

Integration of Subsidiarity and Participation into Year 6 HASS Unit



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Context

Year Level: Six

Term 3 2016

Curriculum Area: Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS)

Unit: Australia's System of Government

The objective of the unit was to give students a basic understanding of Australia's system of government and to prepare them for their upcoming trip to the nation's capital (Canberra).

Throughout the unit, students were required to investigate societal changes, explore the development of democracy and explain the importance of making informed decisions.

Principle of Catholic Social Teaching: Subsidiarity and Participation

What is Subsidiarity and Participation?

Subsidiarity: the principle that a central authority should have a subsidiary function, performing only those tasks which cannot be performed at a more local level.

Participation: the act or instance of taking part.

Links to CST Principle – Subsidiarity and Participation

- The concept of democracy.
- The development of the three levels of government in Australia and their individual responsibilities.
- The importance of accurate representation in government i.e. fair and just election processes.
- The development of voting rights i.e. women's rights and Indigenous Australian's rights.
- The importance of making informed decisions.
- The responsibilities of people in positions of power.

CST Objective

Students will develop age-appropriate understandings about the CST principle of Subsidiarity and Participation.

Particularly, how Subsidiarity and Participation empowers them to have an active voice in matters that affect their lives and encourages them to advocate for the voice of others.

Unit Planning

Planning process:

- Research
- Brainstormed ideas and searched for relevant resources.
- Recorded objective and lesson ideas in a specific planning document.
- Added a extra column within the existing unit, to indicate where intentionally planned CST discussions or activities would best fit.

Getting Started

Pre-test questions

- What are Subsidiarity and Participation?
- How do they relate to your life?
- What actions can be taken to improve Subsidiarity and Participation in our school community?

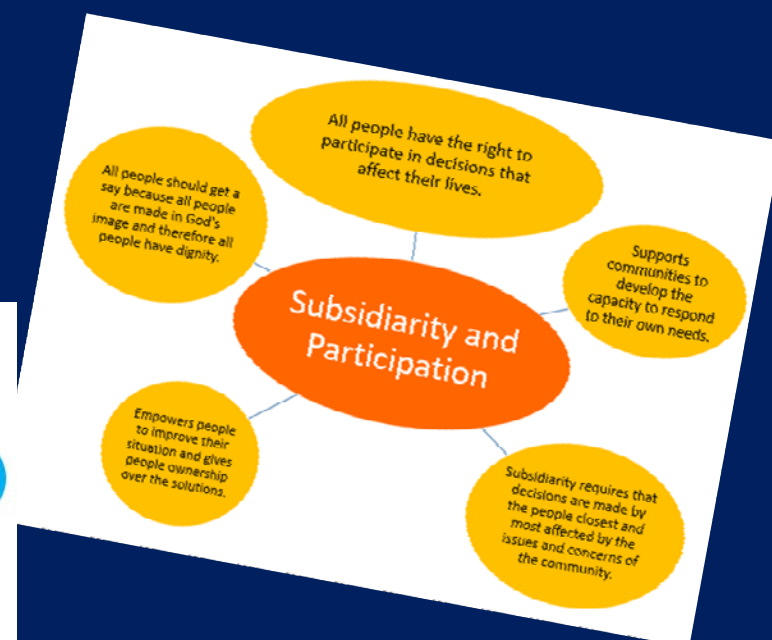
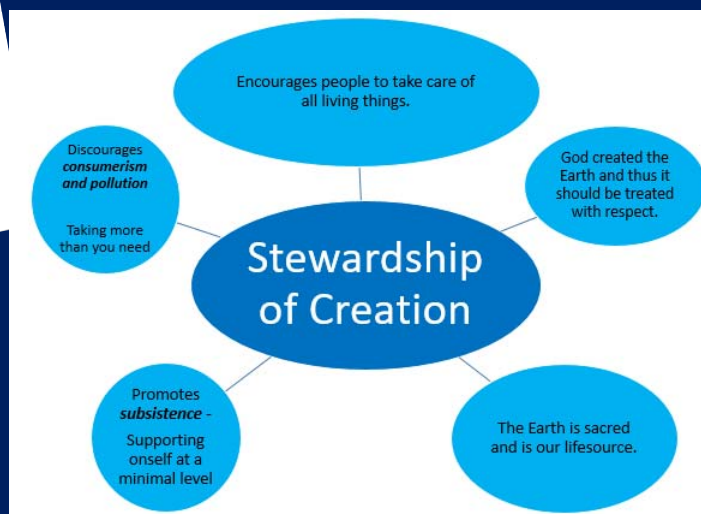
Shelby

