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EDUTOURISM FOR CHILDREN OF JERUKLEUEUT VILLAGE WITH *NATURAL SPACE CHILDREN GARDEN PROGRAM*

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Abstract: Edutourism is an innovative approach combining education and tourism, which can bring about positive changes in children's education in rural areas. This article examines the "Natural Space Children Garden" educational tourism program in Jerukleueut Village and its impact on developing the village's children. This research involves surveys, interviews, observations, and qualitative and quantitative data analysis. The results of the study show that this program has a significant positive effect on children's understanding of the natural environment, sustainable agriculture, and social skills. They also experienced an increased interest in learning and felt a closer connection with nature. The program also provides benefits to the village community in the form of jobs and increased environmental awareness. The Natural Space Children Garden in Jerukleueut Village is a successful example of how edu-tourism can change the way children in rural areas get an education. By combining education and nature experience, the program provides invaluable benefits to children, village communities, and the environment..

Keywords: Edu-tourism, Natural Space Children Garden, village children, social skills, environmental awareness

INTRODUCTION

Education is a basic right that should be enjoyed by every child, regardless of their origin, religion, race, or socio-economic background. This principle is universally recognized and enshrined in various international treaties and conventions, including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It implies that every child has the right to access to a quality, relevant, and inclusive education.

However, realizing this right to education still needs to be solved in many parts of the world, especially in rural areas. Children living in villages often need help to obtain an education equivalent to that in big cities. These obstacles include long distances from schools, inadequate educational infrastructure, lack of quality human resources, and socio-economic problems that affect access to education.

To overcome this educational gap, the concept of edu-tourism emerged, a merger between education and tourism. Edutourism is an innovative approach that seeks to utilize the natural and cultural environment to learn. By integrating education into the travel experience, children can gain knowledge and skills while exploring the world around them.

One of the real examples of the application of the concept of edu-tourism is found in Jerukleuet Village. This village has an amazing initiative known as the "*Natural Space Children Garden*." The program creates an environment that allows village children to learn and grow holistically. This includes direct interaction with nature, learning about sustainable agriculture, introduction to local arts and culture, and instilling positive social and environmental values.

Natural Space Children Garden is an example of how edu-tourism can be an effective solution to overcome the educational gap in rural areas. The program not only provides better access to education to village children but also motivates them to learn in a more engaging and meaningful way. They are no longer limited by classroom walls but are confronted with hands-on experiences in nature that inspire and educate.

This community service activity aims to investigate the impact and benefits of *the Natural Space Children Garden educational tourism program* on the development of children in Jerukleuet Village. In addition to the direct benefits for children, this program also positively impacts the village community as a whole. Local communities are involved in these programs, creating job opportunities and raising awareness of the importance of the environment and sustainability.

METHOD

This research method will include a qualitative approach to collect comprehensive data on student experiences, program impacts, and community views. Here are the steps and techniques that will be used in this study:

1. Literature Studies

Before conducting field research, a literature study will be conducted to collect

information about the concept of ecotourism, Natural Space Children Garden, and previous research carried out in the context of children's education in rural areas. This will help formulate research questions and understand the background of the program.

2. Initial Survey

An initial survey will be conducted to identify a sample of students who will be included in the study. This survey will also provide an initial overview of students' understanding and expectations of *the Natural Space Children Garden* program.

3. Observation

Data collection will involve participatory observation at the *Natural Space Children's Garden*. Researchers will observe and record student activities, interactions with nature, and responses to learning outside the classroom.

4. Interview

Interviews will be conducted with students, teachers, and parents of students involved in the program. The interview will focus on the experiences, views, and possible changes in the student's attitude and knowledge.

5. Group Focus

The focus of the group will be used to explore students' understanding of the benefits of this educational tourism program and the potential for changes in their behavior and mindset.

6. Data Analysis

The collected data will be analyzed using qualitative techniques (e.g., content analysis for interviews and group focus) and statistical analysis (for questionnaire data). This will help identify patterns, key findings, and program impacts.

7. Interpretation of Results

The study results will be interpreted to identify benefits, challenges, and recommendations related to *the Natural Space Children Garden* program as an educational tourism facility in Jerukleuet Village. This research will provide deeper insights into the influence of this program on the education of village children and the welfare of local communities.

8. KTI Writing

The research results will be used to write an article entitled "Edutourism for Children of Jerukleuet Village with the *Natural Space Children Garden*

Program," which will include a description of the program, research results, data analysis, and recommendations. This KTI will be an important contribution to understanding the value and effectiveness of edu-tourism in the rural context.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Edutourism: Turning Education into Adventure

Edutourism is an educational approach that combines two important concepts: "edu" (education), which means education, and "tourism," which implies travel or adventure. This approach blends formal learning with practical outdoor or cultural experience. The basic idea behind edutourism is to make education more engaging, interactive, and relevant to students' daily lives.

