

Improvement of Ecological Education in Georgia

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ABSTRACT

Intergovernmental Tbilisi Conference UNESCO 1977 has signified a transition on qualitative new level environmental education. Root of modern ecological crisis in unfaithful approaches to the nature-use and environment protect that puts particular problems before the formation system. Things going not only practical questions to unifications of scholastic programs for preparing the specialists to different specialization to high qualifications, regional coordinating and cooperation and etc., as well as fundamental questions ecological formation in general, joint development new “Concepts of ecological formation”, in which must be approved in respect of to the “nature moral principles” in the counter-weight utilitarian, replaced ideological dogma and anthropocentric orientation on ethical value and egocentric glances, with provision for regional particularities, history experience and conditions of our countries.

Key words: ecology, ecological education

The problems of ecology and saving biodiversity are some of the important in the contemporary world, including in Georgia [1-5]. It's accomplished over 30 years anniversary of the having historical meaning UNESCO Conference of Nature Care Education - UNESCO Tbilisi International Conference of 1977 year marks new quality of ecologic education world wide. Till nowadays decisions of UNESCO Tbilisi Conference are widely cited and serve as guideline documents for the purposes of ecological and nature care education world wide. All other programs and guideline documents of nature care education are founded on discussions of Tbilisi Conference and among them national directive documents in Georgia.

Appropriated positive experience is already accumulated. In turn are next common steps – unification and normalization of nature-save acts, juridical efforts to support trans-boarder eco-tourism in the region etc. This all demands the existence of specialist ecologists with high qualification with wide profile with trust-worthy and unified basic education It's been for 10 years that at the Georgian Technical University exists specialized and the only in region “Board of UNESCO of Nature-Use Education”. Must realize and coordinate such regional elaborations.

During the time from breakdown of the USSR at the Caucasus were accomplished important international projects of nature-care profile. Main result of accomplished projects in the social-political mean is formation of high-qualified united trans-state creative collective of executors well-equipped working groups, which consist of staff of governmental structures and NGO-s. This Formed collective can accomplish not only scientific research and problem analysis, but also elaboration of concrete decisions and to bring it appropriate structures and a well lobby issues in legislative and executive structures.

In the report of 19-th special session of UNITED NATIONS in June 1977 for latter quarter of century were made prognosis of more frequent “Ecological conflicts and deepening of Ecological Stress”.

After “World Summit Rio-10” in Johannesburg, it is clear lack mainly financial investments and institution character of process.

Root of ecological crises is in the non-correct approach methods of Nature Use and Nature Care. For the years passed after Tbilisi Conference of UNESCO “Earth Summit” in Rio claimed interdependency and indivisibility of the peace, development and Care of the Environment stable development course. Conception of Education may be considered as factor stimulating Union of the international community. Academician N.N. Moiseev call main and fundamental condition of the stable development of the Human Society – ecological education. There is need in new ecological concepts of nature care education based on ethical

principles. It means that Natural Environment can't be considered as only source of good and to care for it in the purpose of the more intensive exploitation. In the practice of teaching Nature Care fundamentals, Confession of the value of all its parts, independently from benefit for men must lay in basement and serve as motivation method - minimal challenge in the natural Environment: "Planet is balancing at the edge of abyss and time to make economical and political choice, to prevent catastrophe is passing to past". In the May 2004 at the State Technical University of Georgia (Tbilisi) is planned to held conference "Problems of Nature and Education in the light of the sustainable Development in the Caucasus" with participation of Regional educational boards of the network "UNITWIN" of the UNESCO. It is motivated and proved as chronologically – there is 25 years after Tbilisi Intergovernmental Conference of UNESCO, and geographically as well – Caucasus region is unique with natural biodiversity. Region had gone hard historical way, but saved global perception of problems is just at the beginning of making concise possible ways of the stable development. It is necessary to apply all forces to create realization of the principle "from ecological stability to political"

Board UNESCO at the Georgian Technical University (Founded in 1995 member of world Network of by brotherhood joined Universities - "UNITWIN"); is head methodical regional center on the issues of methods ecological ecological-environmental education at the Caucasus, Implementing common, mandatory continuing education for all University students of technical and humanitarian faculties. Board develops unified programs, methodical recommendations and prints methodical indices, practical manuals Educational literature. In the Board are prepared studying materials handbooks collections of scientific issues "Issues on Ecology" (regional 3-lingual complete), "Colloquium on Ecology") etc.