Catholic Social Teaching

- What are Subsidiarity and Participation?
Participating is when you join in on a game or something.
I'm not sure what the other word means.
- How do they relate to your life?
I participate in school activities such as the choir and the musical.
- What actions can be taken to improve Subsidiarity and Participation in our school community?
I'm not really sure. Teachers could encourage more students to participate in more school activities.

Getting Started

Introduction Catholic Social Teaching



Planned Activities

Case Studies

Sally's Say

Sally is a 32-year-old mother of two who lives in Queensland. Before she had her two children, Connor and Harry, she had a very successful career as a lawyer. Now that her children are a bit older, Connor, 3 and Harry, 7, she would like to return to work. Sally's Husband, John, has a full time job as an accountant and he works very long hours, so she is only interested in part time work because she feels that she needs to have some days at home with Connor, her youngest.

The national census picked up that Sally's situation is not uncommon, so the _____ government contacted her and other mothers to be a part of a focus group.

In the focus group, Sally and the other mothers were asked to share their thoughts about the following issues:

- Day care availability
- Day care affordability
- Family benefits and payments
- Availability of part-time work for both mothers and fathers

Sally and the other mothers were also asked to offer any ideas or solutions that they had for a variety of problems. The information that they provided was used by the _____ to help make policy decisions.

Which level of government do you think invited Sally to be a part of a focus group?

Which principle/s of Catholic Social Teaching are evident in this story?

Whose voice did the _____ listen to?

- a) The elderly
- b) The indigenous
- c) The young
- d) Women
- e) Mothers

Why do you think the Federal Government was interested in hearing Sally's opinion?

Ronnie's Railway

Ronnie is a 47-year-old woman who lives in Murrumba Downs and works as a secretary on the Redcliffe Peninsula. Many years ago, Ronnie was injured in car accident and sustained a spinal cord injury and because of this, she now uses a wheelchair to get around.

Ronnie relies heavily on public transport and currently has to catch two buses to get to and from work each day. She had heard that the _____ were considering establishing a new railway line between Petrie and Redcliffe and was very excited about the news, because it would make her commute much easier.

Ronnie decided to write an email to the _____ to share her story. In her email she outlined what a big difference the railway would make to her quality of life and urged them to approve the new railway.

Ronnie's email was passed on to the Premier of Queensland, who used the letter to further the cause in a parliamentary meeting.

Which level of government do you think Ronnie wrote to?

Which principle/s of Catholic Social Teaching are evident in this story?

Whose voice did the _____ listen to?

- a) The elderly
- b) The indigenous
- c) The young
- d) Women
- e) People who are disabled/handicapped

Why do you think the Premier used the letter in a parliamentary meeting?