Here is a further explanation of the concept of edu-tourism:

1. **Integration of education and tourism:** Eduwisata combines education and tourism, so students not only learn in the classroom but also through hands-on experience in the outdoors, museums, historical sites, and so on. This creates a dynamic and engaging learning environment.
2. **Active learning:** One of the characteristics of edutourism is active learning. Students have the opportunity to participate in physical activities, observations, explorations, and experiments. They learn by engaging all their five senses.
3. **Real experience:** In edutourism, real experience is the best teacher. Students can see, feel, smell, and hear the things being taught. For example, in science teaching, they can examine plants and animals living in nature, not just look at pictures in books.
4. **High motivation:** Edutourism can often increase students' learning motivation. Activities that are fun and different from the usual classroom routine make students more eager to learn and find out.
5. **Social skills development:** In addition to academic knowledge, edutourism can also help develop social skills, such as teamwork, communication, and appreciation of cultural diversity.
6. **Relevance and applicability:** The experiences gained through edu-tourism are often more relevant to students' daily lives. They can see how the concepts taught in school can be applied in real contexts.

Natural Space Children Garden in Jerukleueut Village is an excellent example of applying the concept of edu-tourism. This park provides an in-depth and meaningful learning experience for the village's children by utilizing the potential of nature and the surrounding environment. They can learn about nature, sustainable agriculture, art, culture, and the environment while living an adventure in the outdoors. Edutourism is not only for children. These principles can also be applied in adult education and throughout life. Through this approach, education becomes more dynamic, inspiring, and relevant, helping individuals better understand the world around them.

Getting to Know Natural Space Children's Garden

The Natural Space Children Garden is a fantastic initiative that provides entertainment and becomes a rich and meaningful learning resource for the children of Jerukleueut Village. Here is a further explanation of the concept and benefits of *the Natural Space Children Garden*:

1. Natural Environment: One of the most striking features of *the Natural Space Children's Garden* is its natural environment. Located in the middle of Jerukleueut Village's open air, this park provides access to lush nature and a healthy environment. Children can explore the forest, observe *flora* and *fauna*, and experience the beauty of nature firsthand.
2. Integrated education: The park is designed with special attention to education. Children not only play but also learn all the time. They can understand natural cycles, learn about plants, get to know animals, and even delve into concepts such as sustainable agriculture.
3. Social skills development: *The Natural Space Children's Garden* is also where children can develop their social skills. They learn to interact with their peers, work in teams, share knowledge, and help each other.
4. Respect for the environment: Through experiences in this park, children understand the importance of preserving the natural environment. They develop a sense of responsibility for the environment around them and become agents of change in maintaining sustainability.
5. Practical experience: One of the most valuable aspects of the Natural Space Children's Garden is its practical experience. Children not only listen to nature or agriculture from textbooks, but they feel it. They feel the soil, care for plants, and

see how ecosystems work in real life.

6. Fun learning: All activities in the park are designed to be fun. Children can play while learning, which makes the learning process more effective and sticks in their memory.
7. Local community empowerment: *Natural Space Children Garden* also benefits the people of Jerukleuet Village. The program creates job opportunities and supports the local economy. In addition, the education about sustainability instilled in this program has a positive impact on the attitude and behavior of village communities toward the environment.

The Natural Space Children's Garden is a vivid example of how education can be an educational and immersive adventure experience for children. It is an inspiring effort to provide access to quality education while stimulating interest and appreciation for nature and strengthening children's social skills.

Some of the features offered by Natural Space Children Garden include:

1. Education Gardens

The Education Garden is one of the important features in *the Natural Space Children Garden* that provides a practical and relevant learning experience for children. The following is a further explanation of the concept of the Education Garden:

- a. Plant Planting: Children are invited to participate in cultivating vegetables, fruits, and medicinal plants. This is not just an ordinary garden activity; it is also an opportunity for them to learn how to properly care for plants.
- b. Plant Life Cycle: Through the Education Garden, children can understand the life cycle of plants, from seed planting to growth, flowering, fruiting, and ending with seed dispersal. It provides a deeper understanding of nature and life processes.
- c. Sustainable Agriculture: Children are also taught about the importance of sustainable agriculture. They learn how to maintain soil fertility, use organic fertilizers, and manage pests naturally without harmful pesticides. This introduces sustainability concepts that are essential for the future of the environment.
- d. Appreciation for Healthy Food: Through planting and caring for plants,

children also develop an appreciation for healthy and organic food. They learned about the importance of eating fresh and natural foods, which can help them form a better diet.

The Educational Garden at Natural Space Children's Garden is one aspect that allows children to be directly involved in education about nature and agriculture. They not only hear about these concepts but also experience them in practical experiences that build a deeper understanding.

