

Environmental Degradation and Sustainable development in Nigeria: The Need for Environmental Education.

Chukwuma Patrick Nwabudike, Z. Onyinyechi Omenma and Emmanuel Eze
Department of social science education, faculty of education, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Abstract

Environmental hazard poses major threat to humanity and development. Nigeria government has put in place environmental programme and policies to restore environmental quality and to sustain it, but much has not been achieved. The Environment has been seriously and continuously subjected to enormous degradation due to natural and man-made activities which has rendered it unhealthy and non-habitable. Findings show that the present government attitude towards the environment is still highly unsustainable despite the modicum of efforts of the Nigeria government to raise people's awareness on the right type of attitude towards the environment through series of conferences, seminars and workshop. This paper aims to bridge the knowledge gap in the students attitude towards the environment with the demonstration of environmental friendly strategies in the school environment, through the active participation of the teachers and learners in the practice of and following the environmental friendly strategies – planting of trees, practice conservation, conserve water, use less fossil fuel product, reduce the use of harmful chemicals, avoiding of plastic bags, join environmental groups, and attitude towards stop littering. We adopted descriptive survey research design, simple random sampling techniques was used to sample five schools in the Niger delta area of Delta State, being a state that suffers most of these natural and man-made disaster on their environment. In conclusion, inculcation of these environment friendly strategies to the younger generation through environmental education will enhance the attitudinal change that is essential for healthy and sustainable environment. This paper recommends Environmental education as the most viable tool to develop responsible attitude and behavior to achieve sustainable development goals in Nigeria.

Keywords

Education, Environment, Degradation, Sustainable Development