Environmental Justice Education: How We Can Change our Planet and Society One Classroom at a Time

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Implications & Next Steps:
- Create easier access to environmental education in general, and take advantage of methods that are more accessible like podcasts (Fig 3).
- Frequent discussion must take place in the correct mannerisms for certain ages to stem interest and open doors for discussion in the future.
- More immersion in nature for children.
- Augmented training for educators specifically around environmental justice topics.
- Use motivators for children such as community-based activities, hope, and tangible incentives.

Results:

Challenges:
- Environmental justice topics are often hard to grasp at a young age and can be very sensitive.
- An increase in use of technology has led to less outdoor time for kids and has exposed children to topics they may be overwhelmed by or scared of.
- Educators are not adequately trained to teach about environmental justice topics.
- Barriers to accessing environmental education include high cost, lack of green space in cities, unsafe areas, weather, and low priority of environmental curriculum.

Opportunities:
- Immersing children in nature can lead to environmental stewardship, which can be implemented in environmental curriculum to stem interest and care.
- Discussing topics frequently with children can make them more comfortable with them.
- Community-based learning and activities in the classroom and the community can also be very motivating for kids.
- Instilling a sense of hope in children can be very motivating.
- Tangible incentives can be another motivating factor in teaching children about sustainable practices and environmental topics.

Research Question:
What are the opportunities and challenges in teaching K-12 children about environmental justice issues?

Internship and Methods

Internship:
- Virtually Co-hosting Common Caws for Sustainability Podcast which involved interviewing environmental and education experts. (Fig 2.)

Other Methods:
- Online survey to UW PoE students.
- Literature review.

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