

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY: ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL OF THE STATE NETWORK OF ANÁPOLIS - GOIÁS

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ABSTRACT

It is known that sustainability is a globally discussed topic due to the harmful way of life that humanity has adopted. Thus, Environmental Education can be a fundamental tool in this context, capable of balancing sustainable development. Therefore, incorporating this theme into basic education units through responsible practices is essential for the formation of citizens sensitive to understanding the fragile balance of the biosphere. Thus, the main objective of this research is to raise awareness among students of a public school in the outskirts of Anápolis - GO about the importance of environmental preservation for future generations. Through lectures and the implementation of a composting system at the school, students will have the opportunity to learn about the organic waste cycle and how to transform organic waste into benefits, strengthening sustainable practices.

Keywords: sustainability; composting; environmental education; organic waste.

INTRODUCTION

When we talk about sustainable living, we are referring to a lifestyle that promotes the well-being of everyone, in harmony with the environment. It is a way of living that is fair, productive, and friendly to the planet. Now, we realize that the meaning of our lives is linked to the way we take care of our planet (ARAÚJO, 2014). Given the problems we are facing, we have two options: one is to rely completely on technology to solve environmental issues without changing our polluting and consumerist lifestyle, and the other is to adopt a more natural path, recognizing that we are part of the natural world and living in harmony with it, taking into account current environmental concerns (BOFF, 2016). Even with these options, the concept of sustainable development has an important educational aspect: the protection of the environment depends on an understanding of the environment, and this understanding depends on education. Sustainability is greater than sustainable development. While the predominant

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development model currently on the planet points towards environmental degradation, the concept of sustainable development seeks a future where we can live in harmony with the planet. This is what makes this concept so powerful. The challenge we face is to change our trajectory and move towards a sustainable lifestyle through a different kind of globalization. Educating for sustainability means, above all, educating for a sustainable life, which includes learning to live more simply and peacefully. Our lives need to be guided by new values, such as simplicity, austerity, peace, and serenity. We need a more responsible world, seeking concrete actions to practice sustainability in our daily lives, whether at home, at work, at school, or on the streets. Simplicity should be a voluntary choice, which means we can reduce our consumption demands and live more consciously. The concept of sustainability in education not only impacts individuals but can also lead to necessary changes in the educational system (GADOTTI, 2008; MARAGNO; TROMBIN; VIANA, 2007).

Environmental education has the primary objective of raising awareness among people and incorporating actions into their lives that are friendly to the environment. This involves investing in natural resources and the ecological processes that sustain our planet. Environmental education should not be just theory, but rather put into practice. As an educational approach influenced by the historical and social context, environmental education aims to develop awareness and choose strategies that help build a society where people are responsible citizens. This citizenship involves bringing improvements to the quality of life of the population. Therefore, environmental education has the responsibility to contribute to transforming our current society into a sustainable society. This means that we must act responsibly, considering that nature is a shared resource, taking care of the replenishment capacity of natural resources, and creating dignified living conditions for present and future generations. In this way, the implementation of alternatives for solid waste management not only proves to be appropriate but also becomes a fundamental pillar in the protection of the environment. Among them, we find reuse, recycling, and composting.

Composting is a natural process of recycling organic material, such as food scraps and leaves, using microorganisms to create fertilizer. Recycling organic waste through composting helps reduce the amount of trash produced in cities. In Brazil, about half of the waste is composed of organic material, which can be turned into

fertilizer instead of being discarded. It is a simple technique unknown to many students, but of great environmental importance, as it reuses and reduces waste. The benefits brought by composting are many, including the improvement of soil structure, increasing the nutrients necessary for plant cultivation. In this way, composting will act as a tool for Environmental Education (EE), where the actor follows all stages of production and its subsequent use (MONTEIRO, 2020; PELICIONI, 1998).

Considering that the school is a place for the dissemination of ideas and the awareness of individuals, the objective of the study is to propose the creation of compost bins in the school, where there is joint participation of students and teachers, thus opening an interdisciplinary space for discussing environmental problems; to analyze the importance of composting in the students' learning, enabling them to understand content related to the environment such as: pollution, selective collection of solid waste, greenhouse effect, composting; to implement composting in the school as an alternative form of environmental prevention and sustainability.

METHODOLOGY

The ongoing research is characterized by descriptive and exploratory approaches, based on a literature review, with a practical application. Its main objective is to identify effective actions to reduce the amount of organic waste produced, directing these materials towards composting practices at the study site itself, involving students in the practice as a way to raise awareness about the importance of a sustainable system. We will start the project with educational and informative lectures, accompanied by the distribution of explanatory pamphlets on the importance of the environment for the survival of future generations and on the composting process. Subsequently, organic waste will be separated and sent to compost bins placed in the schoolyard.

The study is being conducted at the Genoveva Rezende Carneiro State School, located on the outskirts of Anápolis, Goiás, Brazil. The research seeks a detailed understanding of the issues related to organic waste management in this specific context. By employing descriptive and exploratory approaches, the research aims to deepen our understanding of the problem and explore possible solutions. Moreover, the literature review is a fundamental part of the process, providing a solid knowledge

base to support the proposed practical actions. In summary, the study combines theory and practice to develop effective strategies that can be implemented at the Genoveva Rezende Carneiro State School, with the aim of reducing the volume of organic waste through composting, thereby contributing to local environmental sustainability, as well as raising awareness about the importance of environmental preservation.

RESULTS

The expectation is that the Basic Education students of the Genoveva Rezende Carneiro State School will develop a solid awareness of the importance of sustainable development and take an active role by adopting environmentally friendly practices in their lives. Through the lectures, the students will have the opportunity to acquire knowledge about environmental issues, understanding the urgent need to act responsibly towards nature. In this way, they will be better prepared to make informed decisions that contribute to a more sustainable future. With the implementation of the composting process, students will have the opportunity to experience the cycle of organic waste, which we hope will help them realize how our daily actions can have a positive impact on the environment.

CONCLUSION

The practice of composting plays a fundamental role as an environmental education tool, allowing students to become aware of the issue of proper organic waste disposal. It tangibly illustrates how these residues can be transformed into valuable raw materials, significantly reducing the negative impact they have on the environment. Moreover, composting produces high-quality fertilizer, paving the way for the creation of a school garden. All of this, along with the transformation of waste into tangible benefits, allows students to perceive, internalize, and enrich their understanding of the importance of sustainability and environmental responsibility.

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