



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND PRO-ENVIRONMENTAL BEHAVIORS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA

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ABSTRACT – Present environmental concerns necessitate the changing focus of education to develop students with environmental awareness as well as positive behaviors towards the environment. There is evidence that education positively impacts students' environmental awareness. This study aims to determine the level of environmental awareness and the level of environmental behavior of third year high school students after taking up science related courses. Moreover, it attempts to establish the correlation between environmental awareness and environmental behavior. The environmental issues determined in the focus group discussion were Philippine vulnerability to disasters, pollution, climate change, loss of natural resources, and waste management. The focus group was composed of three (3) science teachers, two (2) social studies teachers and one (1) agriculture teacher. Based on the results of the FGD, a survey material was developed, validated, and administered to third year high school students to assess their awareness of environmental issues in the community and environmental behavior. The reliability of the survey was indicated by Cronbach coefficient alpha, with scores of 0.823 and 0.890 for the environmental awareness and environmental behavior surveys, respectively. A moderate correlation was observed between environmental awareness and environmental behavior (Spearman rho correlation = 0.433, $p=0.00002$). Awareness of consequence and inclusion-of-self in nature are correlated with environmental behavior, but not environmental awareness (Spearman rho correlation = 0.318, $p=0.002$). Based on the correlations, the researchers recommended possible areas where science courses can enhance environmental education including understanding the nature of pollutants and effective solutions to contamination, the chemical nature of greenhouse gases, reactions of ozone and other radicals, causes of acid deposition and its effects on the environment, and chemistry in water safety.

Keywords: environmental awareness, environmental behavior, value-action gap



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