SOME APPROACHES TO ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION OF YOUTH

Abstract. It has been shown that the processes of environmental education and upbringing are indivisible, they are in constant interaction. Environmental education in the family and school is of a particular importance in the development of the moral attitude of man to the environment. Here the foundations of a humane attitude towards nature are laid.

The revival of the abandoned “necropolis”, performed with the help of the students and so-called “troubled” teenagers, are the most effective way of education, because it forms in the youth a sense of patriotism, instills respect for the native culture and history, respect for the elders, accustoms the youth to labor, independence and a healthy lifestyle.

The educational work has been based on the principles of the children and youth tourism, which make it possible to instill a sense of citizenship, to educate the will and spirituality of the younger generation, to introduce the youth to a healthy lifestyle through the communion with nature, practical knowledge of the native land, acquaintance with the environment, historical and cultural monuments.

It has been established that the formation of the basics of environmental culture in the younger generation will allow the young people to further successfully elaborate the practical and spiritual experience of the man - nature interaction, ensuring human survival and development.

Key words: ecology, upbringing, pedagogy, education, youth, “troubled” teenagers, social behavior, mounds.

Introduction. The principal goal of the “Development Program “Kazakhstan-2030” of the Head of State, Mr. N.A. Nazarbayev, is to include Kazakhstan among the most developed countries of the world, which requires putting a process of continuous environmental education as well as upbringing a highly cultured generation of the country with a bright future, with the environmental awareness and worldview, into practice [1].

Ecological education in the family largely depends on the authority of the parents, on the attitude of the family as a whole and of each adult individual to the preservation of the natural environment at home, in the park, in the field, in the forest, etc. The family life, the work of the parents, their civilian face, and behavior form the beginning of a child’s attitude to nature and man. Upbringing of children in the family comes through the authorship of the parents. The parents' own behavior and their influence on children is “the most crucial thing”. V.A. Sukhomlinsky wrote of the importance of the family education: “The family collective, where a child is introduced to the world of maturity and wisdom by the elders, constitutes such a basis for the child’s thinking, which nothing can replace at this age” [2,3].

An example of this is the work, carried out in accordance with Projects, devoted to environmental education of the Kazakhstani young people and their introduction to a healthy lifestyle, history and culture.

Imitation plays an important role in environmental education. Living, good examples are required, because our every word, our every gesture, not to mention acts, can serve as an example for a child. Children are sensitive, and their hearts, speaking in the words of the poet, “will not be convinced by the words, which are not said from the heart.” To educate a person, you have to feel yourself a person in the highest sense of the word.
Experimental part. Nowadays, due to an increasing national interest in the historical heritage of Kazakhstan, the time has come to conduct a comprehensive research, related to the realization by the younger generation of the paramount importance of their Homeland in the context of the global development of national ideas and civil, creative, socio-economic initiatives of the “troubled” teenagers, satisfaction of their needs for self-realization and self-assertion, organization of their healthy active leisure, stimulation of intellectual and spiritual development and the formation of their active social behavior.

A significant problem for Kazakhstan is the insufficient cooperation between the governmental and public organizations for ensuring the employment of minors, their training in working specialties in demand, computer skills, legal and environmental spheres, for the improvement of their general culture, introduction of them to a healthy lifestyle, civic behavior, and democratic principles. As a result, a certain population of the young people is formed, the so-called “troubled” teenagers - homeless and neglected juveniles. In their midst an indifferent attitude to the sound environment, an antagonism in relation to the “home” children, flourish. In the city of Almaty alone about 4 thousand of such teenagers are currently registered, the care for which lies entirely with the official state bodies.

For this purpose the “Tabigat” EcoUnion, has organized an ecological-ethnographic field camp in the territory of the “Altyn-Emel” National Park, located on the lands of the Panfilov and Kerbulak districts of the Almaty oblast. The distance from Almaty to the “Altyn-Emel” National Park makes up almost 200 km. Today, it is one of the largest parks in the Republic, with the area of 460 thousand ha, where the Saka mounds are located (Fig. 1).

