



Umweltbildungsanalyse im Raum Südheide - Untersuchung des Potentials und Bedarfs der Umweltbildung für das Wald- und Umweltzentrum Räber

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Abstract

The focus of this work is the "Wald- und Umweltzentrum (WUZ) "in Räber, located in the commune of Suderburg in the district Uelzen in Lower Saxony, Germany. Opening at the end of 2004 the WUZ Räber was intended as both a meeting place for members of the agency and leaseholders of the "Wald- und Marketing GmbH" and as a center for youth and adult education. Toward the latter end very little was accomplished. There were many ideas for realizing this goal, but nothing worked. No solid environmental education concept was devised, so appropriations for environmental education failed to appear. The land surrounding the WUZ Räber, the "Räberspring-Tal," is a multifaceted natural area. Before an environmental concept for the WUZ Räber is created, analyses of the potential for environmental education in the area around the WUZ Räber should be conducted.

This research analyzes the environment of the WUZ Räber to expose the potential of and the need for environmental education.

Data were absorbed through expert interviews at the extracurricular institution which offers environmental education. Academic institutions were also subjected to qualitative interviews. Results should show the supply and quality of environmental education in the region. Possible cooperative partners for the future education work of the WUZ Räber should be found. Quantitative interviews with denizens of the commune of Suderburg should support an investigation into the possible demand for future education offers to a target group.

This study determined that the supply of extracurricular institutions is high, but only 3 of 13 institutions have a real concept of environmental education and also include "Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)" in their new programs. Other polled extracurricular institutions work voluntarily on environmental education. The experts working more deeply in environmental education know something substantial about ESD. The other experts have small

knowledge of ESD. Evaluation of education programs was done in only one extracurricular institution. In the academic institutions environmental education is mostly included in daily school routines, especially in primary schools. Schoolteachers mostly supplied a definition of ESD. This definition was based on the curricular of the subjects.

Academic institutions mostly made cooperation's with extracurricular institutions. Extracurricular institutions have their main focus of supply on children (up to 12 years old). Interviews showed that environmental education is very important to denizens, but most do not know about the WUZ Räber.

The study found possible partners for cooperation among the extracurricular and the academic institutions.

For the next level of design of a concept for environmental education for the WUZ Räber, the nature space of the "Räberspring-Tal" must be analyzed. This is in progress at the same time as the study. For taking appropriations, there has to be a new approach of the WUZ Räber which includes cooperation's. But cooperation with academic institutions must embrace the ESD concept and be pedagogically elaborated. For serious environmental education work and to maintain cooperation, a qualified person is indispensable.