



AIR POLLUTION KNOWLEDGE AMONG SECONDARY STUDENT : CASE STUDY IN SELECTED SCHOOLS IN IPOH CITY, PERAK, MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

The new era poses an equally new challenge for Malaysia young generation. Having moved from an agricultural based economy in 1960s to an industrial country in 2020, embracement to prepare young generation to broaden their knowledge especially in environmental issues is very important. Therefore, action has been taken by the authority to strengthen the curriculum by including the environment elements in the Malaysian education curriculum. Nevertheless, not much effort has been done to evaluate the effectiveness of the programmed in this country. This paper discusses the preliminary results of a study to assess the knowledge levels of the secondary students on an environmental issues especially the air pollution.

The aim of the study is to gauge the Malaysia secondary students on their knowledge, awareness, understanding of the environment and air pollution. For that purpose, data were gathered from a sample size of 500 respondents from selected schools in Ipoh City, in the state of Perak, Malaysia. The face to face interview technique with the aid of structured questionnaires was used to collect the data.

The preliminary results show that 60 % of the respondents obtained their knowledge in environmental issues from the news paper compared to only 12 % from an education magazine. Nearly 50 % of the respondent says that their knowledge on air pollution is moderate compared to only 10 % of respondents who didn't have any

knowledge on the same issue. It was found that more than 50 % of the respondents knew that motor vehicles gives impact on the air pollutions.

The study shows that the secondary student in Malaysia already have basic knowledge of air pollution and environmental issues however, some weaknesses indicate that some effort should be taken to improve the situation. These findings would provide the authority with input in drawing up curriculums, activities and strategies that will elevate the student's and nation's environmental knowledge, awareness and understanding.

Key words: Environment, Air Pollution, Awareness, School Children,