

## Formation of Youth Readiness to the Development of Environmental Volunteering at University

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### Abstract

Relevance of the article is based on the importance of environmental education and development of the “green” economics of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Despite the relevancy of environmental education, there is a lack of studies on the relationship between the greening of education, “green economy” and the modernization of students’ consciousness. Thus, there is a gap between the demands of the state and the environmentally oriented training of future specialists.

Currently, the solution to environmental problems is under the control of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the city administration. Environmental volunteering can be a priority area to address environmental issues to form the environmental culture of the population. At the same time, the content of environmental volunteering is quite diverse and young professionals should implement creative ideas in public life.

The aim of the article is to examine mechanisms of environmental volunteering development among young people because this is one of the priority directions of the educational ecologization.

The leading approach of the study is the activity approach, which allows to describe the activities and motives of the environmental volunteer movement, its impact on self-awareness, thinking and behavior of future professionals.

Environmental volunteering development is considered on a base of L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University. Furthermore, the role of environmental volunteer movement in students’ lives is examined. The process of the organization of environmental volunteering in an educational institution is described. Ecological and spiritual conscience, ecological thinking, ecological behavior, ecological culture are viewed as important components of ecologization. Ecological activities organized by students are analyzed as well as the conditions for development of environmental volunteering in Eurasian National University named after L.N. Gumilyov (further, ENU named after L. N. Gumilyov). After all, youth activity is important for environmental protection as well as the experience of developed countries in this direction.

The role of eco-volunteers in the development of the “green University” has educational, research and practice-oriented importance. Specifically, the eco-volunteers’ contribution consists of: lectures, debates, trainings, master classes in student classrooms and dormitories, the development of various kinds of memos for personal household management, which explain the economical use of energy resources and waste management, the creation of signs about resource conservation, the creation of environmental bags which are aimed to reduce household and industrial waste, containers for the collection of used batteries. Also, the possibility to implement eco-initiatives and eco-lightening into educational is shown. Eco-volunteers participate in different ecological events and as a result, prove the importance of environmental activities based on their own experience. The mentioned above key aspects are foundation for the environmental transparency, providing students with information about the environmental conditions and health problems. Thus, it will stimulate students’ active participation in nature preservation and the programmes dedicated to keep the Earth clean.

The practical value of this article is the introduction of eco-initiatives and eco-education in other universities, along with the greening of education in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The materials of the article can be useful for public organizations that are concerned about the problems of human interaction and the world of nature. The authors provide recommendations on the organization of work with volunteers and the position of the youth center on environmental regular activities. Active involvement of young people in international events will help them to study other countries’ experience in solving various environmental problems. Therefore, future specialists in various fields will be prepared for the integration of environment protection activities.

Keywords: environmental volunteering, eco-volunteer, environmental consciousness, environmental behaviour, environmental activity, “green” university, youth environmental organization “Zheruuyk».

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### **Introduction**

In recent years, greening education has an impact on the development of science, economics and technology in the Republic of Kazakhstan. This is facilitated by the country's transition to a "green economy" as it outlined in the article of the Head of state "Look into the future: modernization of public consciousness", the experience of the international exhibition - EXPO-2017 in Astana, contributing to the creation of an intellectual elite of environmental education, as well as an innovative cluster of the country. "Green development" will allow Kazakhstan to achieve the goal of becoming one of the 30 most developed countries in the world. Before all state reforms were oriented on the economy, industry and other industries, now we are talking about the modernization of the consciousness of people. "After all, the modernization of public consciousness will not complement other modernization already started in the country – political and economic, it should become their core" (Nazarbayev, 2017). Also, according to the Concept of transition of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the "green economy", one of the six principles is "training and formation of environmental culture in business and among the population", the need to improve existing and develop new educational programs on the rational use of natural resources and environmental protection in the education and training system (Almaty Akshamy, 2013). One of the principles of "green economy" is "New way of thinking and education". Kazakhstan has launched a programme to support reform efforts and to attract green technologies and investment. The programme provides broad public participation, information on best practices and environmental education at all levels. The entire strategic course of the state policy of Kazakhstan is aimed at solving the complex practical problem of transition to the "green way of development" in educational institutions, which allows developing environmental, educational, educational and health-saving technologies. In turn, the implementation of the new development strategy, education has a new function - preparing a person to escape all kinds of global crises and catastrophes, because only a person equipped with adequate knowledge and information can overcome them (Alinov, 2016).