![Figure 1 - The “Altyn-Emel” National Park](image)

In the territory of the “Altyn-Emel” National Park, apart from the unique and unparalleled landscapes, unique fauna and flora, there are numerous historical and cultural monuments belonging to different historical eras. In particular, the Besshatyr mound complex, located on the southern slopes of the Altyn-Emel ridge, 4 km to the north of the right bank of the Ili river, in front of the Shelek river delta, consisting of 33 mounds. This complex is one of the most impressive and famous prehistoric monuments of Kazakhstan [4-7].

The target group includes minors and young people, as well as beneficiaries, the so-called “troubled” teenagers – the juveniles on the police record for antisocial, rowdy behavior and wrongful acts. In the course of the Project implementation, combining business and pleasure, they have performed the necessary and interesting work, had an opportunity to feel involved in the ancient history and culture of their Homeland and in the creative process of the birth of a new Kazakhstan.

The Project provides for environmental education of the young generation and its introduction to a healthy lifestyle, history and culture of Kazakhstan, which determines the relevance of this work.

Tasks:
- organization during the autumn holidays of an ecological and ethnographic field camp for the “troubled” teenagers and students, minors, registered with the internal affairs bodies;
health improvement of the minors under conditions of the field camp and while hiking;
organization of the field classes with the “troubled” teenagers to increase their environmental, historical, legal literacy and general culture;
studying and restoring the preserved archaeological sites together with the “troubled” teenagers;
acclimating the “troubled” teenagers to the habits of a healthy lifestyle.

For two seasons, the EcoUnion has organized a summer teenager’s camp on the banks of the Ili river and in the “Altyn-Emel” National Park for cleaning the natural objects from debris and introduction of the younger generation to a healthy lifestyle, sports and eco-tourism. Conclusions and suggestions in the course of the Project implementation have been introduced in the scientific and practical activities of the Chair of Ecology of the Kazakh National Women’s Teacher Training University.

Today, due to an increasing national interest in the historical heritage of Kazakhstan, a growing cultural and financial importance of the Almaty megapolis, the time has come for a new phase of scientific research on the basis of the modern methods for obtaining the data, required for planning its preservation, restoration and creation of an exposition. This goal requires the progressive realization of several tasks, one of which is training the young specialists through direct participation in all stages of the Project for the “troubled” teenagers, as well as the participation of the Kazakhstan and foreign volunteers, students and specialists in the research, excavation and restoration works at the site.

The “Altyn-Emel” National Park, located on the lands of the Panfilov and Kerbulak districts of the Almaty oblast has been chosen for carrying out these works.

In the territory of the “Altyn-Emel” National Park, apart from the unique and unrepeatable landscapes, unique fauna and flora, there are numerous historical and cultural monuments, belonging to different historical eras. In particular, these are:

1. The Besshatyr Mound complex, located on the southern slopes of the Altyn-Emel ridge, 4 kilometers to the north of the right bank of the Ili river, in front of the Shelek river delta, consisting of 33 mounds. This complex is one of the most impressive and famous prehistoric monuments of Kazakhstan, which is an integral part of the Ili-Alatau National Reserve, covering 1-2 km of the desert surface;
2. Numerous petroglyphs, found in the gorges of the Sholak, Degeres, Kattau desert mountains. They belong to the Bronze Age, the times of the Turkic Khaganate, the Middle Ages.

The following methods have been used during the Project implementation:
1. Detection of places of accumulation of the “troubled” teenagers - an integrated approach has been applied, involving the bodies of the Department of Internal Affairs of the city of Almaty, children’s homes and shelters for homeless and disabled children. Meetings and conversations with the street children have been held.
2. An autumn ecological camp for the “troubled” teenagers has been organized for environmental education, spiritual development, formation of a proactive approach to life of the young people and organization of their healthy active leisure. On its basis, by means of immersion into the real environment, the adolescents have got acquainted with the riches of nature and cultural monuments, and have been directly involved in the study, preservation and restoration thereof.
3. Printed materials (posters, calendars) have been issued and an interaction with the mass media has been arranged for informing the public at large of the course of the Project implementation.

The studies have been aimed at working with the young people and introducing them to the historical and cultural heritage of the Republic. The young people, being in one of the most beautiful corners of Kazakhstan, participating in an uncomplicated interesting labor process, knowing the goals set before them, have inevitably approached each other, realized the value of work, the sense of community and fellowship. Having become direct participants in restoring mounds, they have got acquainted with the oldest history of our country. Having taken part in the restoration process, the young people will start in the future to promote creation, rather than destruction.

