

How to Promote the Environmental Education Among Young People in China

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ABSTRACT

In recent few decades, due to China's booming development, China's overall national strength has increased significantly, each field becomes better—economy, education, people's life quality and so on. Environment-related to all of these. Country's development needs sources, both natural sources and talents, exploring natural resources means environmental damage, as it cannot be avoided, people should know how to protect the environment to the largest extent. Environmental education should not be limited to those who work in the environmental field or who study related fields; it should begin with children. This paper will talk about how to promote environmental education among young people in China. First, this paper shows the environmental situation in China now, and then purposed some ideas about how to universe environmental education to teenagers. Education should start when people were born, imperceptible education from childhood can leave their mind of environmental protection, this is the aim of environmental education.

Keywords: *Environmental education, environment protection, teenager education, China.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental education has been created due to the environmental situations. The 21s century can be defined as the age of the 'Global Environmental Crisis'. In this time, incalculable environmental and social issues challenge society's power to work out or completely solve these problems. Due to these global issues being highly complex, correlative and interdependence, they need a new method to understand, manage and think about the relationship between the human and nature world[1]. Therefore, environmental education shows a more vital role. In China, the environmental education fields emerged in the 1970s, which aims to cultivate the publics with environmental knowledge, have the skills and would like to solve the environmental problems[1]. Nowadays, the environmental situation has been concerned by more people, the environmental problems are urgent for the human to save, for example, the air quality decline, the water pollution, the ozone depletion, and so on. All of these issues are related and influence people's life, for keeping the biological balance and having a higher life quality, saving these problems are imminent. Focus on China, environment education is not a strange world in China, but it is not very common to see in schools in China, especially around young people—

not most primary and middle schools have environmental education classes. The aim of this paper is through the study of the current environmental education situation in China and purpose some ideas about how to promote this education in a young people group.

2. THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN CHINA

China is a developing country, which as several environmental problems are waiting for people to save, or find the balance between the countries' development and the biological environment's protection. As one of the developing countries with the largest population and the fastest growing around the world, and has a high correlation with the current and future's people's life quality questions. China has always experienced water, air, soil and noise pollution, desertification and the biological extinction of some rare species and many other kinds of environmental issues[2]. In recent years, China's economy shows a rapid growth trend, which is undoubtedly based on the over-exploitation of resources, consumption, and the pollution of the living environment[3]. As shown on the table, it list three of the environmental pollution issues' data in China in 2017, the huge emission quantity increase the environmental stress.

Environmental issues in 2017	Carbon dioxide emission	Particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) air pollution, mean annual exposure	Total greenhouse gas emission
Emission quantity	7.175 metrics tons per capita	52.665 micrograms per cubic meter	12058050kt of Co2 equivalent

Source: The World Bank [9]

<https://data.worldbank.org/country/china>

The Chinese government has already made some strategies to stemming the Chinese environment changing speed, which includes environmental legislation and the measure of population control. The success of these measures shows the closed relationship between the extent of understanding by populations to the environment. Thus, improving education and awareness has been regarded as the vital components of the Chinese environmental strategies. Environmental education is a kind of education that focuses on the relationship between humans and the environment[3]. Through cultivating citizens' environmental awareness, realize the importance of the ecological environment in economic development and social life, thus internalized ecological values to deal with environmental issues, which aims to achieve environmental protection and societies' sustainable development[4].

The environmental education sources from social's requirements, the aim of education is to improve students' environmental protection awareness, and then develop good behaviour. Environmental education does not think only cognitive learning is vital[5], cognitive learning is a way for people to learn the knowledge actively, and the amount of people's recognition and understanding are optional. Oppositely, it puts more emphasis on attitude, value and behaviour changes, therefore, it is a valuable study. There are three ways to propagandize environmental education to young people[5].

3. WAYS TO PROPAGANDIZE THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE

3.1. As a part of their daily class

Firstly, schools and teachers take environmental education as a part of their daily classes. In December 1978, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China approved the 'main points of environmental protection work report' notice that 'common middle school and primary school need to add the environmental protection into the content of courses.' After that, in the

state of primary, secondary and high school curriculum and teaching materials such as primary school nature, middle school geography, biological, physical and other subjects have started to write with the environmental protection words. Here is an example about how the environmental education can be integrated with the middle school's chemistry classes[6]. There are abundant contents of environmental education in current chemistry textbooks of middles schools. Teachers should fully excavate the inner factors of teaching materials and combine chemistry teaching with environmental education organically. For example, when teachers talk about the knowledges of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and so on, they can also introduce the air pollution, the formation of the acid rain, greenhouse effect and many other damages—it is necessary to highlight the protection and governance which can get the positive and corresponding education effect while introducing the environmental pollution,. Also, with the courses practice, teachers could join some environmental knowledge into practices, through the calculation of specific digitals to let students know the relationship between human's activity and environment[7]. Although it is impossible to make this as one of the formal individual class for teenagers immediately, but it is possible to have the environmental education class as one of the after class extension interest course, students can choose this class based on their interest.

