

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION

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Lesia Pavliukh**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

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Abstract. *The article is dedicated to environmental education of university students. It considers the algorithm that helps to improve environmental skills acquired in the current system of higher education.*

Keywords: environmental awareness; environmental education; students.

1. Introduction

Nowadays, the problems of environment are considered to be extremely relevant.

Irrational use of natural resources raises some questions how people and nature coexist.

Environmental protection depends on the development, improvement and implementation of energy saving techniques and technologies, as well as on the environmental awareness and culture of every human being and the whole society.

2. Analysis of Researches and Publications

The principles of environmental awareness are based on environmental culture.

There are not any modern references where a clear definition for environmental culture is given, but some scientists have made a contribution to the development of the methods to solve this problem.

In reference M. Doronina [3], some theoretical approaches developed by those scientists are considered.

According to those approaches, environmental culture as a structural part of culture is the specific area of human activities which can be characterized as a unique interaction between people and nature as well as the system of interconnected elements.

This system includes environmental relationships, environmental activities and environmental awareness [3].

The studies that pertain to the enhancement of environmental culture among university students are being conducted by the following scientists: V. Andruschenko [1], S. Boychenko [2], L. Kurniak [4].

They presume that the necessity of the enhancement of environmental culture among university students is connected with the reaction to global environmental crisis.

Negative changes in the environment have been significantly accelerated due to the influence of some industrial factors in the last few decades.

In other words, the effective environmental protection now depends on the effective enhancement of environmental culture among university students and the whole society [4].

Some references are dedicated to the development of environmental culture, among them V. Andruschenko [1], L. Kurniak [4], T. Sayenko [2], S. Boychenko [2].

In particular, the concept described in reference [5] determines the main objectives of environmental education, which are the following:

1. To develop environmental culture in all population groups;
2. To provide experts in ecology for various branches of economy, including education;
3. To improve, to reconcile and to standardize the terminology in the area of environmental science.

3. Statement of the Objective

This article considers the problems in environmental education of university students.

The objective is to improve the educational system that allows students to acquire environmental skills in higher education institutions.

This system is a structural part of the national education system.

4. Main Research

The individual education process is complex and continuous.

It combines many factors and commences with an individual's childhood.

The formation of an individual proceeds in accordance with some moral and ethical principles.

As one of these principles, environmental education ought to be paid much attention to.

Environmental education is an organized and purposeful process of forming systematic knowledge about nature and society, as well as forming opinions and convictions that ensure the feeling of responsibility in university students pertaining to the environment.

This responsibility can be confirmed by the appropriate human activities (activities of school pupils and university students) that comply with human moral issues [4].

Education today must meet the requirements of environmental imperative of the need for implementing sustainable development of society and natural ecosystems.

In Ukraine, the entire state system of environmental management is in dire need of qualified professionals, government officials, aware of the requirements of environmental and economic policy, terms of implementing the concept of sustainable development.

The problem of environmental education today has gone beyond national boundaries and gained international importance and nature.

Environmental education in higher education institutions has some previous stages which are as follows: environmental education in a family; environmental education in elementary school; environmental education in high school.

First of all, the effective process of environmental education depends on the environmental competency of teachers.

The main task of teachers is to ensure the systematic education of university students to be directed to the development of environmental culture and the formation of environmental awareness.

Children ought to be educated to develop environmental awareness as a moral factor in order to provide their education to be based on systematic knowledge and appropriate ideas pertaining to the environment, its significance and value to mankind, and the necessity of interaction between people and nature.

The experience of Western countries in the implementation of training prior to national greening measures 25-30 years ago, along with the transition to the principles of the Bologna process in higher education Ukrainian education system would take some positive elements greening disciplines, areas of training, instructors, teachers and the general public in these countries [2].

Up till now, any clear ideas how to implement or improve the system of environmental culture have not been developed neither in higher education institutions nor in any other relevant organizations.

That is why, after analyzing the problem of forming environmental awareness in young people, the following algorithm to improve the current system of environmental education applied in higher education institutions can be proposed:

- To develop the acquired knowledge in the area of environmental protection;
- To expand the list of educational subjects that influence the formation of environmental awareness of university students;
- To pay much attention to the ‘environmental competency’ of teaching staff of higher education institutions;
- To develop mechanisms of sharing the experience in environmental ethics at interuniversity and international levels;
- To give students an opportunity to take part in environmental projects and scientific programs;
- To teach students to use knowledge and skills in practice.

5. Conclusions

Analyzing environmental problems at present, it is necessary to emphasize that university students as well as the whole society do not have a sufficient level of environmental culture.

That is why the need for scientific research dedicated to the formation of environmental awareness, ethics and culture cannot be doubted.

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Л.І. Павлюх. Екологічна свідомість студентської молоді

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Присвячено екологічному вихованню студентів. Запропоновано алгоритм вдосконалення існуючої системи набуття екологічних навичок у вищому навчальному закладі.

Ключові слова: екологічне виховання; екологічна свідомість; студенти.

Л.И. Павлюх. Экологическое сознание студенческой молодёжи

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Посвящено экологическому воспитанию студентов. Предложен алгоритм усовершенствования существующей системы приобретения экологических навыков в высшем учебном заведении.

Ключевые слова: студенты; экологическое воспитание; экологическое сознание.

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