

'Landscapes of Love':

Education and Place Attachment

Razieh H. S. Rezazadeh

University of Sheffield

United Kingdom

Abstract

Sending students abroad is part of the development policy of most developing countries. The socio-cultural effects of this experience have been much emphasized, but what has not been explored are the effects of this spatial experience on the students' sense of place and their bonding with places.

In the light of existing literature it could be argued that this voluntary relocation causes disruption of a person's 'place identity' that in the returning process causes an 'image incongruity'. These may loosen a student's place attachments and therefore his or her feelings of obligation to the former home- an issue of interest and concern to policy makers as well as to social scientists.

This paper discusses the importance of the type of student experience in the development of a 'multi-place attachment'. 'Landscapes of love' are the places which have spiritual if not sacred importance in one's mind, which are appreciated for their value in facilitating an individual's exploration of self-knowledge and knowledge of the world.

Key Words: Education, Place, Psychology, Identity, Attachment.