

# Overcoming Challenges and Barriers in Promoting Environmental Education by Dr.Elizaberth Ayuk

Environment is our immediate surrounding, made up of living things (plants/animals/microorganisms) and non-living things (climatic factors temperature, precipitation, sunshine, humidity, soil, water etc) interacting with each other.

Humans are the central control of the environment and contribute to its issues, positively or negatively.

Because of increased populations, there has been high pressure to the environmental resources harvesting, which is now superseding the recovery (resilience) of the natural environmental repairs

- ▶ Humans are directly linked to the environment and causes the greatest issues of the environment. Example. Increase human population needs more food, infrastructure, energy.
- ▶ Deforestation causes a chain of environmental issues \_pollution (air, water, soil,) biodiversity loses GHGs production leading to global warming and climate change.
- ▶ Poverty, lack of awareness and knowledge of the human population at all levels, is pressurizing environmental resources harvesting.

**Environmental Education**, teaches individuals to know the environment, explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving, and take actions to improve the environment.

Individuals develop a deeper understanding of environmental issues and the skills to make informed and responsible decisions.

**The component of environmental education are;**

Awareness and Sensitivity to the environment and environmental challenges.

Knowledge and understanding of the environment and environmental challenges.

Attitude and concern for the environment and motivation to improve or maintain environmental quality.

Skill to identify and help resolve environmental challenges.

Participation in activities that lead to the resolution of environmental challenges.

**Environmental education will:**

Build a sustainable future.

It will ensure future knowledge.

It will foster sense of responsibility and positive attitude toward the environment.

It will enable you to take action to present resources.

**Educators should:**

Know Environment and its importance.

Know the interactions.

Know the natural recovery.

Know the causes, effects, consequences, of environmental degradation.

Know the environmental issues.

Adopt positive attitudes towards the environment.

Adopt sustainable practices like recycling, reducing, reusing and recovery wastes

Conservation of national resources by knowing renewable and non-renewable resources.

- Change of attitude and mindset towards the environment.
- Sensitization of the local masses.
- Sensitization of different educational backgrounds.
- Sensitization of humans to the direct benefit of the environment.
- Sensitization to human to know that the environment has limit to natural recovery.
- Sensitization to humans to know that the environment needs human aid.

- Nurture environmental sensitivity, knowledge, problem solving skills and values related to learners own community
- EE should help learners quickly identify symptoms causes of Environmental issues by examining them for local, natural, regional and international perspectives
- Let learners see environmental conditions at their homes
- Think of the environment in its totality (national & built)
- Pass the knowledge to the next generation

**E.E challenges are how to:**

- Effective communication of environmental issues to the public.
- Positive attitude building.
- Foster general public knowledge and concern about the environment.
- Action to improve the environment
- Enhance public environmental awareness

Safeguarding future global, campaign media, bill boards, flyers.

**Barriers to integrating E.E are:**

Lack of time,  
outdoor safely risk.

Lack of funds,

Lack of efficacy.

Lack of E.E resources lesson, plans children's literature and curriculums.

Low self efficacy in educators.

Lack of access to greenspaces, field trip opportunities, community (participation) partnership.

Lack of administrative support all levels from colleagues to school boards.

Lack of qualified teacher education.

Low self-efficacy of teachers.

Most educators believe they are not able to effectively teach EE.

## **Overcoming the challenges and barriers**

### **AWARENESS to ACTION**

- Believe in yourself.
- Adopt a positive attitude and willingness to the environment.
- Commit to a positive mindset and embrace out learning.

### **Gather support**

Gather from administrators, parent, community by sharing the knowledge of environment with them.

### **Manage the risks**

Outdoor safety risks learners should be included in safety planning process before engaging in field trips to greenspace.

Outdoor activities and lessons are important, though the fear for obstacle.

However, when learning outdoors the learners learn how to assess risk independently which serves their personal development.

Students or learners need to be responsible for managing risks on their own with some guidance supervision

## **Lack of confidence**

### **AWARENESS to ACTION**

### **Build it up with a positive mindset**

Boost up their willingness to recognize the importance of the environment and act on issues

Empower local communities to develop interest in the environment

Empowers Learners

Empower your students

Provide tools and confidence to make and promote change

Ensure learners are comfortable with E.E and enjoy the lessons

**AWARENESS to ACTION****Short direct lessons**

Make lessons easy, assessments authentic and relevant to real life.

Provide first hand experiences

Use specialized equipment and time spent in the environment.

Help learners how to take action, cope with the reality of preset environmental issues, an act to generate change through letter writing, awareness campaigns on social media, and student-led

**AWARENESS to ACTION**

- **SHORT LESSONS**
- **Be in your garden**
- Banana peelings in the soil fertilization and organic rich healthy food.



Lack of EE resources

**AWARENESS to ACTION**

**Use what you got**

**worry less on what is missing and focus on what is available**

- Make it cross-curricular
- Interdisciplinary lessons
- Cultural radical tools
- Literature books
- Computers
- Games
- Use picture books to introduce environmental concept and help learners.
- Envision the natural world.
- Technology of the natural world.

**Lack of funds**

- Incentive and Motivations
  - Learners need community project motivation
- AWARENESS to ACTION**
- Tell them the benefits and gains of a suitable environment e.g plant flowers you harvest esthetics, honey, pure air for healthy living
  - Banana peelings in the soil fertilization and organic rich healthy food is an incentive for good health.

## **AWARENESS to ACTION**

### **Nurture love for the environment**

- An essential part of producing environmentally conscious adults is creating a love of nature during their childhood
- **Nurturing stewardship** is a quality that comes from a deep attachment to the environment, it requires a proactive approach in the part of educators.
- Educators should be proactive to develop stewardship in learners.
- Promoting stewardship in learners requires exposure to suitable experiences, lessons and tools in outdoor environment resulting in advanced knowledge, love and respect for natural systems that not only sustain us but all life on our planet
- Pro-environmental behaviors outdoor recreation and relationships with the land they live on

### **Overcoming learning barriers**

## **AWARENESS to ACTION**

- Draw comparisons
- Provide context
- Use encouraging tones and language
- Establish confidence in learners.
- Offer incentive, benefits rewards of environment leaning.
- Remove or limit distractions,
- Set milestones for assessment and reflections.



**AWARENESS to ACTION**

- Get students engage and excited.
- Build relationships
- Be intentional
- Teach CHILDREN to become ADULT Environmental Advocates
- Take kids(learners) outside and introduce them to nature and help their love to grow
- Encourage positive talk about the environment

**AWARENESS to ACTION**

- Lack of time: **create it, set priority**
- Lack of EE instructional material: **use what you got**
- Transportation problems: **do not go far**
- Lack of knowledge: **learn**
- Lack of natural science knowledge: **go simple with what you know, not only professionals are educators you can be a speaker in your community and in your local language. everyone should be an educator**
- Safety problems : **make safety plans and supervision**
- Lack of principal support: **build it**
- Liability worries.: **be bold, chase out fears**

Transportation problems:

**AWARENESS to ACTION**

do not go far be in your environment



**Educators and learners What is your aid to the environment?**

• **What is the AWARENESS to ACTION**

- Understand what it offers.
- Understand how it recovers.
- Understand how it functions.
- Understand its limits.
- Be positive toward it.
- Love it.
- Enjoy it.
- Sustain it.
- Stay clean and safe in it .

**IF YOU MESS IT UP IT WILL MESS YOU UP.**