

# LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INSTRUMENT

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Learning environment studies acknowledge that learning takes place within the social realm and social conditions contribute to the quality of both learning and experience. To access the students' perceptions of their environment, a desire to develop a robust, valid and reliable instrument for Environmental Education (EE) for use by teachers, researchers and evaluators was felt. Focus groups with environmental educators were formed to investigate the factors viewed most important to their pedagogy and likely to influence the unique learning environments fostered in the EE programmes. Analysis of this qualitative work resulted in eight scales for inclusion in the surveys, which were developed or adapted from a variety of previous learning environment surveys and *Place-Based Learning and Constructivist Environment Survey* (PLACES) developed. Quantitative findings from this study, in three different countries on development and validation of an environmental education inventory, are discussed in this paper.

**Key Words:** Learning-Environments, Student perceptions, Environmental Education, Constructivist, Validation.