

Project title : Environmental knowledge and interest in environmental activities of
Hong Kong primary school students

Applicant : Hong Kong Baptist University

Total Approved Grant : \$85,000 (actual expenditure : \$74,305.53)

Duration: 3.1.2001 - 31.10.2001

Project Status/Remarks: Completed

Scope:

- To investigate what and how much Hong Kong primary school students know about the general and local environmental conditions
- To understand what types of environmental activities (such as games/videos, workshops and dramas) that students are interested to participate
- To compare the above for respondents of different school years and genders

Summary of the Findings/Outcomes:

Despite of the efforts to promote environmental education in Hong Kong, there is little empirical research on what and how much students know about the general and local environmental conditions. Most international studies have focused on the environmental knowledge and education of high school and university students, leaving the primary school level untouched.

In order to encourage primary school students to participate in environmental activities, we also need to understand their interest and preferences. There may be differences in types of activities preferred by students of different school years and genders. For example, higher form students may be interested to participate in activities with high level of involvement and challenges.

Method of data collection -

Data are collected from postal surveys of elementary schools in Hong Kong. Two rounds of postal surveys on a systematic probability sample of 4,112 grade 2 to 6 students from 116 elementary schools in Hong Kong was conducted.

Outcome :

- ♦ Elementary school students in Hong Kong are knowledgeable about the environment.
- ♦ Mean environmental knowledge score for grade 2-3 students is 65.5
- ♦ Mean environmental knowledge score for grade 4-6 students is 72.4

Environmental issue	Knowledge
water hazardous substance and nuclear waste ocean, coast and wetland local environmental problems	Very good
food and agriculture forest	Average to good
biological diversity desertification solid waste and sewage	Average to weak
world population atmosphere and climate energy	Weak

- ♦ Environmental activities most popular among elementary school students include picnics at the country park, planting trees, visiting Botanical Gardens, growing crops and gardening, watching wild birds and insects, visiting Mai Po Nature Reserve, and visiting farms.
- ♦ Schools are perceived as the major source of environmental information.
- ♦ In grade 2-3, boys and girls share similar environmental knowledge levels. In grade 4-6, boys have higher environmental knowledge level than girls.

Further information provided :

Project deliverable.ppt