

READINGS IN MALAYSIAN URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

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CHAPTER 9

THE LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG STUDENTS IN INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA (IIUM), GOMBAK CAMPUS.

Dr. Mariana Mohamed Osman, Aisyah Nadhrah Ibrahim, Dr Syahriah Bachok

INTRODUCTION

The environment is the combination of living things which are closely related to human, animal and vegetation. One of the best ways of preservation is by creating environmental awareness among society especially students as they are future leaders. (Thapa,1999). Environmental education is a way of creating knowledge, comprehension, values, attitudes, skills, abilities and awareness among individuals and social groups towards the environment protection. Hence, the study limits itself to the study on environmental awareness of the students in the tertiary level only.

Environmental awareness is one of components in strengthening sustainable development in any country. Sustainable development can be defined as developments that can be maintained which meet the needs of the present without damaging the environment or compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (The Bruntland Report, 1987; Dale and Hill, 2001; Giddings et al., 2002).

The lack of continuous and comprehensive environmental education in learning institution has caused youth to overlook at the importance of the environmental protection in their daily life. This is because, they do not have continuous exposure on environmental issues and awareness by mean exposure through formal or informal education (Hansen A,1991). Moreover, research in this area indicates that although environmental education has taken up as a subject in the curriculum, the subject faces certain limitation with regard to its proper implementation. By including subject specialization, it can enhance the efficiency of the content provided to the students as well as sustain their inner urge for desirable actions.

This research employs only one method of data collection which is questionnaires. The questionnaire was divided into four sections which are environmental knowledge, environmental concern, and efforts towards environmental awareness and also environmental commitment. There are several objectives which have been identified in order to complete this study. The first one is that this research intends to identify is the level of environmental knowledge of students in tertiary level. Secondly, this research also aims to find out the current concern towards the environmental issues among the students. Third, the research aims to identify the types of exposure on environmental awareness experienced by the students. Next, the research sets to identify what are the efforts done by the students in contributing towards environmental protection and lastly, the research intends to recommend