

METHODOLOGICAL REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPE EDUCATION RESEARCH

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1 ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to explore research possibilities with corresponding research methods for the future sustainable landscape education. Sustainable landscape education is an indispensable part of education working towards sustainability. However, we found limited numbers of current studies exploring sustainable landscape education. Thus, potential research elements of sustainable landscape education were summarized in the paper to help the researchers to organize their research ideas. And a methodological review is needed to help the researchers see the successes and weaknesses of the existing studies, and choose the suitable research methodology and approaches for their topics. A methodological review was carried out in the paper on the open access publications since 2000 that focused on sustainable landscape education and the relevant areas, such as Education for Sustainability, sustainable design education, and general design education. The reviewed materials were divided into two broad categories including theoretical research and empirical research, which further divided into three subcategories of qualitative research, quantitative research, and mixed method research. Several significant findings were presented as follows. To focus on the development of a new course, project, workshop or curriculum based on sustainable theories, the researchers can choose either theoretical research method or empirical research method, including the qualitative method or mixed methods. To focus on fundamental research about sustainable landscape education, the researchers can utilize either the quantitative method or mixed methods. Conducting fundamental studies on sustainable landscape education and using a fully integrated mixed-method study are the most challengeable and urgent.

1.1 Keywords

Sustainable Landscape Education, Research Methods, Methodological Review