

Measuring environmental performance in primary and secondary schools. The case studies from Cyprus

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Abstract

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro during 1992, enrolled Agenda 21, which emphasized the potential role played by education in generating the awareness essential to protect the environment and contribute to sustainable development. Over the last decades, it has been realized that human society, in its quest for sustainable economic development, causes enormous changes to the planet. More and more natural resources are wasted, air, soil and waters are contaminated, fauna and flora are eliminated. Waste management is a major environmental problem that requires special attention. Education is a field with a wide range of research and study and student community is an important dimension to the modern development of strategies. This research focus on the identification of environmental performance from kids in primary and secondary school communities.

The main aim of the research is to realize what kind of waste produced and how those waste is treated from primary and secondary schools. Moreover, the research aims to understand the behaviour of the kids as well as their parents in the framework of waste production. Hence this research will promote waste minimization and prevention activities per waste stream by developing specific protocols that the kids and their parents must follow. The compositional analysis which took place from September to March indicated that the main waste streams was PMD (plastic bottles of 500 ml) and Food Waste (edible and inedible). The survey audit indicated that the schools did not have any environmental policy in place beside that they participated in limited environmental activities like periodically recycling and home composting. Moreover there is no any specific role (which consist the paradox) what the kids should be tough although there is in place a specific environmental guide from the ministry of education.

Keywords: waste management, environmental education, environmental consciousness, social behaviour, prevention activities