

with a new eco-oriented thinking, able to realize the consequences of their actions in relation to the environment and able to live in harmony with nature. Project technologies are endowed with great opportunities in the context of educating environmental competence, which allow one to assimilate not only the sum of knowledge and information, but also the development of skills allowing acting in a variety of real situations.

In this regard, our study was to study the possibilities of using project method in extracurricular activities as an effective way to develop the environmental competence of senior school pupils.

We studied the levels of environmental competence of the subjects before and after they completed a research project. The survey was attended by 32 students of grades 9–11 from the State Educational Institution “Secondary School No. 121 of Minsk”. An experimental group of 16 pupils carried out research projects in biology and ecology in elective classes.

Methods to determine the components of environmental competence were used for the study. In order to study the cognitive component, testing was conducted aimed at determining the level of environmental knowledge. To study the value-semantic component of the environmental competence of a high school student, diagnostics were used, which made it possible to give self-esteem to oneself as part of nature and society. The active component of a teenager was studied using a questionnaire aimed at identifying educational research and reflective-evaluative actions [1].

A stating experiment showed a clear predominance of medium and low indicators of the formation of environmental competence in high school students. The initial levels in the experimental and control groups did not differ significantly. 31 % and 63 % of schoolchildren had low and medium levels, respectively.

We compared the results obtained in the experimental and control groups. As a result of the control stage of the study, senior pupils of the experimental group showed more noticeable differences in the results of the survey than the subjects of the control group.

So, if the respondents of the experimental group had indicators of a high level of ecological culture formation, 31%, the average level – 69 %, then in the control group, after repeated questioning, the above indicators were as follows: a high level of environmental culture prevailed in 6 % of respondents, which is 25 % lower than the values of the experimental group, 63 % of the subjects had an average level, which is 6 % again lower than that of the experimental group. A low level of environmental culture formation in the control group prevailed among 31 % of high school students, while it was completely absent in the subjects of the experimental group.

A comparative analysis of the data of the ascertaining and control stages of the experiment showed positive dynamics in the growth of environmental competence among senior pupils of the experimental group. The results obtained allow us to consider project methods effective for the development of environmental competence.

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PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT BASIC TRENDS IN THE FUEL AND ENERGY SPHERE

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Ensuring energy security in our country is connected, inter alia, with public awareness of the main trends in the fuel and energy sector. The study of public opinion in the energy sector was conducted in the form of a sociological survey, the results of the survey were analyzed.

Keywords: energy security, public opinion, opinion poll.

At present, the development of the economy has reached a level at which the energy sector plays a key role in its influence on other components of the economy. Ensuring energy security is becoming one of the paramount tasks for creating conditions for the normal functioning of society.

One of the most important factors of energy security is to increase the level of security of energy demand at the expense of our own energy resources. Increasing energy independence should be carried out taking into account the maximum possible involvement of local energy resources, primarily renewable energy sources, in the fuel and energy balance. A key role in this will be played by public awareness of the main trends in the development of the fuel and energy sector.

We conducted a sociological survey in which people of different ages and occupations took part. Based on their answers, we conducted an analysis of public opinion in Belarus on the situation in the energy sector.

Most powdered (57 %) consider oil the most common type of fuel. In addition to oil (42,3 %), renewable energy sources (46,2 %) were named as the most investment-attractive. The attractiveness of renewable energy is based on the growing demand for electricity, especially in developing economies, a reduction in natural resources, and a decrease in the cost of technology. Public opinion as the key factor determining the competitiveness of a particular energy source, called the convenience of energy extraction (46,3 %). To the question: "Is it economically feasible to develop renewable energy sources in the Republic of Belarus?" The majority (80,8 %) answered positively. To the question "Are you satisfied with the state policy in the energy sector?" Only 11,5 % of respondents answered positively, 50 % found it difficult to answer, and 38,5 % answered negatively. The majority of respondents (61,5 %) understand that politics makes a significant contribution to the development of the country's energy sector.

To the question "Would your purchasing power change if you had the label "Made from clean energy"?" 61,5 % of respondents answered positively. At the same time, opinions on the feasibility of building a Bel NPP were divided equally.

An analysis of the obtained data allows us to draw conclusions about the fact that the population of the republic, despite the awareness of the competitiveness of a renewable energy source and the desire to pay more for clean energy, still has a negative attitude towards the construction of the BelNPP and positively estimates the use of oil as the main source of energy, despite the fact that that it emits the largest number of negative side effects that adversely affect the environment. Of course, according to the majority (88,5 %) of the population, a conscious attitude to the environment should be formed back in school, including awareness and the most rational use of energy resources.

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HYPERCONSUMPTION AS A SOCIO-ECOLOGICAL PROBLEM

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The article under review touches upon the problem of hyperconsumption and its influence on the modern ecological situation. Business increases pressure on the nature by pursuing consumer strategies to maximize profit. The irrational "buy, use, throw away" cycle of consumption leads to the overexploitation of natural resources and neutralizes ecological conscience, which intensifies a negative anthropogenic impact on the environment.

Keywords: nature, ecology, consumer society, hyperconsumerism, hyperconsumption, environmental awareness.

Nowadays, we encounter the notion «hyperconsumerism» more and more frequently when describing the development of mankind at the current stage. Hyperconsumerism or hyperconsumption is an irrational and non-functional consumption of goods as well as the consequent pressure that the modern capitalist society puts on the consumer because these goods shape a person's identity in the environment. This approach implies everything that maintains and fuels the aspirations of the capitalist society to maximize profit: continuous stimulation of demand, cultivation and boundless augmentation of human needs. However, as this report does not aim at covering all the negative consequences of hyperconsumerism we would like to draw your attention only to one of them- to the im-pact on the ecology.