Kingly rising over the steppe, the Saka pyramids astound with a peculiar architectural ensemble and chastity of menhirs - megalithic sharply angular stones, personifying the military protection by the spirits of the deceased. The entire monumental complex of burial mounds Bes-Shatyr (Five tents) consists of 33 burial places. They are more than two and a half thousand years old. It is assumed that for the ancient Sakas, who lived in the valley of the Ili river, this place was something like Mecca. They came here to worship their gods, made sacrifices and practiced religious rites. The Saka aristocracy, striving to
perpetuate its dominant position even after death, built huge tombs from logs, earth, stone and rubble. The size of the mound depended on the rank of the deceased. The five largest burial mounds (those Five Tents), up to 18 m high and more than 100 m in circumference, are the tombs of the kings. The medium mounds are the burial places of noble and illustrious military leaders, and the small ones are the graves of brave ordinary soldiers. Archaeologists began to study the unique burial mounds, beginning from the year 1957. Underground catacombs, excavated in dense rubble ground, were found in the royal tombs. They constituted a labyrinth, from which only one passage led to a wooden shrine. In these graves men’s bones were found, and in some of them - men’s and women’s bones (this is the evidence that the wives of the kings accompanied their husbands also on their last journey), and utensils - earthenware felts, weapons, which the kings took with them into the afterlife. The artifacts, obtained by the archaeologists, are reposited in the Central State Museum of Kazakhstan and the State Museum of Oriental Art in Moscow. The 18 burial mounds, excavated by the Soviet scientists, were subsequently barbarously looted and destroyed. These mounds can stand for a few thousand years after the corresponding restoration.

For the time of functioning of the “Besshatyr-2009” historical and ethnographic camp the following works have been carried out:

- A field camp has been organized for 120 beds (Fig.2).
- Studies of the area and preserved archaeological sites in the territory of the Besshatyr complex have been carried out.
- Four burial mounds in the close proximity to the road, intended for the excursions to the “Altyn-Emel” National Park have been restored. The mounds have been erected to a height of 1.5 to 2.5 meters, with a diameter of 3 to 8 meters and lined with black stones, taken exclusively from the volume of the land, remaining after their destruction. This has imparted to them a beautiful appearance, corresponding, in our view, to the original appearance of the Saka mounds of the epoch of Queen Tomiris.
- 307 people have taken part in the restoration of the mounds. They have been schoolchildren, students of colleges and vocational schools, students of the Almaty universities. A significant part of the participants has been represented by the “troubled” teenagers, pupils of children’s homes, with whom an additional educational work has been carried out.
- During free time, the teenagers have studied the state language and folk crafts.
- Within the frames of environmental education, ecological videos, thematic films and games have been demonstrated, psychological trainings, debates have been carried out.
- During the leisure time, feature films have been shown on a daily basis, discos and sporting events have been organized.

![Figure 2 - A field camp for 120 beds](image)

In the course of the Project implementation, it has been established that the Kazakhstan youth has prospects for deepening the knowledge in the field of ecology, history and culture, awakening a huge inner capacity. All that’s missing has been a general idea for which this capacity could be used. During the work of a field expedition, it has become clear that the care for the young people is rather insufficient, both for the “troubled” and “secured” teenagers. Children cannot be divided into defective and prosperous teenagers, they should be equally important for their Homeland. The organization of such events is a
solution to the problems in the field of education of the younger generation. This should become the norm and, perhaps, the whole youth movement in the country - the more such events are organized, the more adequate citizens the Republic of Kazakhstan will receive.

The field camp is a large close-knit team, where “one for all and all for one.” The teenagers get disciplined there, which is most important, considering that many of them are the “troubled” teenagers, most of them do not have parents. Such actions are the most effective way of education, because it forms a sense of patriotism, instills respect for the native culture and history. And it also accustoms them to labor, independence and a healthy lifestyle. This is all the more important because over 20 thousand teenagers are registered with the juvenile affairs commissions throughout the country.

In total, 307 people have participated in the field camp. All of them have participated in the Project voluntarily and only with the consent of their parents and teachers (Fig. 3).