Tower Activity



Slogan Vote

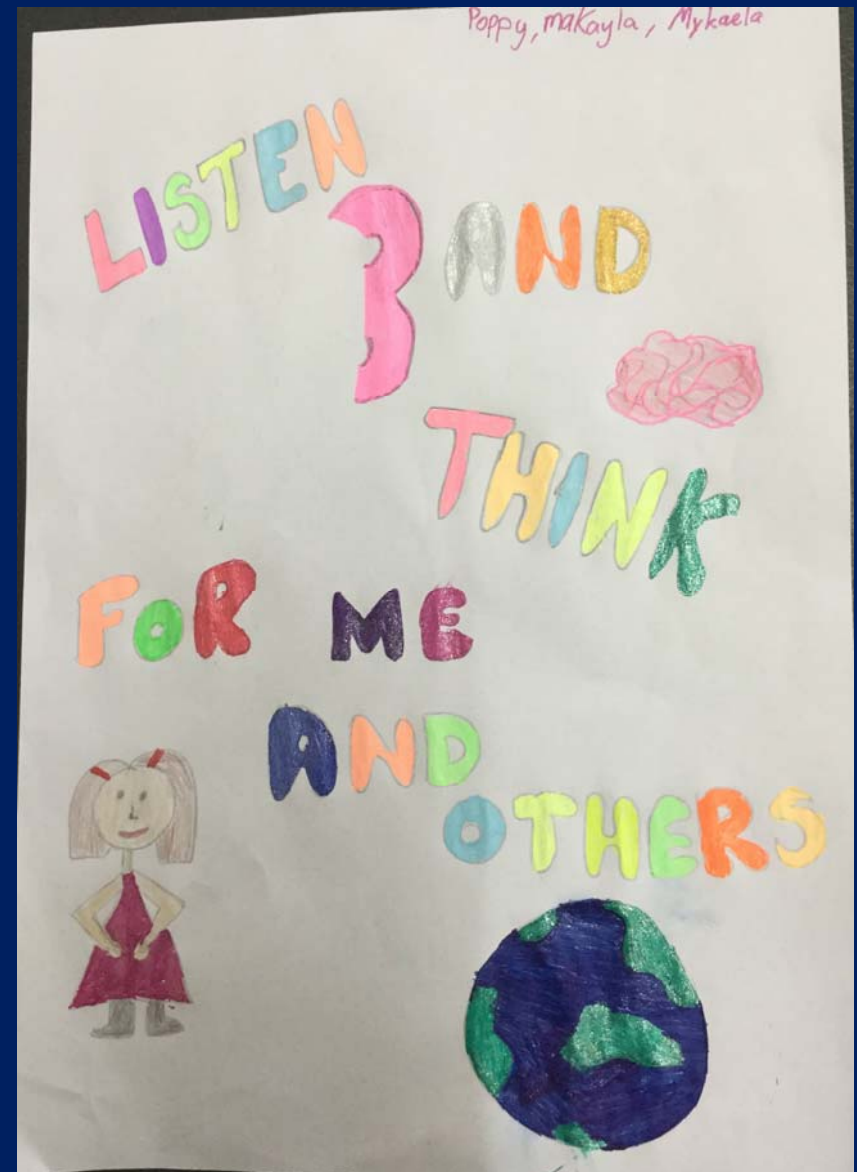
List 1- Subsidiarity

1. "Decision makers should visit communities and listen to the people who are affected by a problem."
2. "Decision makers should stay in their office and make decisions without talking to anyone."
3. "Decision makers should do whatever is easiest."
4. "Decision makers should only listen to the people who are the loudest."

List 2- Participation

1. "When I am asked to help out in the community I should just let the leaders or decision makers do it."
2. "When I am asked what I think about a decision, I should think carefully and give my perspective."
3. "When I am asked what I think about a decision, I should think carefully for my family and myself, but also for those who are less privileged than I am."

“Decision makers should visit communities and listen to the people who are affected by a problem. When I am asked what I think about a decision, I should think carefully for my family and myself, but also for those who are less privileged than I am.”



History of Voting

- Which principle of CST was not being upheld when women and indigenous people were not entitled to vote?
- Were there voices being heard?
- Were their interests being represented?
- Are there any groups of people who do not vote?
- What does this mean for their voice? in politics?

