

THE ROLE OF ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN FORMING ECO-LITERACY IN PRIMARY CLASS STUDENTS

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Abstract: This article analyzes the importance of environmental education in shaping eco-literacy among primary school students. It discusses the content, methods, and programs of environmental education and how they influence students' attitudes toward the environment. The article addresses issues related to raising ecological awareness in the younger generation, conserving natural resources, and contributing to sustainable development through the development of eco-literacy. Recommendations are provided to enhance the effectiveness of environmental education in primary school teaching processes.

Keywords: eco-literacy, environmental education, primary school students, environmental awareness formation, sustainable development, ecological upbringing.

The concept of eco-literacy.

Eco-literacy represents a set of environmental knowledge, skills and values, in which the main focus is on the interdependence between man and nature and the formation of a sustainable lifestyle. This concept includes awareness and activities aimed at understanding environmental problems, their prevention and protection of nature. Eco-literacy includes knowledge, attitudes and practical skills, with the help of which individuals will be able to understand ecological systems, rationally use natural resources and contribute to environmental protection. In this regard, eco-literacy should be formed in the younger generation, and especially primary school students should master the first foundations of environmental awareness.

In the context of sustainable development, eco-literacy is an important tool for people to pay constant attention to environmental problems in everyday life and have a positive attitude towards the environment. Eco-literacy also ensures that individuals actively participate in making environmental decisions and take action to improve the ecological environment.

The role and methods of environmental education in primary school students.

Primary school students are an important stage in the formation of environmental awareness, since during this period children receive initial concepts about the environment and acquire life habits. Environmental education is a key tool in developing a positive attitude towards the environment of the younger generation and forming a sustainable lifestyle. The main task of environmental education in primary schools, in addition to imparting environmental knowledge to students, is to encourage them to love nature, protect it, and form the skills to feel ecological responsibility. Therefore, environmental education methods should be adapted to the psychological characteristics and abilities of young people. One of the effective methods for primary school students is interactive forms of education, through which students actively participate, develop independent thinking and problem-solving skills. For example, project-based learning, field practices, the use of visual materials, role-playing games and group work facilitate the acquisition of environmental knowledge.

Results and effectiveness of environmental education.

The main goal of environmental education is to form positive attitudes towards the environment in students, prepare them to implement the principles of sustainable development by increasing their environmental knowledge and skills. Research shows that environmental education leads to



significant positive changes in the behavior of primary school students, for example, increasing responsibility for nature conservation and raising the level of understanding of environmental problems.

Effective environmental education develops in students the skills to live in harmony with the environment and forms environmental responsibility. The main criterion for the effectiveness of education is not only the theoretical level of students' ecological knowledge, but also their practical application in everyday life. The effectiveness of ecological education is closely related to the qualifications of teachers, interactive methods in the educational process, and the opportunities for students to directly communicate with nature. Studies have shown that projects and field practices allow students to gain a deeper understanding of ecological concepts and problems. As a result, ecological education is recognized as an effective tool for forming ecological literacy in primary school students, which serves to educate the younger generation as supporters of nature conservation and a sustainable lifestyle. The role of teachers and parents in environmental education.

The role of teachers and parents in the effective implementation of environmental education in primary school students is very important. Teachers act not only as educators, but also as leaders who form environmental values and involve students in environmental activities. Their professional qualifications in environmental education, pedagogical approaches and the use of interactive methods determine the quality of the educational process. Parents play a key role in environmental education, because the child is formed on the basis of the values and habits acquired in the family. Raising the environmental awareness of the family, involving parents in environmental activities helps to strengthen the attitude of students to the environment. Effective cooperation between teachers and parents ensures the continuity and continuity of environmental education, which serves to deepen the instillation of environmental responsibility in students. Therefore, the school and family should function as a single system for environmental education. The role of environmental activity among students and their friends

The environmental literacy of primary school students is not limited to the knowledge provided in the educational process. The social environment, in particular, interactions with friends and peers, also plays an important role in the formation of environmental awareness and behavior. A group of friends influences students to strengthen environmental values, participate in activities aimed at protecting the environment, and develop environmental responsibility. Social interaction and group behavior encourage students to actively approach environmental problems. For example, environmental projects or activities related to nature conservation organized together with friends serve to develop positive environmental behavior among young people. Such activities increase the skills of applying an individual's environmental values in practice and strengthen ongoing environmental awareness. Environmental activities among students increase social support and motivation, which helps them to continue their environmental behavior in the long term. Positive feedback and experiences from peers increase interest in and responsibility for environmental actions among the younger generation. Environmental activity among students and their friends is an important factor in increasing the effectiveness of environmental education. Through this social environment, environmental values are more widely and deeply instilled, as well as sustainable environmental behavior is formed.

School ecosystems and environmental education

School ecosystems are natural or semi-natural habitats organized on school grounds, which are an effective tool for developing environmental knowledge and skills in primary school students. These ecosystems allow students to master theoretical knowledge through practical exercises, directly observe processes in nature, and understand ecological relationships. The ecosystem-



based educational process increases students' interest in and respect for the environment, forms environmental awareness, and actively involves them in nature conservation. Research shows that activities in school ecosystems increase students' environmental awareness and help them understand the principles of sustainable development. In addition, through school ecosystems, students develop social skills such as teamwork and sharing responsibility, which also has a positive impact on their overall development. Students learn about ecological processes such as biodiversity, the water cycle, and waste management through the gardens and experimental sites they maintain.

CONCLUSION

The effectiveness of environmental education among primary school students is significantly increased through school ecosystems. The natural environment created on the school territory allows students not only to master theoretical knowledge, but also to observe and understand environmental processes in practice. This plays an important role in the formation of environmental literacy and a sense of responsibility for the environment. School ecosystems encourage students to develop social skills, to cooperate in groups, and to be active in environmental issues. This process prepares the younger generation for the principles of sustainable development and educates them as responsible individuals for nature conservation in the future. The creation of school ecosystems and the integration of environmental education into practice are effective ways to increase eco-literacy in primary education and serve as an important factor in improving the quality of education.

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