

Research Summary

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT MIDDLE SCHOOLS¹ IN VIETNAM AND JAPAN - COMPARATIVE STUDIES

With the great development of science, technique, human beings nowadays are making huge changes of society and nature. However, these changes are placing the human beings in the risk of confronting a series of environmental issues like pollution, global climate change, the global warming, epidemics.... Japan's environmental education for middle students has been deployed since a long time and has many experiences that Vietnam can learn especially in respect of the content and teaching methodology...

Japanese government considers environmental education promotion is an important task for middle school's students. Environmental education in this level is embedded in some subjects. Students can approach to books, references and other document free of charge. Schools and non-governmental organizations hold visits or picnic for students. Some middle schools sent their students to Vietnam for picnicking and studying on environment. Students can joint in environment club (Junior-Eco-Club) and take part in workshops about environment held by organizations, companies, universities...

In Vietnam, environmental education has been paid attention by Government and schools. Most of provinces has fulfilled environmental education action plan to 2010. A number of middle schools plan to build up "Green - Clean - Beautiful School" every year. Students are taught and practice saving lessons such as saving electricity, paper, water, student tools; collecting waste and participating to competition for studying on local medical plants and so on.

Difficulties, drawbacks and requirements for environmental education at middle schools in Vietnam

Some of provinces have not completed the action plan of environmental education. Leaders of some schools do not really pay attention to this subject. The teachers are still weak at their expertise and understanding of environment. materials is insufficient, expenses paid for classes is limited...

The most apparent drawback is that many teachers are confused if they have to determine the objective of environmental education.

It is lack of combination between the theory and practice and incorporation between families and schools and society, and of reference to experiences of foreign countries, particularly of developing countries like Japan.

¹ In Japan is junior high schools

Japanese experiences that Vietnamese could learn

Firstly, the awareness of managerial staff and teachers must be enhanced;

Secondly, it is necessary to improve the existing roles of schools and teachers to build the school's environmental scenery in compliance with the national standard;

Thirdly, the design and organization of environmental education activities must be practical

Fourthly, roles of students' parents and unions must be improved; those of students must be enhanced

In brief, in implementing objectives of environmental education at middle schools successfully, the thorough research and selection of solutions above are required; combining roles of the Party, authorities, divisions, departments, schools, students, organizations, and unions in a flexible manner based on the local conditions in which schools are located for teaching and studying.

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Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)
Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.) Vietnam Review of Northeast Asian Studies, March 2008, <i>The Environmental Education at Middle Schools in Vietnam and Japan-Comparative Studies</i> , Nguyen Thi Ngoc, No. 3 (97), 2009, pp. 46-54
Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)