Education for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean: Demystifying the Concept to Enhance and Broaden Practice

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Although promoted on a global scale through the recently-concluded Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) (2005-2014), education for sustainable development can be a fuzzy and complex concept to understand. This may be due, somewhat, to the conceptual confusion which surrounds the concept of sustainable development itself and, in part, by an inability to differentiate clearly between environmental education and education for sustainable development. Given the importance of education for sustainable development for the countries of the Caribbean, this paper attempts to demystify the concept of education for sustainable development, present its main tenets, and explore the implications of this educational paradigm for practice and application within the region. This discussion is particularly important in light of the new global Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Action Programme for Education for Sustainable Development meant to follow-on from the DESD, both of which contribute to the post-2015 development and education agendas.

Keywords: Caribbean, education for sustainable development, environmental education, sustainable development, Global Action Programme
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