### **Purpose and objectives of the study**

But, despite the interest of scientists in environmental education, there is no scientific understanding of the relationship between the greening of education, "green economy" and the modernization of students' consciousness. Thus, in both theoretical and practical terms, there is a gap between the demands of the state and the actual training of future specialists. Our research suggests the solution to this contradiction. Therefore, the most important task facing Kazakh universities is not just the formation of professional elite, but also socially responsible, active, intelligent and spiritually developed citizens. The system of higher education has sufficient opportunities for the formation of factors leading to spiritual and environmental consciousness. The period of study at the University is an important stage of the necessary training of an environmentally oriented specialist. This fact introduces the process of development of environmental volunteering of students in a number of priority areas of greening education. In turn, this is facilitated by the law "on volunteer activity" adopted in the Republic of Kazakhstan (Nazarbayev, 2016), which determines the legal basis of volunteer activity. And one of the types of volunteer activities, according to this law, is to participate in the protection and improvement of the environment.

### **Literature review**

Social movements have different typologies and different in the direction of interests and they are classified by the purpose of creation, by the form of existence, by the utility of society, by the scale of changes, by the coverage of territories. Public relations in these organizations are developed by the actions of their interests and management mechanisms. When organizing the ecological youth movement at the University, we were guided by the concept of youth organization, which defines the key characteristics: "Youth organization is a special kind of public Association and meets the following criteria: 1) the existence of a value idea (goal), which is aimed at joint activities of young people; 2) voluntary membership in the organization and free withdrawal from it; 3) fixed membership; 4) organizational independence, self-government, joint social creativity; 5) a clearly defined structure that defines each position; 6) all rules and regulations guaranteed for all members of the organization and the right of joint activities (the choice of types, forms and methods of activity); 7) the predominance in its composition of young people; 8) availability of the Charter, program, provisions" (Kodjaspirova, & Kodjaspirov, 2005). We will determine the place of the volunteer movement

according to the above-mentioned characteristics. For the purpose of creating an ecological volunteer value-oriented movement, it is necessary to preserve the conditions for the existence of society. According to the utility of the society, environmental volunteer activity is opposed to the movements of social groups aimed at winning the attention of society and its recognition as a kind of subculture. The main goal of eco-volunteers is to achieve compliance with environmental protection standards by all members of society, so the youth movement is characterized as progressive. According to the scale of changes, the environmental activity of volunteers will be evolutionary in nature with features of consistency, continuity, and regularity. Everyday care of nature, constant analysis of the activities of social groups from the position of "do no harm to nature", the development of recommendations and the creation of conditions for compliance with environmental standards involves the gradual development of the population's need to protect the environment. Special consideration is given to the aspect of the coverage areas. The international environmental movement has announced a call "Think globally-act locally!" This means that every member of society in his or her place of residence has to protect the environment, which will be considered a contribution to the global environmental movement.

From a legal point of view, youth social groups are divided into formal and informal organizations. In terms of the University they will be formal, as the structure and content of the activities on the background of the work plan of the University will be registered in the center of youth policy, the Charter of the youth environmental organization "Zheruyyk" will be approved. Active environmental activity of students and undergraduates is aimed at the realization of the value idea in favor of society, does not contradict the law, involves voluntary membership in this public organization and free withdrawal from it, as well as membership in it will be registered and confirmed by a certificate. This organization provides self-government and a general plan of work, implemented on the basis of creativity. The structure of the organization will be determined by the content of environmental activities: the head of the organization and deputy heads in relevant areas. Rules and regulations are now in place for all members of the organization. The Charter, program and regulations of the organization have been developed. The name "Zheruyyk" was chosen by us for many reasons. "Zheruyk" - the promised land. This concept is associated with the philosophy of Asana kaygy (Asan kaygy, XV century), who traveled on his horse wishing the vast steppe and sought for his people on a fertile land. "In the name of "Zheruyik" concluded the concept of "eternity", as the love of Kazakhs to their native land has a deep meaning", - says Ermek Zhumahmetuly (Zhumahmetuly, 2013).

Volunteering in Kazakhstan has been developed for a long time. The first mention goes back to ancient times, and the closest concept is "Asar". This is an ancient custom of the Kazakh people, according to which people, gathered together, sincerely and completely free of charge perform unaffordable for one person or for one family work. Times are changing, but the willingness to volunteer remains. And, despite the fact that volunteer activity is still only fragmentary and does not have a systematic approach and material incentives, citizens of Kazakhstan are very actively involved in the charitable and social life of the country.

