

SEVENTH GRADE PUPILS' MOTIVATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURISM EDUCATION MODULE

DIMITRINKA GEORGIEVA TSONKOVA¹

ABSTRACT. The scientific paper analyses the results from a survey performed with seventh grade pupils. The leading motives for participation in the Tourism education module are specified. The activities which are most interesting to the pupils while studying tourism are pointed out.

Key words: tourism, module education, motivation

Introduction

Multiple and varying personality and psychological factors condition the various types of human activities in their complexity, and define how active the person will be in the activity by attributing particular meaning to it. The question is very acute, during the school age period, what makes young people get involved in one or another type of activity, and what is at the basis of their behavior. In reality all pupils are motivated, but the question is: Motivated to do what? The answer to this question is especially important for the correct management of the educational process. This is why it is necessary to study the learners' motivation in character and degree and in different types of activities including physical education and sport, because it determines the learners' activity or passivity (Geron, E., Y. Mutafova, 2004; Mutafova, Y., I. Ilieva, S. Boneva, 2002) This issue never loses its importance, since many of its aspects remain insufficiently clarified and analyzed. Based on this, we have addressed our attention to the particular topic, with a focus on the education in the tourism module, which in recent years is one of the preferred modules in the third and additional class in physical education and sport, regulated by the respective documents of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science (*Law on the education degree, education minimum and curriculum, 2002; Instructions and work documentation for the third and additional class in physical education and sport, 2004*).

¹ St.Cyril and St.Methodius University of Veliko Turnovo, firicajejan@yahoo.com

The purpose of the academic research is to study the motivation of seventh grade pupils for participation in the Tourism education module, as part of the studies and education process in physical education and sport, while the results obtained are to contribute to its improvement and to the increase of the pupils' interest in it.

Methods of research organization

34 seventh grade pupils from *Ivan Momchilov* Secondary School in the town of Elena and 38 from *Hristo Botev* Secondary School in the town of Gabrovo are surveyed in the school year 2010-2011. The data is processed statistically with SPSS 12.

Presentation

Module education is a contemporary technology which has found a wide application in our country in recent years, in the different educational degrees. It consists in that the studies contents are structured in relatively independent and logically completed organizational and methodical blocks, called modules. It addresses the development of the learners' personality as a whole through *improvement of the intellect and the motor capacities, increase of the positive motivation for active school work, building and improving of skills for independent work and self-control* (Nedkova, A., 2010)

The education in the Tourism module, as part of the studies and education process in physical education and sport, complies with the legislative norms by taking into consideration *the pupils' interests, the schools' traditions, the geographical characteristics of the region, the degree of preparedness and qualification of the teachers to conduct various types of touristic activities*. Different forms are being practiced, as most popular is the pedestrian tourism in the form of hiking tours in plain and mountainous terrains and in different climatic conditions. The study contents are divided thematically and include various activities, most of which have an integrative character. The pupils receive knowledge and acquire practical skills to overcome natural obstacles, to orientate with the help of tourist marking, to put up tents and give first aid in case of an incident. Parallel to the education in tourism, sufficient attention is paid to the necessity of a healthy life style of the pupils. They get acquainted with the principles of rational nutrition, work and recreation, and improvement of the functional capacities of the organism. In respect to educational work, the teacher focuses on building of teamwork skills, overcoming of complex situations, and formation of a system of values in conformity with the generally accepted norms of behavior. The experience so far shows, that the Tourism module is accessible to the pupils, and their active and successful participation in it presupposes above all a sufficient degree of motivation (Tsonkova, D., 2007).

The results from the survey disclose the attitude of the pupils and the factors which determine their activity or passivity in the touristic activities.

The answers to the first question: **„Would you participate in the Tourism module if it were not obligatory?“** point to the reasons for the pupils' participation in module Tourism (Fig. 1). Most of the pupils - 70,5% consider that the obligatory character of the education is insignificant for their participation in the different touristic activities, but 26,5% would not participate. There are some students without a definite opinion on the question (6,94%).

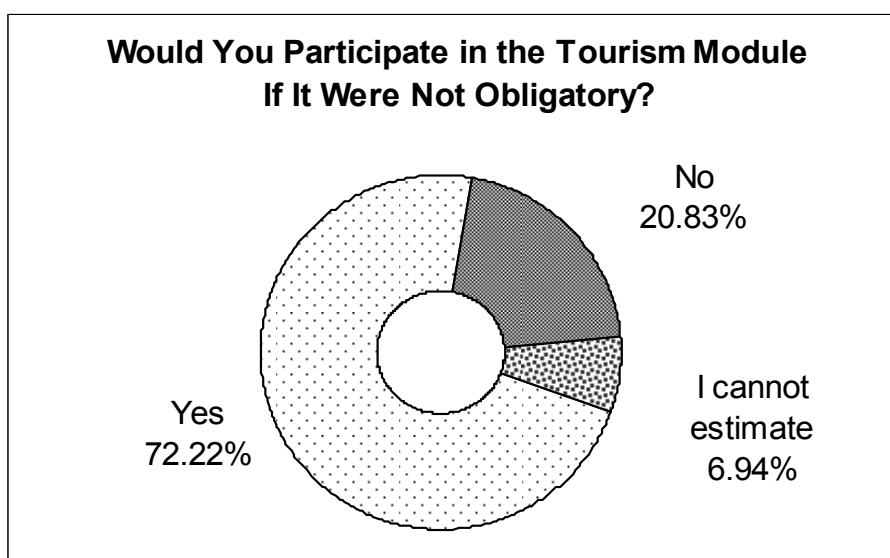


Fig. 1.

