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Learning to Live Life Depth

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Abstract: - Current coordinates of everyday life may be addressed in school, alongside other elements of education, and education issues for environmental quality. This highlights a major priority for all of us, to know, protect and preserve the living environment, nature conservation and became effective and fair only when it will be part of our philosophy and behavior. We are at a historical moment that should guide our actions, meditating greater the repercussions on the environment. Deepening the knowledge of students and even our academics, and acting with greater wisdom, we can provide for ourselves and for posterity living conditions in an environment better adapted to the needs and aspirations of humanity. Safeguarding and improving the environment for present and future generations has become a primary goal of people, a task whose implementation will be coordinated and harmonized with the fundamental objectives laid down already, of peace and economic and social development worldwide.

Key-Words: - environment, education, strategies for environmental education, social responsibility, human health

1 Facing with environmental problems

Preparing children as future citizens of the European Union has become a challenge and a necessity foreshadowed the foreseeable future that will require to live in a state adapted to cope with changes and potential opportunities insidious and brutal. Starting from the premise that ecology is one of the human species survival conditions, environmental education is the way to go to the knowledge, for understanding and respect the nature, the environment which we belong.

A quarter of European children do not know how to engage in solving environmental problems, according to a study commissioned by Sony Europe. Six of 10 children in Europe believe that contradictory messages about the environment they make in a confused state, feeling apathetic about protecting the environment. Most teenagers consider it that big companies and governments are responsible for solving environmental problems as well.[1]

Environmental problems, disorders occurring in man-environment relationships are global and affect not only current but also future generations. [2] Harmonization of the actual state of planet Earth with the need to preserve at least it can be achieved through environmental education.[3] Environmental education form: habits, motivations, values in the Earth's resources management and accountability in maintaining the quality of life. [4] It is very important that the extensive process of training human life outside the school to continue to strengthen

and complete the educational work in a true European behavior.

2 Objectives of Environmental education

Young people as beneficiaries will manage and they will consume the tomorrow's environmental resources are those whose education depends on the future of the planet Earth.[5] Therefore to train future citizens aware of the fragility of the environment is necessary to perform training during school years, in the spirit of knowledge values of human interaction with the environment, and how to improve or solve environmental problems.[6]

The objectives of environmental education also aim at knowledge, acquisition of attitudes, values clarification and practical approach. From the school perspective, the student should be helped:

- to acquire basic knowledge necessary to solve its environmental problems immediately;
- to judge the individual and collective responsibilities, to commit itself to cooperation on resolving line problems;
- understand that mankind is inseparable from its environment and that adverse effects of his actions have repercussions on himself;
- to develop instruments of analysis, reflection and action to understand, prevent and correct the shortcomings to environment.

Training students and conduct environmental awareness is a crucial requirement for any school or non-scholastic educational endeavor.

Involvement in activities of small school knowledge, understanding of facts and phenomena of the universe, identifying and solving problems of pollution and environmental degradation, results in the formation of beliefs and defense skills, conservation and environmental development we act together for civilized and healthy life condition.

Based on cooperation and collaboration, diversity of activities undertaken by students provides practical assimilation of many rules of conduct will constitutes the basic elements in the formation of a European education for the people of tomorrow.

Convinced that the formation of environmental behavior in small school is an important aspect of the educational activity and also that this takes place, both in school and outside, they through curricular activities related with a close collaboration with family and local community the following is some practical work undertaken for this purpose with our students.

3 Learning by doing

The museum, as a cultural establishment, trough its own activities may lead to understanding and offering an image for using environment, can shape the skills, habits

and attitudes necessary for protection of nature, developing their skills in collecting information on these phenomena, in processing and extrapolation of these perceptions.

In this context, the relationship educational institution - museum is very important for both cultural institutions. These relationships involve good communication between the museum, on the one hand, and educational institutions on the other hand, awareness, by both parties of the need for collaboration.

To illustrate this collaboration we chose the Museum of Traditional Folk Civilization "ASTRA" from Dumbrava Sibiu, as a Department of National Complex "ASTRA" Museum. This is the largest open-air museum in Romania and second in Europe[7], is an ethnographic museum with a unique profile in the world which illustrates pre civilization of people. It was founded in 1963, one of the museums that place among the many educational activities.

The informations promoted through educational projects conducted within Astra Museum Sibiu on environmental education, are necessary in the educational approach of the class setting and the information received in the educational process, education to meet the cultural values of community living. These projects are open to students of Sibiu represents an important segment of the population in terms of strategies for environmental



Fig. 1 Ecological actions

education because they are managers and consumers of tomorrow resources and they can influence parents and other community members.

The main objective of the projects undertaken is to prepare young people for work in increasingly complex activities, and also offer a perspective for the accumulation of knowledge of local culture, environmental education, personality development and the desire for knowledge.

