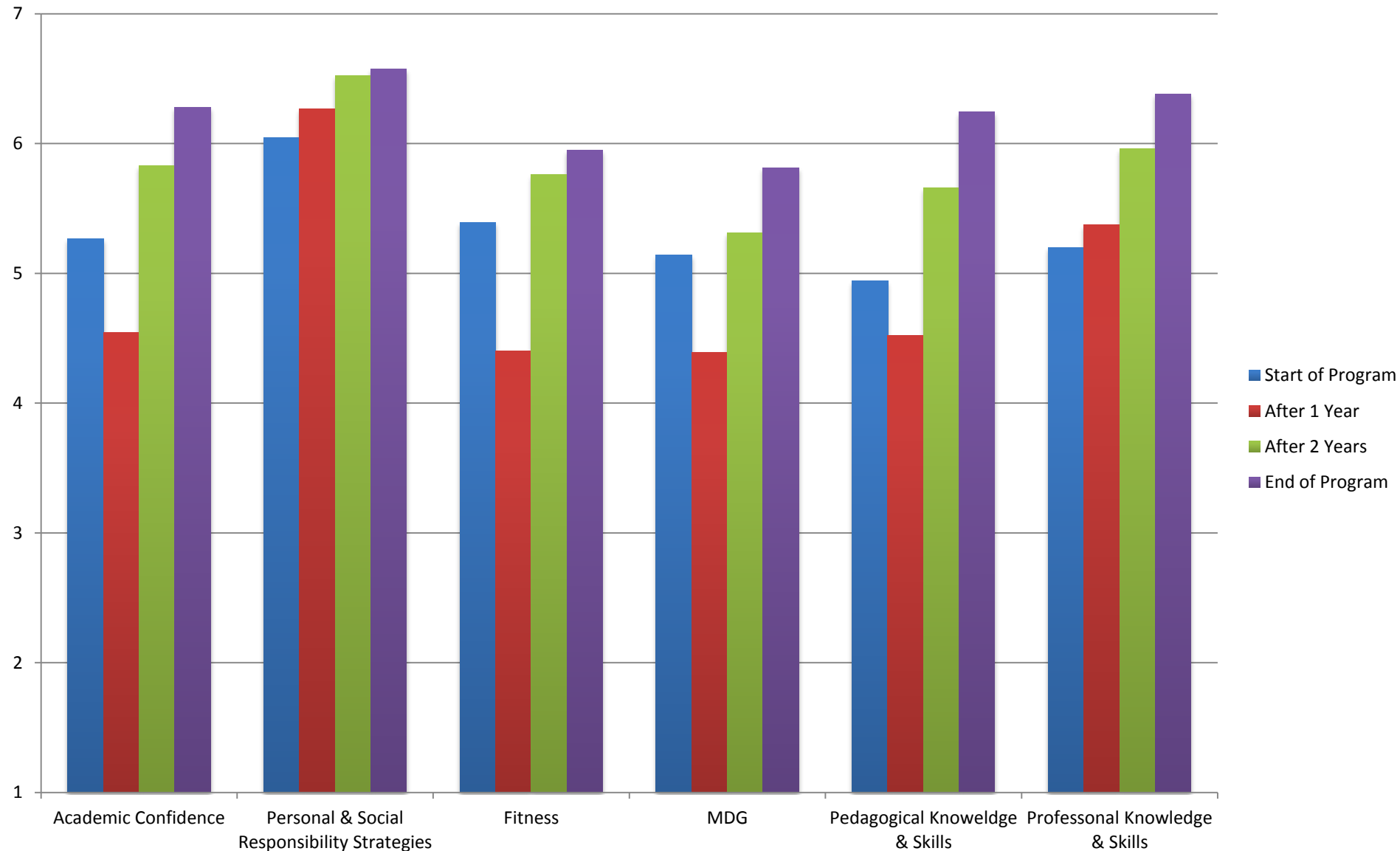


Vertical and Horizontal Curricular

	Crossing The Volcano	Chuck The Chicken	Cardio Cube	Tennis Ball Scramble	Keep It Going
Respect					
Cooperation					
Inclusion					
Fairness					
Dignity					
Non violence					



Perceived Competence Levels of First Two Graduating Cohorts







Unity Games Quotes from Teachers

- “The impact I saw is that they became more united despite that they were from different levels. There was not that thinking that they are from other level and we are not anymore. They made up with the idea that they are one school, one family. the students coexist more, they talk more, they play among themselves, they are not selfish anymore, and they include others because there at the games they saw that without know others, they got along and they established good relationships.”
- “They realized that PE is not just to get distressed but also to learn values, rules, which are taken inside a game and to work as a team, and to see what good things we can get from everything. They saw that it helped them to socialize with other people and that we do not have to judge others if we do not know them because they knew people from other countries, they socialized with them , and it helped them in the school and in their lives.”



Unity Game Quotes from Students

- We learned “... that we can get along well with others ... and that we can work together with other people we don’t know”
- “We were making remarks when we were on our way back home that it had been a great experience for us, the games, all the other students, to remember childhood, to be united, and we would like to go again.”
- “We also learned about confidence exercises.”
- We learned “... values. We are remembered to practice them always.”



Niagara Unity Games 2010



London Unity Games 2011



**El Salvador Unity Games
2010 & 11**



Niagara JumpStart Games 2011



**DSBN Give Where You Live
Unity Games 2011**









Our Lessons Learned to Date

- Regular Collaboration and Presence
- A Strong Commitment to Communicate
- Enthusiastic and Energetic Embracing of Key Stakeholders
- Multi-Sectoral
- Infrastructure – Capacity - Sustainability
- Sense of Urgency
- Open to non-Traditional Groups & Agencies
- Rely on Local Knowledge
- Optimize Resources
- Local Values NOT Imposition of Our Values
- Evidence-Based Decisions
- TIME





Gracias

Merci

Kiitos

Danke

Ta

Thank-You

Arigato

Mikwec

Diolch

Mese

Vandane

Toda

Nakorami

Baniha

