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EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAN SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

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Environment and education are both vital elements of human existence that can be used to enhance the quality of the human condition. The environment provides the space and essential ingredients for life where humans are able to interact with each other, with the infrastructure and with the environment itself. On the other hand, education is the process and result through which teaching and learning operate. Through this process, knowledge, values, attitudes and skills are imparted to the learner. With the growing awareness of these environmental problems, consideration should be given to the types of educational programmes that can meet the requirements for creating a sustainable world.

There is no doubt that education is an essential component of development and one of its preconditions. In Rwanda, environmental education has been given a high importance and place in educational reform and innovation due to the pre-eminence of the natural environment in everyday life and culture.

Thus, it is time to give careful thought to what type of integrated environment-based education will be most appropriate and how education relate to the environmental problems confronting the country and community, and how will they be able to help solve the problems?

We should also consider how students can help solve environmental problems now. Can they plant trees, design educational exhibits for the community, write to their government representatives, or help others learn how to plough on the contours?

Guidelines: Steps for Incorporating Environmental Protection into Science and Social Studies

All these questions assume a different form of “literacy” than has been defined in the traditional sense. We need an “ecologically focused literacy” if we are to conserve and maintain an environment that sustains the human species. We must teach youth what or who is causing the problems, what the consequences (ecological, health, social and economic) are, how the problems can be solved, and what is preventing these solutions from being implemented.

It can be conclude that everyone should take responsibility for environment protection. Thus, I am firmly convinced that us students could play an important role in this now and in the future.