

PERCEPTIONS OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS AND PRACTICES OF PALOMPON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PALOMPON, LEYTE PHILS.: IMPLICATIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT: The Philippine Environment Policy (Presidential Decree No. 1151) has declared a continuing policy of the state (a) to create, develop, maintain and improve conditions under which man and nature can thrive in productive and enjoyable harmony with each other, (b) to fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Filipinos, and (c) to insure the attainment of an environment quality that is conducive to a life of dignity and well-being. The respondents as faculty who were surveyed were moderately concerned about the environment. Majority of the respondents were generally concerned about the destruction of rainforest, the destruction of ozone layer, GM foods, the dumping of hazardous waste. They were least worried about the loss of wetlands, hunting, and nitrate pollution. Thus, the perception of faculty on environmental concerns and practices in four colleges of PIT, Palompon, Leyte as surveyed, the results were quite different from various surveys among the students. In the survey, the students were most concerned about the economy ranked as the first, then the environment, and the unemployment came next. In other words, the concern of the faculty on environment went beyond their personal experience.

KEYWORDS: Environment, rainforest, wetlands, ozone layer, GM foods.

INTRODUCTION

The Philippines have extensive environmental problems due to the lack of environmental awareness and many people are trying to do something about these. We hail these individuals, groups, communities, and organizations doing their share to make their little patch of earth more sustainable.

We often read from the newspapers, see in televisions and heard over the radio several environmental calamities. Our forests are being denuded; land, water and air are being polluted. The protective ozone layer is being destroyed. The earth's climate is warming due to increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Many species of plants and animals are getting extinct. These and many more are our concerns [Deauna and Dorado, 1996].

Aware of these environmental problems, the Secretary of Science and Technology has challenged the science community to harness the powerful potentials of science and technology for the judicious management of the environment. As we reel from the effects of our own destructive practices in our quest for profit and material enrichment, we are continually enjoined to harness.

Science and technology in forging action plans for regeneration and development since knowledge and understanding derived from the life sciences can provide the foundation for the judicious management of the environment needed in ensuring the daily survival of humanity.

Likewise it supports the Pres. Decree No. 1152 sec. 53 states that Department of Education and Culture shall integrate subjects on environmental education in its school curricula at all levels. It shall also endeavor to conduct special community education emphasizing the relationship of man and nature as well as environmental sanitation and practices.

With regards to Palompon Institute of Technology (PIT) as an Institution of higher learning who's educational program primarily aims to provide quality education of the maritime industry and allied technological occupations and social services and has been encountered many ecological problems like pollution, waste disposal, and deforestation. But the most serious problems as perceived by the students and faculty are the waste disposal garbage.

Thus, this study on perceptions of faculty and students on environmental concerns and practices has to be conducted and can be represented as an analysis towards environmental education in PIT Palompon, Leyte.

OBJECTIVES

This study was aim to identify environmental concerns and practices as perceived by the faculty and students in four colleges of PIT Palompon, Leyte and their implication to environmental education.

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

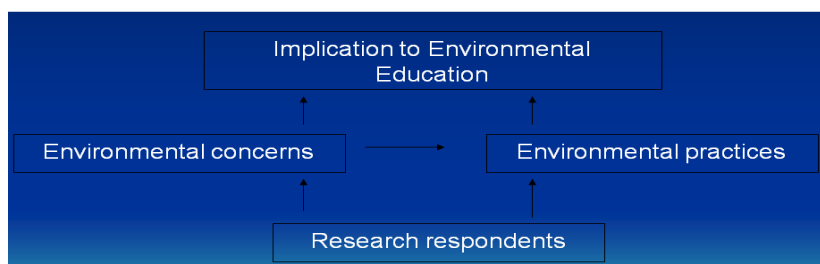
1. In what extent that the four colleges of PIT, Palompon, Leyte perceived in terms of;
 - 1.1 environmental concerns
 - 1.2 environmental practices
2. Is there a significant correlation between the environmental concerns and practices to the perception in four colleges of PIT, Palompon, Leyte.
3. What are the implications can be drawn to achieve environmental education in PIT, Palompon, Leyte?

RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

There is a significant correlation between the environmental concerns and practices to the perception in four colleges of PIT Palompon, Leyte.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The figure below illustrates the analysis of environmental concerns and practices of the sampled faculty and students of PIT Palompon, Leyte and their implication to environmental education.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

It was the researcher's strong belief that the result of the study was beneficial to the following:

School Officials/Administrators of PIT

The findings of this study helped the members in encouraging people in sorting out their waste and other environmental practices like reusing and recycling of material components.

The Education

The result of the study could be a great help to teachers, students, school personnel, and members of the family to provide information on public views on a wide range of environmental issues.

Individual Concerns

The results of the study could help change their way of life so that future generations can continue to enjoy a good quality of life and environment. These give it great potential to contribute environmental education in the campus.

METHODOLOGY

Methods Used

A descriptive-normative cross-sectional survey method of investigation was used in this study. It was a method of describing phenomena based on the collection of data and statistical analysis of numerical values.

Research Respondents

The respondents of this study were the faculty and students in four colleges of PIT Palompon, Leyte and stratified random sampling was used to select samples.

Research Instrument

The main instrument of this study was the questionnaire. This was provided a profile of the sampled faculty and students with regards to their perceptions about the environment and the environmental concerns and practices. The perception of these respondents could also shed light on the understanding and implementation of environmental education in PIT Palompon, Leyte.

Research procedure

The procedure used in this study was patterned mostly from the study of Ragrario (2005).

The questionnaire was distributed to sampled students and faculty of PIT who were then asks about their environmental concerns and practices. The respondents were given two weeks to answer the questionnaire and after such time, they had collected or retrieved.

The instrument was pre-tested for other students and faculty not included in the sampled faculty and students to determine the validity of the content.

Questions, which were not clear, were restructured to fit the level of understanding of the respondents and the less important were deleted.

Statistical Treatment of Data

All data were treated statistically following the formulas specified for each problem

1. To determine the profile of the research respondents, simple percentage was used. Simple calculation used conversion of the raw scores into percentage. This was done by dividing the total number of cases and the quotient was multiplied by 100.

The formula is:

$$\% = \frac{\text{No. of respondents}}{\text{Total number of cases}} \times 100$$

Total number of cases

2. To determine the environmental concerns and practices of the respondents, simple percentage and ranking were used.

The formula is:

$$\% = \frac{\text{No. of respondents}}{\text{Total number of cases}} \times 100$$

Total number of cases

3. To determine the correlation between the environmental concerns and practices and the perception in four colleges of PIT, Palompon, Leyte, Pearson Product- Moment correlation was used.

$$r_{xy} = \frac{N \sum xy - (\sum x)(\sum y)}{\sqrt{[N \sum x^2 - (\sum x)^2][N \sum y^2 - (\sum y)^2]}}$$

r_{xy} = correlation between X and Y

Σx = sum of score X

Σy = sum of score Y

Σxy = sum of the product of X and Y

N = number of cases

Σx^2 = sum of square X score

Σy^2 = sum of squared Y score

SUMMARY, DISCUSSION AND IMPLICATIONS

It is not surprising the respondents were generally very concerned about the destruction of rainforest is the most talked about the environmental problems because of recent experiences during landslide in Southern Leyte and some parts of Luzon. The relationship of destruction of rainforest with landslide, which cause extensive damaged to the communities and extinction of species.

Likewise, the destruction of ozone layer is commonly discussed especially in the light of the increase in incidence if cancer and catarrh. Majority of the respondents believed the quality of our environment is slowly deteriorating and they gain their environmental knowledge from television and school or colleges. As perceived, the respondents gave importance on clear air and clean water.

With regards to environmental practices, the participation of four colleges of PIT faculty on environmental friendly practices and the environmental activities they want the community to initiate and get involved had significant difference with other. Also they perceived almost the same on environmental activities they want to suggest. There were support from local government, more information dissemination, penalties and financial incentives.

Majority of the respondents do not belong to any environmental friendly organization. They also thought that the recent media campaign encouraged us to think more about the environment and engaged in more environmental friendly activities. They thought that the government is uncertain in doing a good job in protecting the environment.

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