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Problem Oriented Project Based Learning (POPBL) in Promoting Education for Sustainable Development

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Abstract

Higher Education is not excluded in realizing the effort of promoting Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Hence a framework of learning should be introduced to the students which at least include elements such as lifelong learning, interdisciplinary approaches, systems thinking, partnerships, multicultural perspectives and empowerment. To have all of these elements in a course is quite challenging. This paper will discuss the framework of teaching and learning a course using Problem Oriented Project Based Learning (POPBL) in an effort to promote ESD. POPBL is developed as an intervention in an action research cycle.

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1. Introduction

Education is undoubtedly accepted as a major means in changing and transforming human behaviour and practices towards a healthy and sustainable life. In the world of globalization and the new economic of today, challenging life with highly competitive environment requires student to seek knowledge beyond the classroom and textbook as well as to have quality communication, problem solving and leadership skills. As an agent of change, education should be designed to incorporate the basic domain of knowledge, skills as well as values across disciplines.

The Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is an essential part of a larger conversation regarding quality of life for all the inhabitants of Earth (UNESCO, 2005) in which economic, social, and environmental factors must be considered in relation to one another. Therefore it is about how education should be planned to serve the real life situation without compromising the societal and environmental values of future generation (WCED, 1987).

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