

Research Adstract

Psychosocial Characteristics and Environmental Conservation of Thai Youths

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The purpose of this research was to study the behavioral level on environmental conservation, to investigate environmental conservation behavior of Thai youths with the different psychosocial variables, to study the relationship between environmental conservation behavior and psychosocial variables ,and to find out the effective predictors for predicting environmental conservation behavior of Thai youths.

Sample of this research consisted of 412 Mathyomsuksa 1 students during the 1998 academic year from schools in Bangkok. These schools were under Bangkok Metropolitan, the department of general education and the ministry of university affairs. Selecting 3 schools from each of earlier mentioned organizations within Bangkokapi, Wattana, and Bangkokhen districts. Research instrument was a questionnaire for measuring psychosocial variables(gender, the organization which the school undered, father's occupation, mother's occupation, father's education, mother's education, family's income and the closest person with student) the psychosocial behaviour (they were child rearing practices, locus of control behavior, attitudes toward on environmental conservation, internal locus of control , and the environmental problem awareness), and the dependent variable (the environmental conservation behavior). Data analysis employed SPSS software program for calculating basis statistics: reliability, t-test, ANOVA, correlation and multiple regression.

Research findings were as follows :

1. Every group of Thai youths with different biosocial characters had their environmental conservation behavior at a high level.
2. Comparing the environmental conservation behavior of Thai youth, who were different in biosocial characters, It was found that they were not significantly different.
3. Studying a relationship between the environmental conservation behavior and psychosocial ones of Thai youths, it was found that every psychosocial character was

positively and statistically related to those conservation behaviors at .01 level. The highest relationship variable was the attitude toward an environmental conservation ($r=.513$) ; and the rest were : self-efficacy ($r=.536$), internal locus of control ($r=.445$) , the environmental problem awareness ($r=.317$), and child rearing practices ($r=.237$).

4. Regression analysis was employed. Three effective variables were found. The first variable was the attitudes toward the environmental conservation which could predict the variance of the environmental conservation behavior at the highest level 32.7 percent. The second variable was self-efficacy which could increasingly copredict 40.6 percent. The third variable were locus of control which could increasingly predict 41.7 percent.

To develop the environmental conservation behavior for Thai youths, it is necessary to develop those psychosocial characteristics which are : good attitudes toward the environmental conservation, self-efficacy and internal locus of control behavior. The results suggest an experimental design for developing a training model for Thai youths to have the behaviors which will relate to their environmental conservation behaviors.