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TÍTULO: El nivel de cultura ecológica de los jóvenes estudiantes modernos.

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RESUMEN: Este documento examina el papel de la educación ambiental como un factor en la formación de la cultura, un instrumento para minimizar las consecuencias de una catástrofe ambiental y superar la crisis ecológica. Basado en el estudio del estado de la conciencia ecológica de los jóvenes estudiantes, se argumenta sobre la necesidad de cambios fundamentales en los programas educativos. Esta tendencia coloca uno de los valores más importantes en la formación de la educación, que forma la personalidad. La cultura ecológica es un fenómeno cualitativamente nuevo de la esfera espiritual, que caracteriza la verdadera inteligibilidad del individuo. La cultura ecológica se considera como un conjunto de características de una persona que contribuyen al desarrollo armonioso de la individualidad.

PALABRAS CLAVES: educación ambiental, juventud, problemas ambientales, conciencia ecológica.

TITLE: The level of ecological culture of modern student youth.

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ABSTRACT: This paper examines the role of environmental education as a factor in the formation of culture, an instrument for minimizing the consequences of an environmental catastrophe, and overcoming the ecological crisis. Based on the study of the state of the ecological consciousness of student youth, arguments are drawn on the need for fundamental changes in educational programs. This trend places one of the most important values on the formation of education, which forms the personality. Ecological culture is a qualitatively new phenomenon of the spiritual sphere, which characterizes the true intelligibility of the individual. Ecological culture is considered as a set of characteristics of a person that contribute to the harmonious development of individuality.

KEY WORDS: environmental education, youth, environmental problems, ecological consciousness.

INTRODUCTION.

The environmental culture of the population, and above all, young people largely determines today the solution to the problem of the survival of our planet: can a human species survive and stay on the planet, or is it expected to disappear? In this connection, it is meaningful to use all possible channels for the formation of a man's civilized approach to the environment, his personal responsibility for preserving the habitat, available natural resources by deliberately limiting material needs (Askhadovna, 2009).

The environmental crisis, which so suddenly struck the human habitat, made significant adjustments to the relationship between nature and man, forced to review all significant developments of human civilization and extremely actualized today the socio-environmental

problems at all levels: regional, national, and global (Viktorovna, 2010; Fortunatov, 2004; Fortunatov, 2008; Meadows et al., 2008).

It is not coincidence that for last 30 years the international community has been recognizing the problems associated with environmental degradation, which has not only led to the activation of many national states in the sphere of environmental safety, but also combined efforts to restore the damage caused to nature. One way to overcome the environmental crisis is associated with eco-culture as a perception and attitude of the individual to the world. In this regard, the sustainable and safe development of any state is largely determined by the effectiveness of environmental education of all population groups, and especially the younger generation (Meadows et al., 2008; Friedman, 2002; Filipchuk, 2010; Yakovets, 2012; Kremen, 2003; Skovorodkin, 2012).

DEVELOPMENT.

Materials and methods.

In 2017, we conducted a study at Kazan Federal University, using the method of questionnaire survey. Its purpose was to determine the needs of students for environmental information.

The survey was conducted in March-June 2017. The results were processed using the Microsoft Office Excel software package. The experimental base of the study was the respondents of Kazan (Volga region) Federal University. The total sample size was 240 people in the quota sample and represented various categories of youth, based on the age, demographic characteristics and the nature of the professional training.

The main part of the surveyed were students of Kazan Federal University of the 2 and 4 year of study, departments of Humanities and Socio-Economic Studies: 27% - young men, 73% - girls. The age structure of the respondents is presented in Table 1.

Table 1.

No.	Age	Number of answers	%
1.	Year II (18-20)	120	50
2.	Year IV (21-23)	120	50
	Total	240	100

The methodological base consists of: collection of empirical data and complex sociological studies that that gave a full insight in the formation of the currently existing type of environmental culture in student youth.

Results.

An important task of the study was to identify students' understanding of the essence of the concept of ecology. The results obtained make it possible to state that the majority of respondents do not have a clear idea of what the term "ecology" means (Table 2). Only 35% of the respondents gave the correct answer: "Ecology is a biological science about the interrelationships of organisms among themselves and the environment". 38% of respondents believe that "ecology is the science of human interaction with the environment", probably because the unfavorable impact of anthropogenic factor on nature is known. Not knowing the definition of ecology, 19% of respondents answered that "ecology is pollution of the environment". 8% of the respondents said they find it difficult to answer this question (Vadimovna, 2012).

Table 2. Answers to the question "What do you mean by the term "ecology"?"

No.	Answer	Number of answers	%
1.	A biological science about the interrelationships of organisms among themselves and the environment.	84	35
2.	Environmental pollution.	45	19
3.	A science of human interaction with the environment.	92	38
4.	No answer given.	19	8
	Total.	240	100

It can be suggested that the insufficiently high level of environmental literacy of students is associated with unsatisfactory youth awareness of the environmental situation. In this regard, the respondents were asked questions: "Do you get enough information about the ecology published in socio-political publications?" And "Would you like to know more about the state of the environment in the region?". The results of the survey showed that 65% of respondents consider environmental information obtained from universal media sufficient; 35% of the participants in the study consider such information insufficient and would like to have more complete information about the state of the environment in the republic.

