

NATURE RELATEDNESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL BELIEFS OF EVENING COLLEGE STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Abstract

The study was conducted in order to determine the relationship between nature relatedness and environmental beliefs of the Philippine College of Technology evening students. The Nature Relatedness (NR) Scale and the New Environmental Paradigm Scale (NEPS) were employed in the study. This was administered to 105 students of the college.

Statistical tools such as mean, frequency, median, and percentage were used in describing the sample. Inferential statistics were also employed in order to test the hypotheses. Results showed moderate level of nature relatedness and a high level of environmental beliefs. There are no significant differences in nature relatedness and environmental beliefs when the respondents were grouped by age, gender, religion, course, and year level. A dimension of nature relatedness (NR Self) was found to have a significant positive relationship with environmental beliefs.

INTRODUCTION

The pressing environmental crisis that we are facing today is believed to be because of anthropocentric origins. The scientific community has warned us of the already happening collision course between humans and the natural world (UCS 1992). This made it necessary to intensify environmental information, education and communication programs in order to encourage environmental protection among the citizens of the global nation.

The Tbilisi Declaration of 1977 has pointed out the “unanimous accord in the important role of environmental education in the preservation and improvement of the world's environment, as well as in the sound and balanced development of the world's communities” (UNESCO and UNEP 1977). Because our past decisions and policies that are against nature are the ones that created these existing environmental problems we have, it is thus important to realign our values towards the care for nature. It is also essential that the future generation possess the necessary environmental inclination that will help in protecting the fate of nature in the future.

Presently, Republic Act No. 9512 otherwise known as the "Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008" was approved and signed into law on December

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