

Paper Number: 3317

APPLICATION OF GEO-EDUCATION METHODS ON EGYPTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Kholoud, A.

Institute of African Research and Studies - Cairo University.

Learning geology for children is still a problem for us in Egypt, with the concept and the culture of the country being the main reason. The problems of educating school students mainly concern the syllabus and teachers with some problems which can be overcome and others that cannot.

Different learning methods and activities in teaching geology make a great impact on understanding the science. These learning methods could be available in any country, but are considered new in Egypt and so are interesting for school students and younger children.

In this working paper, the researcher focused on two groups of elementary school students, the first group of 50 students was from 8 to 11 years old, while the second group of 30 students was from 13 to 15 years old. Each group used different activities to reach the main goal of the research which was, 'knowing geology and some geologic features', and by applying these activities the target was achieved.

The age factor affected the improvement of the geologic awareness, where the first group responded well to the understanding of geology and geo-ethics and they also wanted to learn more. The second group had been affected by poor previous education due to the syllabus and teaching methods in school; these two factors combined with the age factor made the application of new methods insufficient, and results were poor.

Gender also had an influence on which of the activities were successful, females responding differently to different activities from males. This is an important factor for 13 to 15 year olds (teenagers), but gender below this age had little effect.

Finally, the methods used needed to be suitable. The age and background of the children must be taken in consideration, to avoid misconceptions and misunderstandings and to convince the children that geology is an interesting science.