The sources of information on environmental issues were identified with the help of the question: "What are your sources of information that deal with environmental problems?" (Table No.3).

Table 3. Answers to the question: “What are your sources of information that deal with environmental problems?”.

No.	Answers.	Number of answers.	%
1.	TV	88	37
2.	Radio	41	17
3.	On-line mass-media periodicals	93	39
4.	Not interested in environmental problems	18	7
	Total	240	100

Most students surveyed (39%) get information from the electronic version of the mass media periodicals, 37% use TV as the information source, radio – 17%, and 7% of respondents said they do not care about environmental problems.

Answering the question: "Do you get enough information about the ecology published in socio-political publications?" 51% said “occasionally”, 20% - “often”, and 29% said that “there is no necessary information”.

It was also important to know "What publications, which reflect ecological problems on their pages, do the students read?". Answers are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Answers to the question “What publications, which reflect ecological problems on their pages, do the students read?”

No.	Answers	Number of answers	%
1.	Vokrug sveta	49	20
2.	V mire zhitovnykh	15	6
3.	National Geographic	75	31
4.	GEO	89	37
5.	Ekologiya i zhizn	0	0
6.	None	12	6
	Total	240	100

The data obtained make it possible to assert that students do not often refer to publications of environmental content. The greatest interest of the respondents is caused by "GEO" magazines – 37%, and "National Geographic" – 31%.

Thus, the results of the survey suggest that the majority of students are satisfied with the already available information on environmental issues and do not care about using specialized publications.

At the same time, according to the results obtained, the students are not indifferent to the environmental situation. Most respondents are interested in the environmental impact on human health - 58%, due to the environmental situation in the Republic of Tatarstan. The second place in terms of importance in the youth consciousness is the problem of awareness of a healthy lifestyle, which 36% of the surveyed noted. And only 6% of the respondents are not interested in information on the state of the environment.

The research task was to determine the nature of environmental information that attracts young people, which was solved with the help of the question "What kind of group of environmental information are you interested in?" (Table 5).

Table 5. Answers to the question "What kind of group of environmental information are you interested in?"

No.	Answer	Number of answers.	%
1.	Environmental impact on health	139	58
2.	Getting information on a healthy life style	87	36
3.	Not interesting	14	6
	Total	240	100

The interest of young people in the environmental situation is confirmed by another result. Only 7% of the respondents found it difficult to answer the question "Are you personally concerned about the ecological situation?". The absolute majority - 85% of the respondents answered "Yes" and only 8% - "No".

A special aspect of the study was the identification of the level of ecological behavior, which was measured by the participation of respondents in the territorial improvement. (Table No.6)

Table 6. Answers to the question "Do you take part in the events aimed at territorial improvement?"

No.	Answers	Number of answers.	%
1.	Attend such events	45	19
2.	Occasionally	117	49
3.	Do not attend	78	32
	Total	240	100

The obtained data testify to the rather low activity of student youth in solving problems of environmental protection. Thus, 19% of respondents said they "attend events", 49% "occasionally" and 32% do not attend such events.

Answering the question: "Who, in your opinion, should first of all deal with environmental problems?", 64% answered "Everyone", 24% – "government", and 12% answered "environmental specialists".

Discussion.

The majority of student youth find it difficult to determine the meaning of the term "ecology", which indicates a low level of environmental literacy of students. In part, it is due to unsatisfactory youth awareness of the environmental situation. This conclusion is confirmed by the data that the

majority of students are content with environmental information covered by socio-political media, and do not show interest in specialized publications.

At the same time, according to the results obtained, the students are not indifferent to the current environmental situation. They are concerned about the existing ecological situation, which was noted by the absolute majority of those participating in the study, are interested in the environmental effect on health, on the conditions necessary for a healthy lifestyle. However, the level of student activity in solving environmental problems, personal involvement leaves much to be desired.

CONCLUSIONS.

Based on the results obtained, it can be concluded that there is a need to radically change the work in the field of domestic environmental education, improve the ecological culture of student youth. This task is extremely actualized by the emerging contradiction between the constantly deteriorating state of the environment and the growing needs of society.

The formation of eco-culture is the basis for the creation of a society characterized by a bilateral relationship of the individual with nature. This requires:

- Developing and implementing projects aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the perception of environmental culture by student youth.
- Managing the development of natural resources in the regions of the country, in order to prevent damage to the environment.
- Increasing the level of public awareness through free access to regularly published environmental information.
- Borrowing the experience of eco-oriented regions and introduce innovative environmental-friendly technologies to achieve a high ecological level.

- Cultural bodies and institutions should provide information and spiritual and moral support to environmental developments.

To achieve a high eco-cultural level, it is necessary to synthesize the following components: raising the level of environmental literacy and showing the interest of the population in information related to the coverage of global environmental problems.

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