

Jeremy Sanders' Question

Introduction:

The year is 2050: I get out of bed and open my windows only to find a dying blue sky pleading for help. I turn my gaze to the garden where I see trees gasping for a breath of fresh air; an unnerving silence from the birds is soon broken by the deafening sound of churning machinery.

This will be the future of our planet if we progress at the current rate. The youth's decisions and actions are what will determine the extent to which we can safeguard our planet for the forthcoming generation. It is up to us to stop this deterioration, to stop our planet from fading too early...

Initial survey:

Key Takeaways:

We conducted a survey to gain insight into the mindset of our youth.

When asked on the one thing they would do to protect the environment: our respondents chose to use less energy (i.e. switch off lights), waste less water and reduce/recycle. These results demonstrated that they were most willing to make small easy changes.

Our respondents felt that the best way to convince others to act would be to educate them on the effects of climate change. Specifically, through first-hand examples of violent physical repercussions (e.g. forest wildfires, dying habitats, freak weather patterns, etc.), and statistics of the impacts (e.g. number of habitats, communities, schools, homes destroyed).

https://forms.office.com/Pages/AnalysisPage.aspx?id=NCpsXyRPWEi-z1oEaRAGlnnw7caePA5EsB1_nBkg4WZUMIEwMFJOTDQ4RzMwUDBXRUXVzIQMFFPMYQIQCNjPTEu&AnalyzerToken=PxQtULfBf31Z2hZMICb2TDj6sMVIAzWu

Action Plan:

Explaining the science behind it:

1. The term 'climate change' has been normalised as it is often overused. Through our education plan, we can ensure that the youth have a full grasp on the concept in a relatable and understandable manner.
2. By providing the youth with the necessary context behind climate change, we can give them the opportunity to realise the detriment for themselves. It is important to allow them to arrive at their own conclusions as this will ensure a stronger desire for action. They will be lifetime patrons of the environment, even when the difficult choice may be the right one.
3. It can provide an opportunity for them to come up with their own unique and innovative approach to mitigate the climate change. After all, it is the everyday man who can come up with a potential solution to help save our world from the grasps of global warming.

Showcasing the impact:

The most effective way to enlighten people of their dangerous actions is to expose them to the repercussions. Once we show people the habitats we destroy, the animals we kill, the glaciers we have crumbled, ignorance can no longer persist. By showing people a tangible, visual, and destructive representation that will forever be etched into their minds, we can show them how they must do better.

Explain the solution:

People immediately assume that their actions are inconsequential when compared to the grand scale of things. This step rectifies this misconception by showing them that small and simple actions can go a long way. It is not about singlehandedly ending climate change, but rather completing your moral duty in doing the simple things right: turning off the lights, reducing water consumption, using less heating etc.

Explaining why they should care?

We can explain our moral obligation to protect our planet through highlighting certain key points.

1. We can take inspiration from our ancestors: they could have chosen to live a basic and simple life with minimal progression, yet they chose to innovate and strive for a better future for their children. It is this same perspective we must instil in the youth so they can strive to create a worthy planet for the next generation to inherit.
2. It is important for students to empathise and understand the immense level of privilege to live in a safe planet. We believe this can be achieved through meaningful discussion using prompts like the ones below:
 - a. Is it ethical for people to be punished for actions they did not commit?
 - b. Is it right for a person to be denied a certain way of life due to the generation they were born in?
 - c. How would you feel if your child asked you: why did you give me this ruined and deteriorated planet?

How can we implement our action plan?

There is no quick solution to the question at hand; therefore, our action plan will be directed to young students. The solution we propose is relatively straight-forward and provides flexibility as schools can adjust and adapt the program to better suit their students.

The first component involves timetabled lessons where we can provide students an accessible platform to learn about climate change using elements of our 4-step-action-plan. This will ensure that students are learning fundamental information that is vital to their understanding of climate change and hence spur them into action.

The second component ensures that the youth are taken on excursions to experience the first-hand impact of our carelessness; they will thus be able to understand the need for immediate action. In these outings, students may participate in clean-ups and detailed investigations to broaden their horizons and ultimately prevent further damage.

The third component involves creating encouraging initiatives in schools that will incentivise eco-friendly activities. This could include recycling competitions, gardening clubs, eco-friendly maker clubs, prizes for student initiatives etc. This will provide an initial spark that will help create a lasting commitment to protect the environment.

Sample Material:

We have produced a short video that serves as an example to what we could provide to schools. The video appeals to the age group of 8-10 years old as it conveys the content in a simple and relatable manner.

Video Link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/Enoy2T8PpN1i7vDp9>

Conclusion:

By educating the youth on the causation, impact, solution, and the need for action, we can ensure that students are able to grasp the severity of the problem. Thus, we would have given them the motivation and determination to change their lifestyle to protect future generations.