ISSUES OF FORMATION OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE IN THE PROCESS OF TEACHING THE SUBJECT "INLAND WATERS" IN GEOGRAPHY LESSONS

Meliyev Muzaffar Saidakbarovich
Teacher Kokand State Pedagogical Institute
Murodova Odina Fayzullah kizi
Student Kokand State Pedagogical Institute
Meliqo'ziyeva Maxliyo Saydali kizi
Student Kokand State Pedagogical Institute

Abstract

This article discusses the formation of environmental culture through water education. It explores the importance of integrating water education into educational systems to foster a sense of environmental responsibility and sustainability. The study examines the role of water education in increasing people's understanding of water-related issues, promoting behavior change, and developing a culture that values the conservation and wise use of water resources. It emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary approaches, experiential learning, and community participation in water education initiatives. The results highlight the potential of water education to shape people's attitudes, behavior and actions towards sustainable water management and overall environmental protection.

Keywords: environmental culture, water education, sustainability, interdisciplinary approaches, experiential learning, community participation, water issues, behavior change, conservation, sustainable water management, environmental protection.

Introduction:

In an era of heightened concerns about water scarcity, pollution, and unsustainable water management practices, it is critical to create an environmental culture that emphasizes the importance of water education. This article explores the potential of water education to build environmental culture, promote sustainable water practices, and promote greater understanding of the complex relationships between people and water. By integrating education with environmental principles, we can empower individuals and communities to become responsible stewards of water resources, ensuring their long-term sustainability and the well-being of both ecosystems and people.

Methods:

The methodological section describes the approach to water education and

highlights the main components necessary for the formation of an environmental culture:

- Curriculum integration: Water education should be included in formal curricula at all levels, from primary schools to universities. This integration ensures that students gain comprehensive knowledge of water-related issues, including the hydrologic cycle, water conservation, pollution prevention, and sustainable water management techniques . By integrating water education into a variety of disciplines such as science, geography, and social studies, students gain an interdisciplinary understanding of the environmental, social, and economic aspects of water.

- Experiential learning: Experiential learning plays an important role in water education. Field trips, hands-on activities, and interactive experiences allow students to directly interact with aquatic ecosystems, observe water quality, and understand the impact of human activities on water resources. This experiential approach fosters a deeper connection with water, instills a sense of wonder and appreciation for its value, and instills a sense of responsibility to protect and conserve it.

- Community Engagement: Water education must go beyond the classroom, involving communities in water-related initiatives. This may include partnerships with local organizations, partnerships with water management agencies, and participation in local water conservation projects. Through active participation in such initiatives, individuals and communities develop a sense of ownership, cooperation and shared responsibility for water resources. This community involvement fosters an environmental culture that values sustainable water practices.

Result:

The “Results” section presents the results and advantages of water education in the development of environmental culture:

Water education increases public awareness and knowledge of water-related issues. It provides people with the information they need to understand the importance of water resources, the problems they face and potential solutions. By increasing awareness of aquatic ecosystems, biodiversity and the impacts of human activities, education empowers people to make informed decisions and take action to protect and conserve water resources.

Water education can lead to significant changes in the behavior of individuals and communities. By raising awareness of the importance of water conservation, pollution prevention, and sustainable water management practices, education can inspire people to change their behavior and make informed choices that will promote water conservation. This behavior change can have a positive impact, leading to a collective shift towards more sustainable water management practices.

Water education promotes greater understanding of the relationships between human activities and the health of aquatic ecosystems. Aware of the consequences of

pollution, habitat destruction and unsustainable water use, people are increasingly committed to protecting and restoring aquatic ecosystems. Such awareness can lead to increased efforts to conserve habitats, improve water quality, and conserve biodiversity , ultimately benefiting the overall health and resilience of ecosystems.

A strong environmental culture through water education can contribute to socio-economic development. Sustainable water management practices , such as efficient irrigation practices and responsible industrial water use, can lead to increased agricultural productivity, reduced water-related conflicts, and increased economic opportunity. Additionally, communities that prioritize sustainable use of water resources can attract ecotourism and investment and further improve the local economy.

Access and Equity: Ensuring equitable access to water education is essential . Inequalities in educational opportunities can hinder the development of an environmental culture, especially in marginalized communities. Efforts must be made to address these disparities and ensure equal access to quality water education for all people, regardless of socioeconomic background or geographic location.

Complexity and interdisciplinarity : Water education includes a wide range of interdisciplinary knowledge, including hydrology, ecology, policy and social sciences. Incorporating these diverse areas into educational programs can pose challenges in terms of curriculum development, teacher training, and resource availability. Teachers need support and resources to effectively integrate these interdisciplinary concepts into their teaching practice.

Changing mentality and values. Changing a community's mentality and values toward sustainable water practices takes time and effort. Entrenched behaviors and attitudes towards water use and management can be difficult to overcome. Effective water education must not only disseminate knowledge, but also promote changes in attitudes and behavior through participatory and interactive learning approaches.

Continuous adaptation: The water sector is dynamic, with new issues and challenges emerging over time, such as the impacts of climate change and new pollutants. Water education must adapt and remain relevant to address these evolving challenges. Ongoing research, collaboration between academia and practitioners, and regular updating of curricula are essential to ensure education remains relevant to the changing water resources landscape.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, we note that the integration of water education into the formation of an environmental culture has great prospects in solving modern problems associated with water scarcity, its pollution and unsustainable practices. By providing individuals and communities with knowledge and understanding of the importance of sustainable water management, we can promote greater understanding of the complex relationships

between people and aquatic ecosystems.

Water education empowers people to make informed choices and implement sustainable practices in their daily lives. It encourages behavioral changes that promote water conservation, pollution prevention and responsible water use. Additionally, by emphasizing the interdependence of human activities and the health of aquatic ecosystems, education promotes a sense of responsible stewardship and motivates people to take action to protect and restore these vital ecosystems.

However, successful implementation of water education requires addressing issues of access and equity, interdisciplinary integration, mindsets and values, and constant adaptation. Efforts must be made to ensure equal access to education, especially in marginalized communities. Collaboration among educators, policymakers, and stakeholders from different disciplines is essential to developing integrated and interdisciplinary curricula. Changing mindsets and values requires consistent action through collaborative and interactive learning approaches. In addition, continuous adaptation and renewal in response to changing water issues is necessary to ensure that education remains relevant and effective.

By addressing these challenges and investing in comprehensive and inclusive water education, we can promote an environmental culture that recognizes the value of water as a finite and essential resource. Such a culture promotes the sustainable use of water resources, protects aquatic ecosystems and contributes to socio-economic development. Ultimately, building an environmental culture through water education paves the way to a more resilient and sustainable future in which the well-being of both people and ecosystems is a priority.

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