Impacts of Eco-Garden and its activities on knowledge transfer on environmental and sustainability education

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The ideas of Eco-Garden

- serves as a physical base and a pedagogical tool to showcase sustainability and promote sustainability education
- f provides an education model that emphasises fieldbased learning
- accomplishes our global environmental commitment through relevant research studies and educational programmes



Overall design of Eco-Garden

Three major elements:

Biodiversity conservation

Energy conservation

Resource reuse and recycling

Video about Eco-Garden

https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=H21iYxyTeHU

Component facilities: biodiversity conservation

Butterfly garden:

Hosts plants:



Nectar plants:

Umbrella tree



Sago Palm



Ixora



Bay biscayne creeping-oxeye

Component facilities: biodiversity conservation

Butterfly garden:

108 species were recorded (45% of the total species in Hong Kong)



Indian Fritillary



Common Birdwing (under the protection of 'Wild Animals Protection Ordinance')

Component facilities: biodiversity conservation

Ecopond and constructed wetland:

- Provides a freshwater environment and diversified habitat to support different kinds of organisms
- Dragonflies, damselflies, amphibians







Component facilities: energy conservation

- **f** Solar power system:
 - Photovoltaic panels
- - Vertical axis wind turbine



Component facilities: resource reuse and recycling

Aquaponic system :

- Consist of 3 parts: terraced field, constructed wetland and ecopond
- Ecopond demonstrates aquaculture
- Water with nutrients will be pumped to the terraced field and constructed wetland for plants absorption





Component facilities: resource reuse and recycling

Rain garden:

- demonstrate the capturing and filtering of rainwater using sand and plants
- allows infiltration into the ground for plants absorption



Component facilities: resource reuse and recycling

Composter:

f Stores plant litter and allows decomposition into composts



Component facilities: organic farmland

For experiencing and practicing the skills of organic farming





Pedagogies involved in the Ecogarden-based pedagogies





Educational activities: community level

Eco-Festival (AFCD):

Ting Kok + Whole Year Appreciation 2016 Spring: Experiencing Aquaponics in Eco-garden





Educational activities: community level

Hong Kong Science Festival:

f ecological guided tour and demonstration of aquaponics and organic farming







Educational activities: community level

The Jockey Club Youth Academy for Special Educational Needs (September 2020):

- An Eco-garden-based course for students with Special Educational Needs (SEN)
- Management of Eco-garden, organic farming, aquaponics and biodiversity surveying
- Hands-on organic farming workshop, outdoor learning



Educational activities: school-level

Ecogarden : Experiencing and Experimenting

- I Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival (AFCD)
- Field-based learning program for primary and secondary schools
- Docent service on eco-garden with workshops on organic farming, aquaponic system or biodiversity









Educational activities: school-level

School visits and collaborations

E.g. Litte Interpretor Programme in EdUHK Jocky Club Primary School.







Educational activities: undergraduate-level

Internships:

Service based learning on sustainability, education and planning

Co-Curricular and Service Learning Course

- GEM1026 Conservation and Ecotourism and other courses...
- Authentic learning platform



Educational activities: undergraduate-level

Eco-garden farmers and biodiversity surveyor Training stage:

Lectures, field trips and hands-on sessions on various topics (eg. organic farming, aquaponics, ecological survey and docent techniques)





Educational activities: undergraduate-level

Eco-garden farmers and biodiversity surveyor Practice stage:

- assisting in managing the eco-garden (eg. farming, maintaining infrastructures)
- serving as tour guides/docents
- designing and implementing Eco-Garden-based teaching modules





Effectiveness of the program

Frequency of the outcomes mentioned by the respondents of the program to the online questionnaire:



Increase in knowledge and skill level
Rise in environmental awareness
Facilitation of personal growth
Enhancement of career development
Improvement of mental health
Others

Effectiveness of the program

Corresponding percentage of outcomes mentioned by the respondents to the online questionnaire from the four different cohorts and their composition:





Planting a seed of experience - long term effects of a co-curricular ecogarden-based programme in higher education in Hong Kong

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Submitted to Journal: Frontiers in Psychology

Specialty Section: Environmental Psychology

Article type: Original Research Article

Manuscript ID: 583319

Received on: 14 Jul 2020

Revised on: 21 Nov 2020

Frontiers website link: www.frontiersin.org

Acknowledgements

- Dean's Research Prize (Team) (KTP-4/ 6th round)
- Private donation from Dr Kai-To Kwong, MH (CB111) for his financial support (scholarship) from 2018 to 2020
- Central Reserve Fund, EdUHK (03A08)
- SES department, Estate Office and the University for the long-lasting and unfailing support!
- I Dr Yeung-Chun Lee, Dr James Chun-Wah Lam, Dr Ping-Wai Kwok and Dr Nga-Yee Cheng for their academic support
- I Mr Kelvin Koon-Tai Po, Ms Yaqiong Bu, Mr Brian Ho-Yeung Ip, Mr Ng Wai Ki Mickey, Ms Angel Ho-San Chan and Mr Ken Tsan-Fung Wong for technical assistance in managing the Ecogarden.