

ECO-SCHOOLS IN EASTERN PROVINCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

I was thrilled by the idea of going to Eastern province and specifically Machakos district. Most schools have a lot going concerning environmental conservation activities. The Kenya Organization of Environmental Education (KOE) is implementing the Eco-schools Program, which is in line with the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development. Tree planting is the main agenda in most of the schools there and their main aim is to target the bare land in their school compounds. Some schools are generating income from their tree and vegetable nurseries e.g. Kwanthanze Secondary and Mumbuni School.

With lack of water being a core problem here, the schools have made it a mandate to conserve the environment: they try their best to get seedlings from the surrounding community and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and Machakos Municipal Council, they go for long distances during their free time to look for water and the students take utter responsibility to tend and care for the growing seedlings e.g. Mumbuni Girls have even named the tree seedlings their own names.

Garbage has also become a serious problem for them. The schools have begun to consider measures to deal with pollution around their environment and with the help of the Eco-schools program, they will do everything for the future generations of their schools. They are planning to cut down on garbage and not burn it, recycling and precycling the garbage. Recycling means reusing materials instead of throwing garbage away. Precycling means not buying things that can be reused, like plastic wrapping, other schools let out burnable trash, incombustibles and have decided on collection days. In that way, they can solve this question little by little.

Air pollution around the schools has also become a major problem. Most of the schools are along the roadside. Exhaust fumes from cars are polluting the air so much because people have begun to use cars which have become indispensable to us. The number of cars goes on increasing by the day, thus the air becomes extremely intoxicated. .When garbage and plastics are burned, toxic substances fly in the air, it has a bad effect on plants in the school compound and the school community at large. Therefore, the schools have joined hands to increase the amount of trees in their school compounds to expand the carbon sink.

Schools in Eastern province are concerned and interested with environmental conservation and love nature, if we follow them and protect our natural resources we will have better lives, what about you? Join the Eco-Schools program now and help us conserve the environment.

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