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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AS THE ELEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL SAFETY IN THE STATE

Today the issue of environmental education is the most important aspect of ecological safety in the state. Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas (IFNTUOG) is a leading institution in Ukraine, which trains specialists for oil industry. The analysis of the causes of accidents and the circumstances influencing the increase of the negative ecological impact on the environment shows, that except failing to fulfill technological requirements, imperfection of technical equipment and violations of exploitation norms there is the lack of ecological awareness of staff. According to the conception of ecologization in Ukraine it is necessary to popularize the ecological approaches in different areas.

The environmental education at different levels of human development is one of the keys to ecological safety. Students of Institute of Environmental Engineering of the IFNTUOG are exploring and learning the issue of ecological safety including the ecological awareness of future specialists. The questionnaire for IFNTUOG students was formed in order to explore their ecological awareness on the example of utilizing the solid domestic wastes (SDW). The main objective was to investigate the sorting of SDW by students. The questionnaire results showed that only 29% of citizens and 37% of villagers sort SDW. Such statistics may indicate the low level of ecological awareness that shows the passiveness and lack of awareness about the consequences of SDW accumulation. The problematic issue was: the awareness of residents about collection points in settlements where the respondents live. The results of survey are presented in the Fig. 1. The Fig. 2 represents the using packages of polyethylene, paper and tissue.

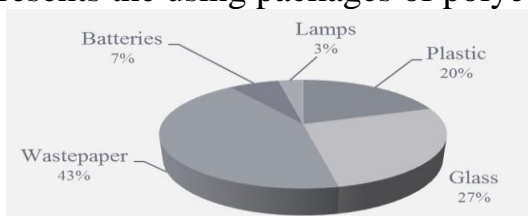


Figure 1– Awareness about collection points

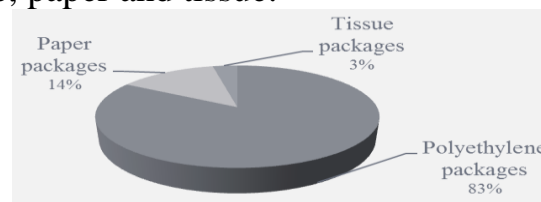


Figure 2 – Using packages of polyethylene, paper and tissue

Based on the results obtained only 14% use paper packages that can be utilized quicker and 3% use tissue packages, that can be used for many times. The rest 83% of students use polyethylene packages, which accumulate and cause great damage to the environment. The main danger of these packages is their longevity: the decay term of polyethylene is over 60 years!

Paper production is a complicated process that causing massive deforestation and negative impact on the environment. It takes two times less energy to recycle paper than for primary production of wood, while the harmful emissions are reduced more than by 70%. Nowadays paper is used for hygienic purposes, napkins, towels, toilet paper and more. Survey of respondents showed that 63% of students use toiletries from of pulp papers and 37% of wood.

The recycling of SDW and their correct utilizing can greatly improve the ecological situation in the state. For preventing the escalation of ecological crisis it's necessary to develop the ecological awareness of all the segments of the population.

LITERATURE

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