On the Conference must be considered not only practical issues of the unification, regional coordination and collaboration, highest qualification specialists studying courses for education in different specialties, etc. but also fundamental issues of ecological-environmental education in general, evaluated possibility of the new "Conception of Ecological Education", which must prove ethical principles towards nature, against utilitarianism, changed ecological dogmas and anthropocentric attitudes on the ethical values and eco-central views and foreseen regional peculiarities and historical experience and conditions of our countries.

Elaboration of the "Concept of Ecological Education", "Problem of Ecological Education and "Ecology of Education of XXI Century" must create necessary fundament for harmonization of relations between Men and Nature, best understanding between people, and at end formation of the "Concept of Stable Development" of the region. In the realities of XXI century modern ecology – multidisciplinary scientific field – basis of strategy and tactics for saving life on the Earth, must be mandatory educational discipline for future specialists of any specialization Now in Georgia works glorious plead of scientists-Ecologists. Georgian authors have many significant works in Ecology. Among these world famous monographs and periodical issues on the different on the different private theoretical and applied issues of the modern Ecology. Nevertheless, till nowadays there doesn't exist modern manuals in Georgian for training at the High Education System of specialists in the field of Ecology with wide profile for any of two grades of Education in the Universities. Existing separate works of the narrow biological profile can't serve for non-biological specialties for these purposes.

Education qualified national specialists of different specialties with engineering educational basis in the Caucasus Countries serve as guarantors of ecological prosperity. So, issues pertained with highest grade ecological education are most important and has highest priority. Work in this direction at the leading Universities of the country, headed by world-known scientists, tutors of qualified specialists, and activity of the "Ecological Education Block", Commission on Biosphere and ecological research at the presidium of Georgian Academy of Sciences are directly correlated and coordinated and go in the several directions:

- Informational supply provided with new investigations in the field of methodic of new and traditional study courses and disciplines
- Development of thematic programs, educational plans, organization of new environmental specialties, profiles, improvement of coordination between universities, faculties etc.
- Preparation of Manuals, tutorials, reference and methodical publications.
- Implementation of distant learning and modern audio-visual educational programs foreseen foreign experience.

All this work is conducted in tight contacts with colleagues from Caucasus countries and foreign partners. Must serve as example Georgian-language and 3-lingual periodical publications "Problems of Ecology", "Conversations about Ecology" etc. issued by Georgian Technical University together with several Academies of Georgia.

On the basis of elaborated studying materials, special and facultative courses, by which nowadays is putting into practice training specialists with high qualification of ecological profile at the Georgian Technical University. It's necessary to prepare unified, inter-faculty program of the "Applied Ecology" – discipline, which may serve as basis of fundamental manual for ecological profile and specialty for non-biological profile in the region. Must be considered that is not published appropriate tutorial in the Georgian language "Fundamentals of Applied Ecology" already prepared by us long time ago. Signed by President of Georgia 18 December 2002 edict #538 "Of State Program of People Ecological Education." Must guarantee practical realization on legislated in Georgia principle of common mandatory ecological education.

It means improvement of fully inadmissible today situation characteristic not only for Georgia.