3.2. Carry out extracurricular extension courses

Secondly, schools and teachers carry students out for extracurricular extension courses. Schools and teachers take students to some nature park and places to enjoy nature will let them know how important the nature is, and students will realize that the environmental education played what great extend of the vital role. Through play the 'modal of multi-modes knowledge', this method could support for teachers, and then promote the trade between students and outdoor environment, finally help them to build the continuity between outdoor and indoor

study activities[8]. For example, after the necessary courses down, school could gather students go outside of the teaching building, to parks, or more remote places—to see the pure natural landscape. Let students know that their life do not only have high buildings and large mansions, book knowledges and electronic products, nature environment is also an unseparated in their life. Trees and birds are people's friends, after stressful learning, nature could make students relax completely. How to stay with nature is also vital in their life, students enjoy to play with nature places, they will know more about how nature environment important is, then they would like to protect the environment for their heart, real feeling bring them more strength influence than reading and leasing in classes—this takes different life experience with books and words. After back to classes, teachers can show students some pictures, videos, and data about the environment pollution, let students realise protect environment is urgent for China. And in the future, these students will be the main power to do the environmental protection. Then through these series of actions, not spend many time, students get relax, and the environmental education has been promote to teenagers, this is a process.

3.3. Take students to visit some factories

Thirdly, take students to visit some factories. Let teenager know the society is developing, it is necessary to have lots of factories, a number of factories will take pollution to the country, this cannot be avoid, while through the technology development and some better ideas has been purposed, the country will not have much pollution as before. Young people are the future of the country, they will know how important they are, and they will study hard to make their country become better while not have much pollution. As a developing country, China needs to build lots of factories to develop country's economy and provide better life quality for people. Many of these factories will release pollution gas or water into the nature environment, this cannot be avoid and solve completely. While with the popularity of education and development of science technology, an increasing number of people hold more knowledges, and purposed a lot of ideas to decline the industries' pollution—use sola energy to replace the traditional energy, the carbon dioxide emission decreasing a lot; and use wind energy to create wind power generation, this method does not need any energy consumption while provide for country's development and people's daily life, the air pollution become less than before. These new creates help China get lesser environmental pollution than before, but these are not enough—the wind power energy exists many uncertainty, which means it cannot replace the coal and some other traditional nature sources completely, therefore, the country still need more talents to put more better ideas about how to decline the pollution in factories and find more suitable ways to

produce the energy for country and publics. Students go to visit the factories could give them more profound and clear experience and understanding. This based on the situational teaching theoretical. This theoretical believes that students learning activity cannot leave the external environment which components of certain material and spiritual factories from beginning to end. This is the scene that study activities required. This kind of situational always choose the real one, something such as the problems and cliffhangers it raises is a good way of the internal motivation to stimulate and lead students to try the rational thinking. It could also enhance students' feeling in different aspects at the same time. If the case happens near from the students, or looks just like happens in their normal life, will let students know more about the problems they need to solve and raise their feeling about as the mater of the country and its future[8].

4. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the environmental education is one of the vital courses in China, while there are still a lots of work waiting to do—how to make this education join into students' daily classes formally and do not let them feel this is complex and far away from them. This is one of the biggest problems, it is not easy to find the solve way—teenagers always have lots work to do, and too many students are not light for teachers to manage when they go outside of school. Therefore, these methods to let students go outside have some limitations—manage difficulty, student safe and so on. To reduce those risks, school could hold some speeches for students in school hall, and let students to go outside with their family or friends to visit some environment changes and protection exhibitions and felling how beautiful and comfortable a well-protected environmental atmosphere is, take this as their after school social practice experiences. these can make them relax and know the importance of the environmental protection. Although China faces many mass and uncertainty issues right now, it is still unignored to promote the environmental education to teenagers in China. The environmental education cannot only leave on books and screens, “Lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets.” said by President Xi. Teenagers should go outside, go to the nature places, feel the charm of nature, see how the country make effort to create and develop the local industries—adjust measures to local conditions, the nature environment does not been damaged while the local economy become better. Combine the books and real environment can make teenagers remember and understand most clearly. Education is the basement of a country' s development, so it is important to popularized environmental education among young people — teenagers know the environmental education when they are young and before they get the higher education, they could choose environmental governance as their study purpose, even

become their lifelong career. And this will make China gets better development in the future.

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