![Figure 3 - A regular arrival of the Project participants at the “Altyn-Emel” National Park](image)

Apart from the regular participants, there have been short visits of children for two or three days, and long visits - for ten days.

The field camp has had its own schedule. The children have worked no more than three hours a day. After lunch they have had rest, watched movies or visited a disco, participated in sports games ... Apart from the lessons of introduction to difficult conditions, the young people have been taught the Kazakh language, folk crafts, and the psychologists have worked with them. In total, 307 people have taken part in restoring the mounds. They have been schoolchildren, students of colleges and vocational schools, students of the Almaty universities. Some of the participants have been orphans, children with the deviant behavior, requiring an additional educational work.

Children cannot be divided into defective and prosperous teenagers, they should be equally important for their Homeland. The organization of such events is a solution to the problems in the field of education of the younger generation. This should become the norm and, perhaps, the whole youth movement in the country - the more such events are organized, the more adequate citizens the Republic of Kazakhstan will receive.

Such actions as the restoration of the abandoned “necropolis”, performed with the help of the students and so-called “troubled” teenagers, are the most effective way of education, because it forms a sense of patriotism, instills respect for the native culture and history. And it also accustoms them to labor, independence and a healthy lifestyle. This is all the more important because over 20 thousand teenagers are registered with the juvenile affairs commissions throughout the country, and in the city of Almaty alone about 4 thousand of such teenagers are currently registered [8,9].

Making observations over the target group, one can draw conclusions of the achievement of the goal. On the basis of a survey of teachers and own observations the positive changes in the behavior of the teenagers have been marked: increasing of self-discipline, acquisition of the necessary domestic skills (cooking, repairing clothes, etc.), the sense of community, mutual support and responsibility.

Besides, the camp participants have been interested in the very fact of the restoration of the mounds. During the restoration work it has been possible to observe the elements of competition, innovation, and creativity. Some children, being at the restoration site, have learned to use the knowledge, obtained at the history lessons at school (Fig. 4). In the end, changes in the relations between the camp participants have
taken place, and, most importantly, it has found a response and even caused some envy among their friends, who have not participated in the event.

The interviews given to the mass media by the pupils of the “SOS-Kinderdorf” Children's Village (Almaty) testify to the achievement of the goal: "Now we can do everything, we can live long in the desert, take the farthest hikes". In fact, the Besshatyr mounds, dating back to the 5-6 centuries BC, located in the valley where the first political center of the Saka state once existed, have found themselves in the same position as the “troubled” teenagers.

It takes time to reveal the results of the performed work. But even during the 30 days of the camp functioning one could see the changes, indicating the correctness of the approach. The educational work has been based on the principles of the children and youth tourism.

Children and youth tourism, being an active form of tourism, contributes to education of the will and spirituality of the younger generation, its introduction to a healthy lifestyle through the communion with nature, practical knowledge of the native land, acquaintance with the environment, historical and cultural monuments [10-12].

Comparing the situation at the beginning of the camp's operation and that at the end, the following points can be marked: in the actions of the schoolchildren self-discipline has clearly manifested itself, i.e. the process of restoring the mounds has acquired the character of not just a banal transfer of land and stone, but of the organized labor with the elements of scientific organization without prompting on the part of managers and educators. An interest in the object itself, the Besshatyr mound complex, has arisen among the camp participants, they have been directly interested in the origin and history of Besshatyr (Fig.5).

The restoration of the Besshatyr mound complex within the frames of the field camp has helped the teenagers understand and firmly grasp that a person's value is determined by the extent to which the public interests become its own, personal interests. A sense of civic duty is rather intensively formed, when a teenager carries out joint activities with his comrades. At the same time, they develop perseverance, will, and patience. The task is to teach children to feel work as a feast in the ordinary everyday situations, to respect any work, to be able to perform any work, to realize the necessity of labor operations, businesses, professions. The fast developing RK, determining the state policy priorities, relies on young people as a significant social group with great potential. The Strategy of Kazakhstan - 2050 proclaimed a new stage of socio-economic modernization, set a new goal for the state - to become one of
the 30 most developed countries in the world. The key factor in achieving this goal is the qualified human capital; youth has to raise national competitiveness in achieving such ambitious indicators. The concept of the state youth policy and the plan were approved, the national legislation is being adjusted. Since 2008, the Council for Youth Policy has been functioning under the President; in 2012, the Committee on Youth Affairs was created, as well as regional departments on youth policy issues. The state youth policy is a system of socio-economic, political, organizational and legal measures implemented by the state and aimed at supporting young people. The goals of the state youth policy are the creation of socioeconomic, legal, organizational conditions and guarantees for the spiritual, cultural, educational, professional formation and physical development of young people, the disclosure of its creative potential in the interests of the whole society. The objectives of this policy are the protection of the rights and interests of young people, the provision of assistance and social services to them, the implementation of socially significant initiatives of young men and women. [11-13].