One of these projects is the action of greening, which entails a partnership between schools and museum. Thus, over 500 students from different schools from Sibiu County (General School no. 7, no. 25, Johannes Lebbel Economic Group School - Tălmăciu, Onisifor Ghibu School) have had participated in a program of greening (Figure no. 1). The children were very excited, came prepared with bags and gloves to clean area. They had worked in all sectors together with own teachers and museographers. The pupils have had participating in the program on average 3 hours a day.

Celebrating World Water Day (Figure no. 2) of the Astra Sibiu Museum Complex, was a good opportunity to return to the attention of public, especially students, to issues of need to protect water quantity and quality and to put in true light role, duties and our responsibilities, those with responsibilities in the maintenance, recovery and protection of water sources. Long been regarded as something of the water can become, in many parts of the world, a factor limiting economic growth and food production in the coming decades. Unfortunately, the abundance of time, as the abundance of water, might prove both illusory. All the abundance of water may be darkened by pollution, a phenomenon which greatly reduces the quantities of used water. Each liter of polluted water released into nature without being treated, contaminate other liters of fresh water. Discharge of chemicals and heavy metals, which are dangerous even in very small concentrations, is a particularly serious threat to water quality but also on human health.

On this occasion was held a workshop addressed the



Fig. 2 World Water Day

At the same time students have the opportunity to play outdoors and to make drawings on the asphalt with environmental issues.

Action aimed at creating better conditions for opening the summer season of open-air museum in Dumbrava Sibiu, where people can discover the secrets of our planet and how we can help to our all health.

pupils on the topic “*Monuments and hydraulic equipment in open-air museum*”. Based on a review of the technical heritage traditional hydraulic mechanisms, all interested workshop demonstrated the importance of hydraulic energy and skill that was used by our predecessors in everyday existence. Besides the many hydraulic monuments faithfully reproduced in the

Museum of Traditional Folk Civilization ASTRA were used and models of the Ethno-Techno Park, a great demo material have been used and pupil have been heard again the friendly tone of traditional mills, and curators were present with all explanations necessary for a proper understanding of them.

The students were also presented a documentary entitled “*The Polytechnic Village*”, giving the functioning mechanisms of water mills and processing of raw materials.

In addition to practical demonstrations of the use of hydraulic energy, local curators have told those present about the importance of water in Dumbrava landscape and a group of students participated in a stream of action greening of open-air museum.

World Environment Day celebrations in Astra Sibiu Museum Complex enrolled in a joint effort of transmission to future generations a clean and healthy environment, with respect to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, environmental and social constituted an active example of collaboration between educational institutions and civil society (Figure 3).

preparing a presentation that reveals the main responsibilities of individual citizens, linked to keeping a healthy environment. All children under the program were involved in preparing drawings to mark that important day.

The activities (plays performed by students, contests, games with environmental issues etc.) realized during the Environment Day, was related with recognizing environmental problems and promote “*green economy and lifestyle*” both for adult as and youth who participated in this project. It is important to implant in the mind and soul of each student, the concept that mankind as biological species is dependent on nature and can not live outside it.

4 Conclusion

Children are an important public for environmental education because they will manage and consume the tomorrow's resources. In some cases the children can influence parents and other community members. Teachers and all those working in schools and students can have a great impact from increased awareness and knowledge to the formation of attitudes and active



Fig. 3 World Environment Day 5 June 2009

Thus, it was organized a special program for this day. Pupils from the school had participated to two scenes: “*You learn everything about each pollution*” and “*Little environmentalist*”. At the same time, children have been

projects on behalf of environmental education. It is important to recognize that there is only one right way to do environmental education. [8]

We are fortunate to live in the XXI century. Environmental protection has emerged as humanity's only problem today. Now, wealth and energy resources were affected to an extent that it sees rapid depletion of some of them, and some basic conditions of human existence, like water or air, show signs of poisoning. It concludes thus the possibility that the future of mankind to be questioned, if we will course not taken action to protect our planet. The humanity is also part of nature, that Earth and its resources are limited, so the planet confronted with a disorder occurring in a place can have repercussions for the whole circuit, including the humanity. The mankind can not give the high rates of economic development, the way to achieve these goals, maintaining good environmental quality, it is to use resources in a manner so they can regenerate and be preserved.

Finally, we believe it is important to note the direction that we support these projects through environmental education. We believe that environmental problems are urgent and must be addressed by the entire community. So the education must be an integral part of the solution. Dissenting opinions on the state of the environment, the consequences of this degradation and the role of education is good discussion and debate. We also believe that environmental education would be effective determining people to think a certain way. Our hope is that it can help people learn how to think about - including how to solve problems, make decisions, weight options and to adjust values considering personal behavior. [9]

As educators, we have the power to change lives and serve as models for our colleagues. In this respect it would be good to remember the words of Albert Einstein: “*We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive*”.

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