



## PROMOTING EARLY ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION: THE CASE OF A NATURE SCHOOL IN INDONESIA

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**ABSTRACT** – Progressing climate change that happens nowadays needs very urgent and imperative comprehensive and systematic actions with strong support from the wider community equipped with sufficient and proper knowledge, understanding and awareness about climate change issues. One of these actions is increasing capacity of the young generation through early environmental education. This study explored the role of the Nature School in enhancing environmental awareness and environment-related behavior from early age.

This paper tackled the environmental awareness and environment-related behavior of the students of the Nature School that integrates environmental education in their daily activities, learning process and practices, and offers more environmental-friendly surroundings and facilities. Another focus of the study was to see whether selected student factors influenced their environmental awareness and environment-related behavior. Results showed that students in the Nature School possessed a moderately positive environment-related behavior. School teachers, like the parents and family members, played important role as source of information and knowledge for the students. None from the selected student factor was found to influence awareness and environment-related behavior of the students.

The study concluded that children learn better about the environment if they have direct experience and are more familiar with what they see around them. Engaging students by learning through hands-on activities brings them closer to the environment. Practical approach may be a critical method for reconnecting children with the nature, thus, enhancing environmental awareness and promoting positive environment-related behavior.

*Keywords: Nature School, environmental education, environmental awareness, environment-related behavior*



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