

Abstract

The thesis is concerned with appraising the educational program of the Geology Teaching Center Říčany, in particular its influence on the pupils' attitudes towards geology.

The benefits of field trips and outdoor education have been observed many times; however, mostly pupils' knowledge or skills were taken into consideration while their attitudes have been investigated fairly recently. Moreover, geology is regarded by pupils as 'the more boring part of nature' and hence I was interested in whether (and how) the non-standard form of education can change the pupils' attitudes towards geology.

The objectives of the thesis were 1) to investigate what the pupils' attitudes towards geology are, and 2) to decide whether (and how) the specific geology field trip affects these attitudes and to compare this influence with the one of standard class education. The third, last objective consisted in stating whether the field trip in question will help pupils to understand how sundry topographic features were created.

The main research question was stated as follows: How will the field trip affect the pupils' attitudes towards geology in comparison with standard class education covering the same topics? According to results of my investigation, pupils regard geology as the most useless and unpopular branch of biology. On the other hand, their attitudes towards geology are rather positive or neutral. Nevertheless, no statistically significant effect of the concerned field trip on these attitudes was observed.

Key words

Geology, educational program, evaluation, students' attitudes, IBSE, Geology Teaching Center Říčany