- If we compare study programs and plans to prepare specialists of ecological profile in several Universities can't be find common for everyone essential profile, essential studying discipline with unified structure and program.
- Nevertheless authors from Georgia, just as their colleagues from Armenia and Azerbaijan, taking part in creation of most interesting foreign tutorials of different profiles, levels and content, can't accomplish work of creation of tutorial which must contain all 3 parts: "Fundamentals of General Ecology", "Fundamentals of Applied Ecology", "Environment Defense and Rational Use of Natural Resources"; and at the same time represent regional peculiarities, traditions of nature-use and suit world standards. There exist mandatory demand of common development of such "region-wide" manual – we are obliged by realities of today:
- Great Trans border regional project requiring common efforts from ecologists of Caucasus to obtain real ecological security of building and exploitation of this project.
- Necessity of common development of trans-boarder environmental projects – Nature don't confess boarders; save of rear and endemic species of faun and flora is real without trans-boarder regional approach.

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Existing elaborations, experience of work of "Board of UNESCO for Nature-use Education" which give us possibility to have full information of the world tendencies on this issue, about existing manuals and learning programs, on conditions of issue not only in the region but CIS, UIS allow us to prove that planned positive result would be achieved. Main guarantees of success is that Russian language manuals with our co-authority were twice published at Moscow and Tbilisi; gained high positive estimation of specialists in the region and got recommendation for UNESCO system.

During the time from breakdown of the USSR at the Caucasus were accomplished important international projects of nature-care profile. Main result of accomplished projects in the social-political mean is formation of high-qualified united trans-state creative collective of executor's well-equipped working groups, which consist of staff of governmental structures and NGO-s. This Formed collective can accomplish not only scientific research and problem analysis, but also elaboration of concrete decisions and to bring it appropriate structures and a well lobby issues in legislative and executive structures.

- Achievement of understanding of indivisibility issues of biodiversity saving and social-economical problems of region, necessity of unified approach in the aspect of guarantee stable development of whole Caucasus region and its separate parts as well.
- Prepared ground and elaborated mechanisms for execution of projects of concrete, inter-state character, the end result of which would be not only implementation of progressive forms of biodiversity saving in concrete eco-regions, but significant social-economical drives for native population, among other in educational sphere (as well as formal and informal education), which at the end result diminishes social-economical and consequently political tension.

Problem of saving biodiversity of the unique Caucasus region in the first order is pertained with mobilization of educational, informatics and professional means. It's pertained as well with economical problems of existence of appropriate founding and not least with forming necessary public opinions, creation right drives and motives with understanding worldwide importance of problem and role of Caucasus community in its decision.

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გარემოსდაცვითი განათლების სრულყოფისათვის საქართველოში

მ. ციციშვილი

რეზიუმე

საქართველოში გარემოსდაცვითი – ეკოლოგიური განათლების დიდი ხნის ტრადიციები არსებობს, დაწყებული “დედა ენის” პირველივე პედაგოგიური მიზნით დაწყებული ბუნების წვდომის მსოფლიო შედეგებამდე. მსოფლიო განვითარების თანამედროვე ეტაპი, რომელიც მძაფრი ეკოლოგიური კრიზისით ხასიათდება, განსაკუთრებულ მოთხოვნებს უყენებს განათლების სისტემას. საჭიროა ახალი “ეკოლოგიური განათლების კონცეფციის” შემუშავება. მასში განცხადებული უნდა იყოს, რეგიონალური თავისებურებების გათვალისწინებით, ანტროპოცენტრული შეხედულებების საწინააღმდეგო, მორალურ-ზნეობრივი პრინციპები ბუნებისადმი მიმართებაში, კაცობრიობის წინაშე მდგარი “მდგრადი განვითარების”-აკენ გადასვლის ამოცანების გათვალისწინებით.

К совершенствованию природоохранного образования в Грузии

М.С. Цицкишвили

Резюме

Природоохранное или экологическое образование имеет в Грузии давние традиции, начинаясь с первых слов «Деда ена» и до шедевров познания природы Миндией Важа Пшавелы. Современный экологический кризис ставит особые задачи перед системой образования. Необходим переход на качественно новый уровень природоохранного образования, разработка новой «Концепции экологического образования», в которой должно быть утверждены в отношении к природе моральные принципы в противовес утилитарным, заменены идеологические догмы и антропоцентрические установки на этические ценности и эоцентрические взгляды, с учетом региональных особенностей, исторического опыта и условий наших стран.