

DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM: A CASE OF COASTAL AREAS

WALAI PANICH

Center for Environmental Education Research, Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok 10330, Thailand

The people's relationships with their environment are influenced by their values and attitudes. It is through the change in their values and attitudes that they can take initiatives of influencing the condition of the environment. The present environmental problems oblige a man to re-exam his values and actions to ensure man's survival in the surroundings. Thus, recognizing the importance of the environment, having an awareness of environmental issues, and forming values and attitudes and then acting a responsible caretaker of the environment are the first priorities. How can we achieve the aim? Environmental education is well recognized as the pathways for forming certain values and attitudes towards the environmental realities. Schools are the important agents for setting environmental education programs. Multidisciplinary model is appeared to be appropriate for conceptual framework in program development as it follows integrated approach stated in the Basic Education Curriculum B.E. 2544. Community-based environmental education program is designed to incorporate environmental education and student participation with the emphasis on experiential learning which involves students in the critical thinking process to promote student active participation in the environmental issues. To meet the objectives of environmental education, living in harmony with nature is framed to be the key guiding concept infused across-curriculum for environmental education program developers.