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ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION OF JUNIOR SCHOOLCHILDREN IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

The twentieth century, especially its second half, in the history of civilization is marked by increasing anthropogenic impact on ecological systems, and therefore the problems of ecology around the world are paramount. They are especially relevant for Ukrainian society, which has suffered significant negative impacts (environmental, social and economic) as a result of the man-made disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.

Globalization, the introduction of innovative technologies, contributing to progress in many areas of social production, cause a negative impact on the environment, lead to depletion of natural resources, degradation of natural and plant life, excessive accumulation of industrial waste, significantly reducing the quality of habitats environmental human rights, and is the cause of rising morbidity, especially children.

This puts on the agenda the problem of choosing effective measures to overcome the crisis in the field of ecology, the creation of effective mechanisms for sustainable development of Ukraine, one of the main tasks of which is the formation of environmental culture in the learners of junior school.

Modern ecology is both a worldview, which includes a conscious attitude to everything, and its active protection. In addition to socio-environmental and legal measures aimed at protecting the environment, the formation of the ecological culture in each member of society plays an exceptional role.

There is a fair opinion among ecologists and teachers of Ukraine: ecological education and upbringing is the only consistent process that should be carried out throughout a person's life on a comprehensive basis and which is designed to prevent the above phenomena.

In solving this problem, a prominent place is given to the school as social institution, especially to primary school. After all, natural curiosity, sincere interest in the environment are characteristic of primary school children, which create extremely favorable conditions for environmental education.

For many years, this aspect of teaching at school has been developed on an interdisciplinary basis. Knowledge of the laws of the environment, the interaction of mankind with nature has been included in the content of most school subjects.

However, the level of environmental culture of school graduates remains low. Today, the issue of "environmental awareness" has become acute not only in the framework of curriculum schooling. There is also the teachers' awareness of

environmental education and training as a continuous process, being carried out in extracurricular activities.

On the basis of ecological thinking and consciousness, an ecological culture is formed, providing the learners with deep knowledge about the environment (natural and social), developing in them the ecological style of thinking and responsible attitude to nature, the ability to solve environmental problems, to participate directly in environmental activities.

Ecological education involves the disclosure of the essence of the world of the natural environment for a man, who must be interested in maintaining the integrity, purity, harmony in nature. This involves the ability to comprehend environmental phenomena, to draw conclusions about the state of nature, to interact intelligently with it. The aesthetic beauty of nature contributes to the formation of moral feelings of duty and responsibility for its preservation, encourages environmental protection.

Ecological culture is aimed at overcoming the limitations of a human being as a natural being in terms of his/her adaptation in the biosphere in conditions of constant competition of different living forms.

The role of the school, especially its primary level, in educating students' environmental culture is undeniable. And it is impossible to say that ecological education or ecological education plays a bigger role here. Only by considering these processes in conjunction can we educate an environmentally literate citizen of our society.

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