Field tented camps represent a most interesting form of work with schoolchildren, practiced for a long time. It is obvious that the main goal is to teach teenagers to organize their own lives in the difficult field conditions, so that adverse factors will not constitute an obstacle for them in their future life and work.

Conclusion. Thus, economic, legal and educational measures are needed to solve global environmental problems. Practice has shown that the organization and activities of the ecological and ethnographic camp are positively perceived and evaluated by its participants and the society at large.

The process of restoring the burial mounds is a tribute to the memory of our ancestors and plays a tremendous educational role. This is confirmed by the media tours to Besshatyr, publications in the mass media (newspapers, magazines), video footage and filmed documentaries on the TV channels.

Good prospects for an integrated approach to environmental education of the younger generation and its introduction to the history and culture of Kazakhstan, as well as a healthy lifestyle, have been demonstrated.

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ЖАСТАРҒА ЭКОЛОГИЯЛЫК БІЛІМ МЕН ТӘРБІЕ БЕРУ

Аннотация. Экологиялық білім мен тәрбиесі беруді ажыратып қаратауға болмайтындығы көлтірілген, олар үнемі бірн әр тәлік келісіп отырады. Коршақтан өртүге адамды қосымша қасиеттің қалыптастығы өткен қай көмекчтоған, үккірішпен қосымша қасиеттің қалыптастығы өткен қай көмекчтоған, үккірішпен қосымша қасиеттің қалыптастығы өткен қай көмекчтоған.

Сүйіртеп мен «кініз» жасоспірімдерге тәкілеңген ұйымға жатып келуі мүмкін. Қоршақтан өртүге қасиеттің қалыптастығы өткен қай көмекчтоған, үккірішпен қосымша қасиеттің қалыптастығы өткен қай көмекчтоған.

Тәрбиесі жұмысқа қарайғы адатталған жағдайларға айналып, олардың барлығы қасиеттің қалыптастығы өткен қай көмекчтоған.

Жеміс көшелер: экология, тәрбиесі, педагогика, білім, жастар, «кініз» жасоспірімдері, елдігеттік мінездік, көрған.

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ЕКОЛОГИЧЕСКОЕ ВОСПИТАНИЕ И ОБРАЗОВАНИЕ МОЛОДЕЖИ

Аннотация. Показано, что процессы экологического воспитания и образования неделима, они несутся в постоянном взаимодействии. Особо важно значение, в становлении высокоразвитого отношения человека к природе имеет экологическое воспитание в семье и школе. Здесь закладываются основы гуманного отношения к природе.
Возрождение заброшенного «неокропов», причем с помощью студентов и так называемых «трудных» подростков - самый действенный способ воспитания, потому что он формирует чувство патриотизма, приучает уважение к родной культуре и истории, уважение к старшим, приучает к труду, самостоятельности и здоровому образу жизни.

В основу воспитательной работы, были заложены принципы детско-юношеского туризма, позволяющие воспитывать чувство гражданственности, воли и духовности у подрастающего поколения; приобщённо его к здоровому образу жизни через общение с природой; практическому познанию родного края, знакомству с окружающей природой, памятникам истории и культуры.

Установлено, что формирование у подрастающего поколения начала экологической культуры позволяет в дальнейшем успешно усваивать в совокупности практический и духовный опыт взаимодействия человека с природой, который обеспечит его выживание и развитие.

Ключевые слова: экология, воспитание, педагогика, образование, молодёжь, «трудные подростки», социальное поведение, куранты.

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