

An Informal Course for Environmental Education: Using Films in Environmental Education

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Abstract

Environmental education is important since environmental problems gradually increasing in today's world. To reduce these problems we need to responsible and consious people who interested in environmental issues. Teachers have an important role to educate students about environmental issues and to equip them with environmental behaviours. The most important thing is teachers also need to have enough knowledge and behaviour related to this issue. To make environmental education more effective and beneficial for students different approaches are applying in different levels of education. One of the different approach in environmental education is using films which make the course more effective. In the light of these thoughts, the purpose of this study is to provide effective ecology course using an informal approach. This study was carried out with 55 preservice primary teachers in the Primary Education Department at one university. All of them were senior students and they analysed the films they had watched. At the end of the courses both of the preservice teachers were asked open ended questions about the environmental course thay had attended. Qualitative analysis was conducted for this study. Analysis of open ended questions was done by content analysis and the frequency of responses was calculated. The results showed that preservice primar teachers found this course appropriate for environmental education. Their responses indicated they emphasized many types of environmental problems but global warming was the most important one and this course provide them knowledge and behaviour related with environmental education. Some possible implications are suggested in the light of these results.

Keywords: *Environmental education, Preservice primary teachers, Films*