

## **Sustainable Learning Environment of Effective Schools in the Twenty First Century from Thai Parents' Perspectives**

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Elsewhere in the world, mostly in the city centres as is the case with the city of Bangkok and other fast growing cities in Thailand, educational modernization and technological practices, and industrialization have consumed and destroyed natural environmental resources. The design of schools, hospitals, hotels and city buildings are often unsuitable for today's learning. In a sustainable learning environment, the environment teaches us to value and nurture that which sustains schools for better learning, in the context of sustainability; to focus on the values, rights and needs of the current and future generations.

Creating and maintaining stimulating learning environments can be achieved through interactive and whole school displays and a climate of innovation. The future holds many challenges for young people, such as climate change and global poverty. It is clear that our current model of development and use of resources is placing an increasing burden on the environment, but 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools should be designed to sustain learning and learners minimizing the destruction of limited environmental resources.

Schools have a special role to play in rebuilding and protecting the environment. As places of learning, they can help pupils understand our impact on the environment; and become places where sustainable living and working is demonstrated to young people and the community. This study seeks to influence school designers, administrators, teachers and investors to develop schools that favour natural or outdoor learning environments, as the traditional classroom is not sustainable enough.