Development of Community Environmental Education Programmes through Co-construction Process

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### **Introduction**

Community environmental education (CEE) focuses on environmental issues and how a community could work together to address existing environmental challenges or to prevent new ones.
This paper focuses on a co-construction process which is one of the approaches in developing CEE

programmes.

### <u>Community Environmental</u> Education Model



# <u>Mainstreaming the Co-construction</u> <u>Process: Challenges</u>

>A comprehensive co-construction process may take time.

 To collect data, surveys (questionnaire and interviews), focus workshop and dialogues need to be carried out. The findings would then guide the development of the programme.

Gaining support is difficult unless there is a strong rapport with key champions and leaders.

The key barriers that might hinder participation are lack of time, lack of incentives or motivation to contribute.

# <u>Mainstreaming the Co-construction</u> <u>Process: Addressing Challenges</u>

The research conducted in Beaufort from 2012-2015 encountered some of the challenges.

• Due to time constraints, a comprehensive co-construction process could not be carried out.

Lessons learned from the research have improved the development of CEE programme in a current pilot study conducted by the Environment Protection Department Sabah and the Natural Resources and Environment Board Sarawak.

- Pilot Study in Kg. Darau, Kota Kinabalu
- deeper interaction and reflections about strengths, assets, opportunities, needs, barriers and shared-aspirations

No.	Principles/Themes/Barriers (based on Data)	Theoretical Principles	Actions
1.	Perceptions : Importance of the Environment	Local Awareness & Knowledge	Emphasise in the presentation the importance of the
	Understanding of what the Environment is	Attitudes	ecosystem services and holistic role of
	-River -Forest		the environment
	Importance of the Environment -5/70 villagers did not		
	perceive the environment as Important		

Example of the process of how intervention is developed for the community environmental education programme

No.	Principles/Themes/Barriers (based on Data)	Theoretical Principles	Actions
2.	Awareness activities	Local	Talks : Powerpoint
	suggested by the villagers	Awareness &	Presentation
		Knowledge	
	Survey:	Participation	Hands – on : Making
	Talks/seminar/workshop	Skills/Capacity	candles using used
	Hands on/field work	Building	cooking oil, activity of
	Study visit	Attitude	kids
		Lifelong	
	Focus workshop:	Learning	Study visit:
	Composting demonstration	Learner centred	Sustainable Organic
	Hands-on		Gardening School in
	Study visit		Penampang (28
			March 2017)
			Composting

Example of the process of how intervention is developed for the community environmental education programme

#### Residents get tips on environmental care

#### Community Environmental Education **Programme in** Kg. Darau (2 April 2017)



KOTA KINABALU: More than 80 residents of and children's colouring contest. Kampung Darau in Manggatal near here par-ticipated in the "Community Environmental rector, Haji Mohd Yusrie Abdullah said the Education\* programme on Sunday.

government agencies such as the Environ- vironment Board. mental Protection Department and the Environmental Department.

hibition, making candle with used cooking oil environment. - PR

ducation" programme on Sunday. Several talks were held with speakers from with the Sarawak Natural Resources and En-

Sabah Tourism, Culture and Environment Assistant Minister Datuk Haji Kamarlin Haji Other activities were producing compost Ombi when officiating at the programme highusing garden wastes, an environmental ex- lighted the importance of taking care of the



Candle-making with used cooking oil



Producing compost using garden wastes

Children's colouring contest

New Sabah Times, 4 April 2017 (page 8)

# <u>Mainstreaming the Co-construction</u> <u>Process: Recommendations</u>

#### >If time is a limiting factor:

- The co-construction process could be modified to involve a smaller group of community members.
- Questionnaire or interview process could be shortened to reduce time for data analysis and programme planning.

Creating rapport with the leaders should be carried out in the beginning by creating awareness on how the EE programme could benefit the entire community.

>When strong support is gained from the leaders, this could influence more participation from the other villagers.