



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND WORLD SCOUTING

Robert Baden-Powell: *“Nature study is the key activity in Scouting and Guiding”*

Environmental education is learning about environmental protection and its sustainability. Campaigns such as anti-littering, tree plantation, environment protection that are regularly implemented in our local communities and societies. These kind of initiatives where citizens clean up towns and cities do not just have the effect of cleanliness but a source of encouragement which helps citizens to act in a responsible way and to appreciate public goods. The assumption of responsibility by every individual plays a central role in the achievement of environmentally responsible behavior.



Waste avoidance, resource conservation, energy efficiency and the protection of land, water, air and biodiversity – environmental education and communication will play a key role in shaping a sustainable society in the 21st century. Global networking means that many platforms, especially schools, media and **Scouting**, will spread the message. More efforts are required regarding the importance of environmental issues in our everyday lives and the behavior of every single citizen, and communicate these issues more effectively. From a sustainability point of view Global environmental issues, such as the greenhouse effect, the decimation of biological diversity and the consumption of finite resources can only be solved on the basis of more intensive cooperation, nationally as well as internationally. People with an understanding of the ecological, economic and social correlations at global level are needed to overcome these challenges.

Environmental literacy depends on a personal commitment and motivation to help ensure environmental quality and quality of life. This commitment and motivation often begins with an awareness of one’s immediate surroundings. Environmental education helps learners achieve environmental literacy, which has attitude and behavior components in addition to a knowledge component. Thus, the goal of environmental education is to instill in learners knowledge about the environment, positive attitudes toward the environment, competency in citizen action skills, and a sense of empowerment. Effective programs empower learners with skills to help prevent and address environmental issues and with a sense of personal and civic responsibility. Awareness and knowledge of environmental processes and systems play an important role in environmental education. But awareness and knowledge alone do not make a program an environmental education program. And when considering the goal of environmental education (environmental literacy and its accompanying responsible environmental behavior), research shows that knowledge and attitudes are not the only variables at play. While knowledge and attitudes alone don’t help or harm the environment, human behaviors do. Environmental communication techniques and social marketing theories can also be used to successfully address behavior change environmental education to involve a learning

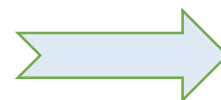
progression from awareness to action. Learning progression is not necessarily linear nor is it hierarchical. As learners develop and apply analysis and action skills, as they have the opportunity to make their own decisions and think more critically about their choices and as they hear stories of success, they are learning that what they do individually and in groups can make a difference by effective environmental education programs need to meet the needs of the audience. Changes in knowledge, attitude, intentions, and behaviors of program participants are of interest. This workshop will raise the awareness of the participants about the environment and mostly to play their individual and collective role in enabling a safer and environment even for our next generations.



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND SCOUTING

Scouting and outdoor activities allows an unstructured exploration, encourage interest and generate awareness. Experience based activities that promote environmental learning. These could be practical, physical or achievement based activities. Experience based activities that encourage critical thinking about environmental issues and lead to shared awareness and deepened understanding of the individual responsibility for the environment. Where possible activities should encourage thinking about how the five aims connect with each other. **Scouting** based programs focuses on the environment in a broader perspective and encourages the Scouts to have a holistic awareness of the natural world and how their day-to-day actions can impact upon this, progressively building a sense of personal responsibility for the environment. **Scouts** or **Scouting** can act as change makers within the societies where everyone is connected with one another for single cause, i.e. to make this environment as safe and protective as possible.

The environment is central to the **Scouting** and a key element of developing good citizens of the world. Since Scouting began, young people have been connecting with the outdoors, learning from nature and taking positive action for their local and global environment. There are many more environmental challenges today than when Scouting started, making it even more important to keep the environment central to Scouting, to build on the momentum already established and to make Scouting a positive force for change. Scouting plays an important role in connecting people with the natural world, especially given the increasing separation of young people from the natural environment. With nearly 50% of the world's population living in urban settings, it is important to incorporate the 'bigger picture' of the environment, which includes more than just plants, animals and conservation. Helping Scouts to see the relationship between their actions in an urban setting and the natural world is an important element of environment education.



AIMS OF ENVIRONMENT BASED SCOUTING

Scouts are working towards a world where they have a chance to engage themselves with the nature and the environment and to make informed choices about the environment, people and society, choices that reflect the Scout Promise and Law:

- ✚ People and natural systems have clean water and clean air
- ✚ Sufficient natural habitat exists to support native species
- ✚ The risk of harmful substances to people and the environment are minimized
- ✚ The most suitable environmental practices are used
- ✚ People are prepared to respond to environmental hazards and natural disasters

Learning based trainings and workshops seeks to create an awareness of personal responsibility for the environment. Also encourages Scouts to connect with nature, think about how we interact with the environment and take action to protect it. The environment is a global subject and the main focuses will be learning about local and global issues and how taking local action to help both of these. Also to create the sense of personal responsibility for the environment on continual basis. By achieving environment based training and skills is the first step in awakening enthusiasm for the natural world and creating a generation of Scouts who care about the environment and are prepared to take action to protect it.

SCOUTING THROUGH SCENES

As part of the World Scout Environment Program, there is a renewed emphasis on SCENES (*Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature and Environment*) and the SCENES Network to provide a valuable resource to engage Scouts in learning about and caring for our environment. The function of the SCENES Network is:

- ✚ To support Scout Centres wishing to improve their environmental management practices or environmental education programs
- ✚ To share best practices, ideas and experiences among SCENES Centres
- ✚ To support the development of environmental education resources for use in SCENES Centres
- ✚ To distribute local environmental information through the Network

CREATING BEHAVIOURIAL CHANGE

Past experiences with other solar projects especially with Youth proposed the understanding that the best learning effects and greatest motivation are achieved when there is a process of self-learning and doing things on their own. Also they get more motivated if they are able to learn something and become active themselves in order to make a difference. To promote behavioral change following practices could be useful too:

- ✚ Focus to be on specific and achievable behavioral change
- ✚ Encourage action planning and development
- ✚ Challenge negative behavior and tackles barriers to action
- ✚ Encourage participants to scrutinize the current behavior and how they can change it
- ✚ Practice skills until it become a habit
- ✚ Get families and communities involved
- ✚ Make commitments, monitor change and celebrate & encourage success

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