

The Impact of Environmental Sustainability on Wellbeing and Learning Performance of Female Students

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Abstract

This research investigates the effect of environmental sustainability on students' wellbeing and learning performance. A comprehensive literature is conducted to identify those environmental sustainability factors for the development of a new model for learning performance. We measure the effect of environmental sustainability on the students wellbeing. We aim to reveal the interrelationships among the environmental sustainability factors to better measure the effect of wellbeing. In addition, we find the relationship between wellbeing and learning performance. To do so, we adopt Decision Making Trial and Evaluation Laboratory system to show whether an improvement on the students wellbeing will effect on the students learning effectiveness. The data is collected from the female students at a university in Malaysia. The results showed that students' learning performance can be significantly influenced by environmental sustainability. The proposed model will help the universities managers and practitioners to consider the best solutions to improve the environmental sustainability of universities for students' wellbeing which is the key target of managing the socio-economic systems.

Keywords: Sustainability Practices, Environmental Sustainability, Learning Performance, Wellbeing, Causal Relationships, Female Students

1. Introduction

The environment is one of the main constraints on human progress (Goodland, 1995). Its effects on the human progress and activities has been acknowledged in the previous research (Alcama, 2003; Dietz, Rosa, & York, 2009; Liu et al., 2007). According to (Elliot, 2013), "environmental sustainability is defined as the belief that humans and nature are connected, combined with a felt obligation to protect of the natural environment". Environmental sustainability in organizations is extensively investigated as a critical issue in the literature (Maubane, Prinsloo, & Van Rooyen, 2014; Isaksson, 2006; Brown, 1991; Elg, Ellström, Klofsten, & Tillmar, 2015; Elkington, 1994). In the study by Isaksson (2006), sustainability is seen as triple bottom line, which the performance of an organization is viewed as in the economic, environmental and social dimensions (Alnaser et al., 2008; Strezov, Evans, & Evans, 2017). All of these concepts aim to enhance and improve the human well-being (GhaffarianHoseini et al., 2013) (see Fig. 1).

The aim of establishing of green university is the implementation of green management at the university for sustainability practices in operations, outreach, research, assessment and reporting levels (Nejati & Nejati, 2013). This management can be considered as an optimal guiding

of a set of comprehensive, targeted and retirement studies that take place at different levels of the university to promote and maintain the university's status in order to achieve the objectives of the green campus (Adams, 2013; Selby, 2009; Velazquez, Munguia, & Sanchez, 2005; Wright, 2002). As Cortese (1992) states: "Universities bear profound responsibilities for increasing awareness, knowledge, technology, and tools to create an environmentally sustainable future. Universities have all the expertise needed to develop an intellectual and conceptual framework for achieving this goal. They must play a strong role in education, research, policy development, information exchange and community outreach to help create an equitable and sustainable future."

It is found that sustainability can be achieved by the integration of environmental issues in the organizations and strategic planning (Quazi, 2001; Svensson & Wood, 2006). In the study by Quazi (2001), the author emphasizes that an eco-friendly company will have a better image and attract not only more customers, but also a more capable and dedicated team of employees. The indirect impacts of environmental sustainability on organisations come from four main groups of stakeholders, employees, government, consumers and businesses. These groups have put many companies under pressure to look closely at their