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NURTURING GREEN AWARENESS AMONG ALPHA GENERATION

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Introduction

Have you ever wondered if one day, our green surroundings will be gone forever? All the trees, flora and fauna and all the small little plants around us that we take for granted will be vanished indefinitely. Try to look around your campuses or the neighbourhoods, and see how many of the community's activities are related to making the area greener? Plant gives us shade, provide us oxygen, and provide homes for

countless animals and insects. However, with challenges like climate change and the serious loss of biodiversity, a big question comes up: how do we help future generations care about and protect the environment? Of course, one obvious answer will be with education. Teaching the next generation, especially the Alpha generation is crucial so that they become aware of, and value, the natural world around them.

Why Tree Matter?

One of the main reasons is that trees play a fundamental role in sustaining life. Not only that it may beautify the environment, but trees also actually absorb rainwater and therefore will reduce flooding, improve air quality and support rich biodiversity. On top of that, trees can be the natural cooling systems that cool the urban areas. Green planting benefits not only to the environment, but also to the human physical and mental well-being. Land clearing (as depicted in image 1) for replanting supports sustainability by preparing land for ecosystem restoration. When managed responsibly, replanting efforts contribute to environmental balance, biodiversity conservation, and long-term ecological resilience. When young people understand these benefits, they will not take trees around them for granted. Trees are no longer seen as background scenery. Instead, trees represent life, protection, and responsibility. Therefore, it is imperative to teach the value of



Image 1: Land preparation for replanting and vegetation restoration. (Source: Author's own collection)

green planting and to encourage the sustainability habits among the young generation for the future lifetime.

Why the Alpha Generation?

The Alpha Generation is the generation that is so special that it was named Alpha because they are the new generation that is unlike the older generation before them. They are the kids that was born after 2010 and exposed to digitalization since they were born. They were surrounded by technology from the very young age and that shapes how they learn, interact and behave with the world. They are mostly tech-savvy and live walled with digital environment; thus, they may have limited direct contact with nature.

Teaching young Alpha generations about natures and trees are not easy but vital. They are a vulnerable generation, and it will be a difficult task to start with. However, it is necessary to inject the awareness to them because they are the one who will bear the consequences from today's environmental decisions. We need to educate them now ensures that caring for trees, green spaces, and biodiversity becomes part of their mindset, habits, and daily choices. Early and continuous exposure to environmental education is essential in fostering long-term sustainable

practices among the young generation (Rahman et al., 2023)

Who is Responsible?

Parents

Family, parents and those who close to them play crucial role in inspire the green environment a culture at home. Parents can do as simple as educating the kids about trees, and its importance to the earth. Besides that, do consistent activities around the home with planting trees, tending to your plants or just spending time with the kids at the park and expose them with the green environment. The main objective is for the parents to train their kids to develop respect for nature from a young age

Schools

The best place for the young generation to enhance more knowledge about green environment is the school. Kids spend most of their time at school and could provide early exposure to them through outdoor activities, nature-based learning, or hands-on green practices. Schools can lead by example and provide a practical demonstration of sustainable living and teach them the skills needed to become an eco-conscious person. Schools may do program such as integrating green awareness activities in their lesson plan. Besides that,

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they introduce recycling program, save trees campaign and school clean-ups as part of the school culture. It is said that learning experiences that allows students to engage directly with natural environments are more effective in shaping a pro-environmental attitude than classroom instruction. (Setiani & Putri, 2024).

Communities

Communities also contribute by maintaining green neighbourhoods and organising local planting initiatives. In both urban and rural Malaysia, community parks and green spaces act as living classrooms where young generation can experience biodiversity directly. As climate change and urbanisation progress, communities need to focus on green projects that benefit both people and the planet. Through shared effort, communities can shape a more balanced and resilient future.

Building a Greener Tomorrow?

Educating the younger generation about the environment sustainability is crucial. It's a work that needs to be done today for the future tomorrow. The Alpha generation will inherit the outcomes of today's environmental choices.

Trees planted today may take years to grow, but their benefits will last for decades. Similarly, environmental education may not show immediate results, but its long-term impact is profound. When

universities, parents, schools, and communities work together; environmental awareness becomes part of everyday life.

Conclusion

Nurturing green awareness among the Alpha generation begins with education that is consistent, meaningful, and rooted in real experiences. By teaching young people to love and protect trees, we are planting seeds of care, responsibility, and sustainability. These seeds will grow into actions that preserve biodiversity and protect the

environment for generations to come. In doing so, we help ensure a greener, healthier, and more sustainable future for Malaysia. By nurturing environmental awareness early, we empower the Alpha generation to become responsible custodians of the planet, capable of making informed choices that will safeguard biodiversity and sustainability for the future.

References