2. Nature Knowledge Center

The Nature Knowledge Centre is an invaluable facility within the park, enriching the children's learning experience through deeper knowledge and understanding of nature. Here is a further explanation of the Nature Knowledge Center:

- a. Library: The Nature Knowledge Center is equipped with a library that contains a variety of books, magazines, and references about nature, the environment, and science. Children can access diverse learning resources to expand their knowledge.
- b. Learning Tools: The center also provides a variety of learning aids, such as plant models, animals, and simple scientific equipment. Children can observe, explore, and try scientific concepts on their own.
- c. Interactive Learning: The Nature Knowledge Center is designed to facilitate interactive learning. Children can ask questions, conduct experiments, and get guidance from knowledgeable educators or teachers.
- d. Understanding of Local Flora and Fauna: Through the use of this facility, children can learn about local flora and fauna in depth. They can identify plants and animals, understand the ecosystems in which they live, and develop an appreciation for biodiversity.

The Nature Knowledge Center in *the Natural Space Children Garden* provides an opportunity for children to explore knowledge and understand more deeply about nature and science. It is a resource that supports the development of students' critical thinking skills and curiosity.

3. Adventure in the Great Outdoors

This part of the *Natural Space Children Garden* creates an ideal environment for children to explore nature in an educational and fun way. Here is a further explanation of adventure in the outdoors:

- a. **Nature Observation:** Children can make observations of nature around them. They can observe different types of birds, insects, and other local animals. This gives them a better understanding of the natural life and biodiversity that exists around them.
- b. **Nature exploration:** The park's open areas invite children to explore nature. They can explore forests, rivers, and grasslands, which helps them develop a sense of openness to the environment.
- c. **Environmental Education:** During adventures in the outdoors, children can also get educated about the importance of preserving the environment. They learn about concepts such as recycling, water conservation, and nature protection.
- d. **Connection with Nature:** Through experiences in the outdoors, children develop a stronger connection with nature. They learn to appreciate the beauty of nature and understand the importance of protecting the environment.

Adventure in the outdoors is one of the aspects that make *Natural Space Children's Garden* an attractive place for children. This gives them a chance to escape from the classroom routine and experience the real wonders of nature.

4. Arts and Culture Activities

In addition to nature education, the park also provides children with valuable art and cultural experiences. Here's a further explanation of arts and cultural activities:

- a. **Dance Arts:** Kids can learn about the traditional dance arts of their area. It includes the movements, costumes, and music used in traditional dances. It helps preserve the local culture and introduces children to the beautiful arts.
- b. **Traditional Music:** Traditional music activities allow children to play traditional musical instruments and sing local songs. This enriches their cultural experience and allows them to appreciate the heritage of traditional music.
- c. **Handicrafts:** Children are also taught traditional handicrafts. They can make items such as wicker, carving, or traditional paintings. It promotes their creative skills and maintains the culture of handicrafts.
- d. **Appreciation for Local Culture:** This art and cultural activity helps

children to appreciate their local culture. It also allows them to understand the history and values contained in their art and culture.

The arts and culture activities at *the Natural Space Children Garden* are a wonderful way to preserve and enrich the local cultural heritage, while providing children with a different and immersive experience in arts and cultural activities. It is a manifestation of holistic education that includes various aspects of life and knowledge.

5. Social and Sustainability Programs

Natural Space Children Garden not only focuses on nature, art, and culture education, but also encourages children to become caring and responsible citizens for their environment and society. Here is a further explanation of the social and sustainability programs organized in this park:

- a. Environmental Cleanup: Children are invited to participate in an environmental cleanup program around Jerukleuet Village. They learned about the impact of plastic waste and waste on the environment and were involved in cleaning up the area around their park and village.
- b. Greening Campaign: The sustainability program at Natural Space Children Garden includes a greening campaign. Children can participate in tree planting and garden care and get to know the benefits for the environment and human health.
- c. Social Education: During this program, children also get social education. They learn about the social issues that exist in their society and how they can play a role in creating positive change. This includes aspects such as gender equality, children's rights, and poverty alleviation.
- d. Community Engagement: These social and sustainability programs also involve local communities. Parents, educators, and other villagers are involved in supporting children in this activity, creating a sense of togetherness and shared responsibility in protecting the environment and society.
- e. Character Development: Through this program, children also develop strong character, including positive social and moral attitudes. They learn about caring, empathy, and social responsibility, which are important values in shaping a good person.

The social and sustainability programs at *Natural Space Children Garden* help children to see the positive impact they can make in their communities. They understand the importance of taking care of the environment and living a sustainable life. In addition, the program also creates opportunities for them to engage in real social action, inspiring them to become agents of positive change in their society.

