

INVESTIGATION OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE & ATTITUDE

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Abstract

This research was planned for 3rd year undergraduate child development students enrolled in the elective course "Child and Nature", for their evaluation of the course as well as to reveal their perspectives on environmental awareness and conduct. The study was realized using qualitative research patterns, and run with the participation of 15 volunteers amongst the students of the Department of Child Development. A semi structured interview form for the participants was used as data collection tool. Collected data was analyzed using qualitative and content analysis methods. The results of the study reveal that while the "Child and Nature" course sufficiently covers environmental problems, its shortage of lecture hours and lack of real life application reduce the effectiveness of environmental problem coverage. It is possible to state that the students of the Department of Child Development hold the course content in high regard and show a high degree of engagement in raising awareness for the environment.

Key Words: Child and nature course, nature experience, environmental knowledge and attitude.