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Creating Environmental Awareness through the Youth: A Case Study of Don Bosco College, Kohima

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Abstract:

In the present scenario, due to anthropogenic activities, environmental degradation is taking place at an alarming rate resulting in various environment issues. The younger generations including students are the effective media to bring enormous changes in the society. Hence, creating awareness about the environment to the young minds is the vital step in generating environment responsibility in the society at large.

Education has considerable power to help individual reconsider environmentally harmful lifestyles and behaviors. Therefore, environmental education can contribute significantly to the solution of environmental problems. Don Bosco College, Kohima, Nagaland through its various clubs is rendering services in creating environmental awareness and in that way has provided facilities to foster the development of the youth as responsible citizens in relation to the environment.

The paper therefore, will highlight the various steps taken by the college in fostering environmental awareness and responsibility among the students. This paper will examine the issue of changes in behavioral patterns of the students and in generating new research avenues in the field of environmental education.

Keywords: Environmental Awareness, Environmental Education, Environmental Responsibility, Behavioral Pattern.

Introduction:

Today's youth are the agents of change. They represent hope of the present and future as they are tomorrow's leaders. Young people have a greater stake in the future because the future belongs to them, they are more environmentally conscious and have more access to information than the seniors. They are thus well placed to advocate environmental issues and spread its awareness as they have been living in an era where environment protection is in prime focus.

Progress towards sustainable environment is dependent upon a fundamental change in youths' attitude to nature and the environment (Sukhwinder: 2013). The role of education institutions in relation to environmental sustainability is more prevalent as it is essential to impart and reinforce the environment respecting moral values in the young minds (Brynjegard: 2001). Over the past 15 years or so, educational institutions across the world have been encouraged to mobilize students and to take a more active participation in local, national and global processes towards environmental sustainability issues (UNESCO: 2012). Learning more about the environment generally means learning more about what we have done to the environment rather than what we have done to care for it. To become involved in respecting nature and protecting the environment over the long term, people need to have a sense of hope and gratification from environmental instructions (Stewart: 2001). However, instead of focusing on environmental protection, educational institutions across the world were compelled to work

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