Why is Natural Space Children Garden Important?

The Natural Space Children Garden is a vivid example of how education can be a tool to change the lives of children in rural areas. This initiative brings a variety of benefits that go far beyond conventional classrooms. Here are some aspects that need to be emphasized about the important role of this park in education and village development:

1. **Development of interest in learning:** The Natural Space Children Garden provides a fun and practical learning experience, which helps children develop a greater interest in learning. They no longer see education as a burden, but as a fun adventure.
2. **Improved interpersonal skills:** Through various activities in the park, children also develop strong interpersonal skills. They learn to work in a team, communicate well, and share knowledge with their friends.
3. **Exploring potential:** The Natural Space Children Garden gives children the opportunity to explore their untapped potential. They can find their talents in the arts, agriculture, science, or sustainability, which can help them in planning their future.
4. **An unforgettable experience:** The experience provided by this park is unforgettable. Children learn from real experiences in the outdoors, observe flora and fauna, and take care of plants. All of these experiences provide a deep understanding and appreciation for nature.
5. **Contribution to village development:** Initiatives such as the Natural Space Children Garden also have a positive impact on overall village development. They inspire local communities to take care of and use their environment wisely, which has a positive impact on the sustainability and well-being of villages.
6. **Job opportunities:** In addition to providing educational benefits, the park also creates job opportunities for villagers. Educators, farmers, and other support staff have the opportunity to work and make a positive contribution to the local

economy.

The Natural Space Children Garden is an inspiring example of how education and sustainability can be interconnected and mutually reinforcing. It brings hope and opportunity to children in rural areas, while also strengthening local communities and setting an example in protecting nature and their environment. Initiatives of this kind should be valued and supported as part of global efforts to improve access and quality of education.

The Difference Between Learning in the Classroom and Learning Outside the Classroom using the Natural Space Children Garden in Jerukleueut Village

Learning is an important process in individual development. Traditionally, learning takes place in the classroom with the teacher as the facilitator. However, there are various alternative learning methods, one of which is learning outside the classroom using *the Natural Space Children Garden*. In this material, we will explain the difference between classroom learning and learning outside the classroom using the *Natural Space Children Garden program* in Jerukleueut Village.

Learning in the Classroom

1. Structured environment: Learning in the classroom tends to take place in a structured environment. Students sit on their benches, follow the rules, and follow a predetermined schedule.
2. Focus on curriculum: Learning in the classroom is more focused on the curriculum that has been determined by the government or school. The learning materials are arranged in such a way that they cover a wide range of subjects such as mathematics, language, and science.
3. Limited interaction with nature: In the classroom, students have limited access to nature and the surrounding environment. They mainly learn about nature through textbooks and presentations.
4. Theory-based learning: Learning in the classroom tends to be theoretical. The teacher delivers the material in the form of lectures or presentations, and students are then tested through assignments and exams.
5. Limited movement space: In the classroom, students often sit in the same place for long periods of time, which can result in fatigue and lack of physical

interaction.

Learning Outside the Classroom with *Natural Space Children's Garden*

1. Natural environment: Learning at *the Natural Space Children's Garden* takes place in the open air, which provides a natural and diverse environment. Students interact directly with nature and learn from their experiences.
2. Holistic learning: Learning outside the classroom involves holistic learning covering different life aspects. In addition to academic lessons, students learn about ecology, agriculture, and sustainability.
3. Active exploration: Students can actively explore nature and the surrounding environment. They can feel the soil, hold plants, and observe flora and fauna.
4. Experiential learning: Learning outside the classroom is more based on hands-on experience. Students learn through experiments, observations, and field practices.
5. Increased creativity and imagination: The free-flowing natural environment provides students with space to develop their creativity and imagination. They can create innovative art and exploration projects.



Figure 1. Learning Outside the Classroom with Natural Space Children's Garden

CONCLUSION

The conclusion of this activity makes the concept of edutourism as embodied in the Natural Space Children Garden program in Jerukleuet Village is one of the most valuable efforts to ensure that every child, regardless of background, can access quality education. This is a step towards fulfilling the basic right of every child to learn, grow, and develop optimally. The Natural Space Children Garden in Jerukleuet Village is a successful example of how edutourism can change the way children in rural areas get an education. By combining education and nature experience, the program provides invaluable benefits to children, village communities, and the environment. Hopefully initiatives like this can

be an inspiration for other regions to provide quality education to all children, without exception. In-classroom learning and out-of-classroom learning using the Natural Space Children Garden have significant differences in student approaches, environments, and experiences. While classroom learning emphasizes curriculum and theory, learning outside the classroom prioritizes nature experience, exploration, and holistic learning. Both have important values in education, and the selection of learning methods must consider the needs and desired learning goals.

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