Daily News Break

Student Learning Outcomes

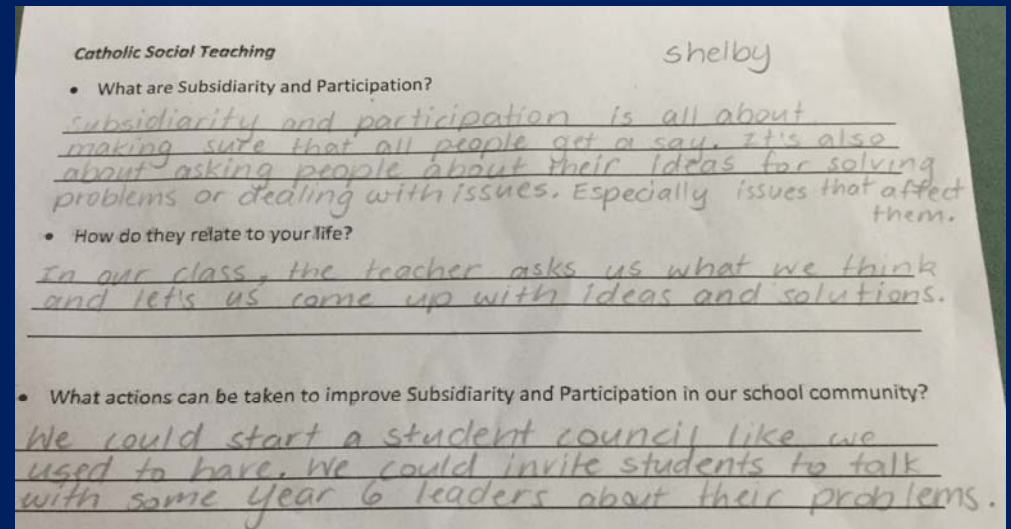
Planned assessment:

Post-test questions

- What are Subsidiarity and Participation?
- How do they relate to your life?
- What actions can be taken to improve Subsidiarity and Participation in our school community?

Authentic assessment:

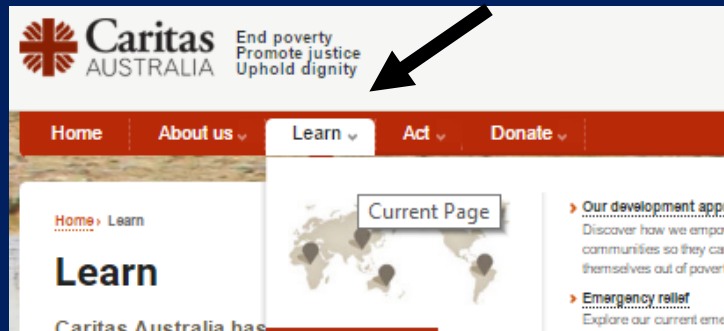
Change in student disposition – active voice in school community



Resources

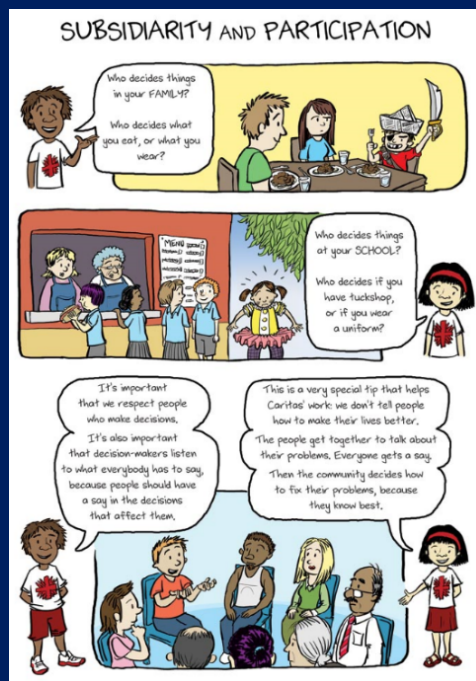
Teacher Background:

- Caritas website (Learn tab)
- The Australian Catholic Social Justice Council (ACSJC) website



Lesson resources:

- Teachers Media



Teacher Reflections

Strengths

- Introductory phase is useful.
- Teacher knowledge and disposition is crucial to the successful integration of CST.
- Accessing quality resources is essential.
- Not as difficult as first anticipated.
- Less is more!

Weaknesses

- Difficult to give the learning a distinctly Catholic flavour – distinguishing the learning from what might be taught in any school.
- Difficult to assess growth.
- Difficult to extend learning beyond superficial understanding, as it is such a complex principle.

Implications for Future Planning

- Consider timing
- Improve content knowledge
- Alter the case studies
- Focus on advocacy
- Authentic assessment opportunities
- Collaborate with others in the school
- Look for other opportunities to link CST

Questions



Thank you