It is clear that the majority of the seventh grade pupils are willing to participate, as a result of their interest in the activities which take place in this education module. We consider that this interest is not incidental, having in mind that the surveyed pupils come from towns in proximity to the mountain (Elena and Gabrovo) and this has an effect through created traditions, thinking, attitudes etc. of the people in these regions.

We looked for the particular motives for participation in the Tourism education module with the question **„Why do you participate in the Tourism education module?“**, to which the surveyed could give maximum 3 answers. It impresses that most of them give more than one leading motive (Fig.2).

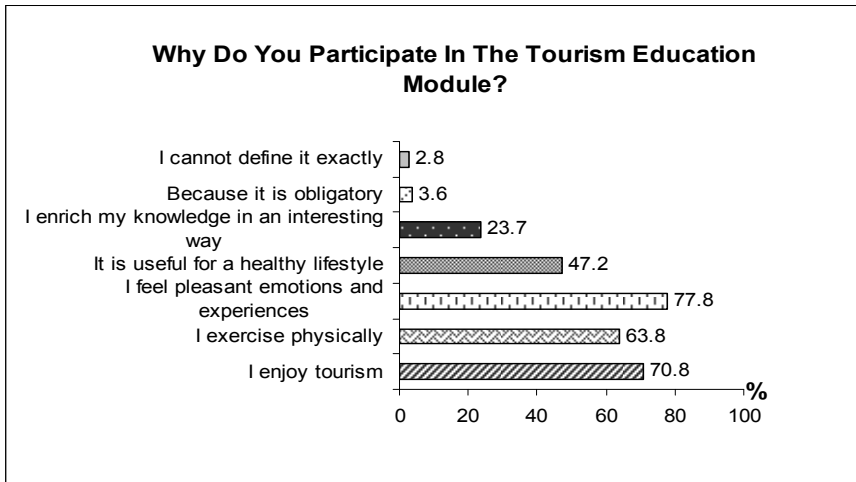


Fig. 2

The motive which weights first, is related to pleasant emotions and experiences (77,8 %), followed by a more general motive “I enjoy tourism” (70,8 %). An important place holds the motive for the usefulness of a healthy lifestyle as well as the one related to physical exercising. To 23,7% it is important that they have the possibility to enrich their knowledge in an interesting way. Undoubtedly there are pupils with the so called negative motivation, where the participation is only because of obligation (2,8%). The fact that 3,6% point to the answer “I cannot define it exactly” proves that sometimes people, especially in school age, find it difficult to articulate what stimulates them or not for action.

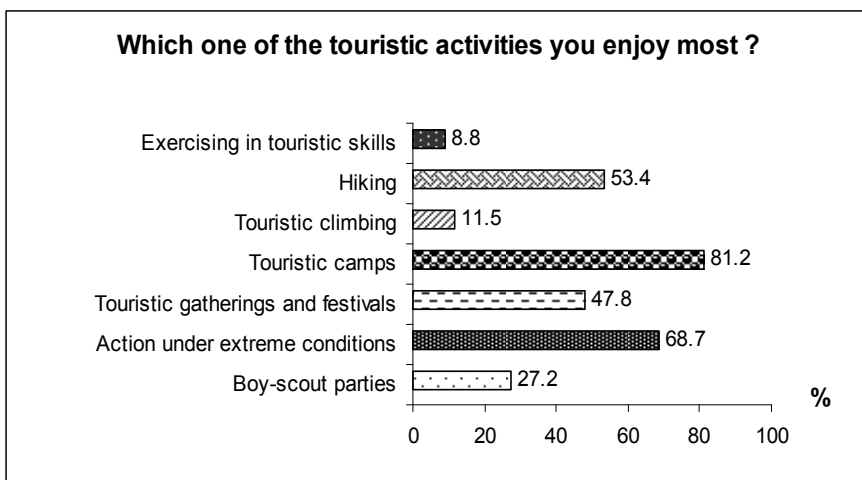


Fig. 3

The answers to the question „**Which one of the touristic activities you enjoy most**” show a wide range of preferences. The answers spread evenly over the four types of activities (fig. 3). Tourist hiking, camping and action under extreme conditions are most preferred. For many of the seventh graders the exercising in touristic skills, as well as tourist gatherings and festivals are less attractive. We suppose that this is due to the fact that at this age the pupils prefer activities which provide preconditions for more active social contacts in a non-formal environment.

Indicative, although surprising, are the answers to the question „**Would you like to discuss topics from life such as friendship, love, sex, communication, children's rights etc. during touristic activities?**” Despite the willingness of the majority to discuss interesting life topics and the problems of young people during hiking and camping (56,94 %), it is surprising that about 33,33% do not want to speak about them, and for 9,72 % such conversations are of no importance. This, according to us, confirms the tendency of deepening of existing inertness and apathy among pupils, lack of desire to share, dispute etc., which is an acute social problem and it should be solved in time and with joint efforts.

The results from the survey give reason for the following **conclusions**:

1. The Tourism education module complements the studies contents of the physical education and sport programme for the seventh grade at Secondary Schools. It has a significant importance for the integral development of the teenagers and affects positively their outlook and habits for a healthy lifestyle.

2. Seventh grade pupils from the two schools in the towns of Elena and Gabrovo are positively motivated to participate in the Tourism education module. Irrespective whether they participate obligatorily or not, most of them are willing to get involved in various touristic activities.

3. There is most interest and activity in touristic hiking, camping and action under extreme conditions, where the seventh graders receive the expected physical exercising and emotional satisfaction.

4. In view of the complete socialization at a school age, it is necessary that the sports educators increase the pupils' motivation for systematic participation in touristic activities, in particular in provoking on purpose the necessities to share and discuss.

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