

WISH TO WISHCRAFT: A CASE STUDY OF A TRASH-TO-CASH SCHOOL INITIATIVE

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ABSTRACT

Mother earth is groaning harder than ever before due to the increasing environmental problems. Air and water pollution, waste mismanagement, and global warming are only a few of the items in a long list of environmental problems contributing to this alarming state. The typical belief among citizens is that these environmental issues are the responsibilities of various organizations be it NGOs, or government. However, there are examples, though few and far between, of individuals and schools taking charge and making a positive difference in healing mother earth through their innovative environmental stewardship efforts. The impetus of this study comes from Blumstein and Saylan's (2007) caution to schools pointing out the failure to make connection between students' personal experiences and the surrounding environmental conditions, as well as two of Tucker's (2001), challenges to schools which are practicing (a) environmental stewardship and (b) inclusive education. This qualitative case study probes WISHCRAFT, the recycling project of a private school in the Philippines. The study sought to answer the three research questions: (a) How can WISHCRAFT be described? (b) In what ways does WISHCRAFT contribute to social responsibility? and (c) What challenges are along the way of this project? Data was collected using interviews of program coordinators, teachers, and students who were purposively selected, as well as using observations, documents, and audiovisual materials. Data were analyzed using a content analysis of Taba's inductive procedure. Findings provided valuable implications to school practices that only help heal the earth, but also provides opportunities for education of its less privileged students.

Keywords: WISHCRAFT, recycling, social responsibility, Education, school initiative, community, collaboration, Philippines, case study, inclusion