

YES-O'S IMPACT TO THE YOUNG GENERATION OF BATAEÑOS

by:

Franz Lorenz M. Fuentes

Teacher II, Samal National High School

Environmentally concerned organizations have played a very important role in promoting environmental education and awareness amongst learners in schools and universities (Chen, 2012). Such organizations acknowledge the need to develop eco-friendly beliefs and practices in young learners, who will be the future stewards of our planet and the creatures that live with us.

Youth for Environment in Schools Organization (YES-O), which was established through D.O. 72 2003, is a school-based co-curricular organization that serves as a significant venue for students' actions and movements toward safeguarding, protecting, and conserving the environment for future generations.

Also, the organization develops several initiatives and campaigns to inspire students to support environmental conservation. Establishment of seed banks and nurseries for native or indigenous species of trees, planting and taking care of trees, conducting awareness campaigns and symposia on environmental issues and actions, clean-up drives and environmental camps are some of the activities mandated by YES-O. Fortunately, YES-O of SDO Bataan is one of the most active student-led organizations that works its hardest to fosters and nurtures environmentally conscious students.

The YES-O program has a great influence on encouraging environmental awareness and action among young Bataeños. Below are some of the positive values that YES-O has incorporated into its activities amongst the young generation:

Environmentalism: YES-O has aided in promoting an ecologically -aware mindset among our learners. Young Bataeños are very aware of the value of environmental

protection and conservation and how individual actions can have an advantageous impact on the environment through its programs and campaigns. Our youth are now more aware of and concerned about environmental issues because of the YES-O's programs.

Sustainable Practices: YES-O has also encouraged students to incorporate Eco-friendly behaviors into their daily lives, such as correctly sorting their waste, using less plastic, and saving electricity and water. With the increase of its members, more young people of Bataan support sustainable behaviors, which has a positive impact on the environment by decreasing their carbon footprints.

Youth Engagement: YES-O offers students the chance to actively participate in environmental preservation. Students can take part in clean-up campaigns, tree-planting events, and other eco-initiatives that support sustainable living. This involvement in YES-O activities inspired young people to have an appreciation for environmental responsibility and motivated them to act on environmental issues.

Leadership and Teamwork: Yes, O fosters teamwork among students and helps them enhance their leadership skills as student leaders carefully plan and organize its programs. Most of these activities are participated in by numerous students, where members cooperate to achieve common objectives, promoting a spirit of solidarity and shared accountability. As a result, young Bataeños can acquire crucial life skills like teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving, which are very useful nowadays in developing responsible leaders.

Lastly, the Youth for Environment in School Organization provides students with a platform for civic engagement and collective action to identify and address issues of public concern. A good start where, through this organization, students can voice their opinions, propose ideas, organize programs, and contribute to decision-making processes that affect their school and community.

Overall, SDO Bataan YES-O promotes environmental awareness, encourages sustainable lifestyles, gives youth involvement opportunities, and foster leadership and cooperation, which can have a positive effect on students. It has contributed to the development of a generation of environmentally concerned people who are dedicated to preserving the environment for future generations. We sincerely hope that YES-O Bataan will keep up its relentless pursuit of its objectives to produce a future generation of environmentally conscious citizens.

References:

Jia-Nan, C. (2012). Contributions of Environmental NGO to Environmental Education in China. IERI Procedia, 2, 901-906. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ieri.2012.06.189>

D.O. 72 2003

<https://www.deped.gov.ph/2003/09/01/do-72-s-2003-establishment-of-the-youth-for-environment-in-schools-yes-organization/>

The Official Website of DepED Division of Bataan

YES-O Hand Book