Structuring and description of volunteer movements becomes an actual topic of research of many scientists. And a number of publications are devoted to environmental volunteering (Jerome, 2017; Measham, 2008; Randle, 2015).

The described work is carried out in accordance with the conceptual position on the greening of vocational education, developed by Professors of ENU Gumilyov and Dlimbetova. One of the authors emphasizes that "a key methodological direction for the greening of the Kazakh system of professional education should become the idea of universal readiness of future specialists to the protection of the environment as a result of their spiritual needs" (Dlimbetova G. K., 2018). Scientists note that today's young people need to be educated in environmental behaviour and learn specific actions to protect the environment which is a spiritual necessity to promote the overall environmental movement. Therefore, students should develop the volunteer movement which affects the general consciousness of the other (Dlimbetova, Bulatbaeva, Abenova, Fahrutdinova, & Khuziakhmetov, 2018).

### **Methodology**

We studied the level of environmental consciousness by conducting surveys at the beginning and at the end of the study, comparing and analyzing the data. A key aspect of our experiment was to identify the degree of integration of awareness of the objective necessity and the internal needs of the person, which is manifested in the individual motives of behavior, actions, speech, in relations with others, etc. in a collision with any external circumstances (Myasishchev, 1982).

When conducting our experiment, we set the goal to form the need for the development of environmental movement. To do this, it is important to check the readiness of the volunteer for environmental activities. To get a complete picture, we expected to identify the following aspects of the readiness of the eco-volunteer: his/her motives and values in participating in volunteer activities; awareness of environmental problems and volunteer movement, international organizations for environmental protection; initiative in the organization of environmental activities, the availability of ideas for implementation in specific conditions of the area and the region; the manifestation of a positive attitude in solving the tasks of eco-volunteer activities.

First of all, an experiment was conducted. In Eurasian National University we have created certain pedagogical conditions for the development of environmental volunteering and after which the final control was organized.

Pedagogical conditions that contribute to the effective development of environmental volunteering in higher education institutions were developed with the help of the characteristics of the development of any voluntary environmental movement. By pedagogical conditions we mean an interconnected set of measures to ensure the readiness of students to participate in environmental activities. In the process of the study diagnostic method-questioning was used. A questionnaire containing 17 questions aimed at identifying the degree of awareness of students and assessing their readiness to become volunteers and it was developed to identify the ideas of students about environmental volunteering. The survey covered 4th year students and 1st year undergraduates. To determine the initial data, the experiment was conducted on September 14, 2018. The control experiment was conducted on December 27, 2018. The sample was 97 people. Age group was 19-25 years.

Personal and synergetic approaches were used in the study. Under the synergetic approach we mean the convergence of natural and human knowledge, as well as the penetration of environmental ideas in the Humanities. The synergetic approach will allow considering the greening education as the penetration of environmental principles and rules in all types of work with young people.

For the formation of students' civil responsibility for the preservation of the life environment ecological debates on the theme "Ecological lifestyle of the student" were held. Students competed in public speaking and environmental management; some critically reviewed their behavior in wasteful consumption and jointly looked for ways to solve different environmental problems. Such events not only raise the level of environmental literacy, but also prepare students for social activity, i.e. volunteering. As a result of the debate, the students made the main conclusion that the solution to environmental problems can begin by any person. After all, by changing our behavior and understanding our everyday actions, we can reduce our negative impact on the environment.

The participation of our students in the Second National round table "Green universities of Russia" was also organized, and it was held by the environmental faculty of the RUDN university (Moscow). Representative of L. N. ENU Gumilyov participated in the event which took place in the framework of the scientific project "Greening of the University education system as an innovative way to modernize the spiritual consciousness of students" and was held online in English. The center of youth policy of L. N. ENU took an active part in the organization of this event. RUDN has been participating in the rating of "green universities" for several years, starting this work first among Russian universities which attracted attention. As part of the round table, our students had the opportunity to exchange experience in the greening of economic and social development, environmental safety and the transition to sustainable development with the rating of foreign universities.

A guest lecture by the UNDP project Manager (United Nations development Programme) was organized for the youth of our University in order to update the environmental movement. The interest of young people from an ecological point of view was caused by the program and this programme helped to measure the value of personal carbon footprint. The calculation is performed using a software product developed under the UNDP-GEF project and the government of Kazakhstan "Sustainable cities for low-carbon development". The tools which can be used to personally reduce our carbon footprint have been reviewed.

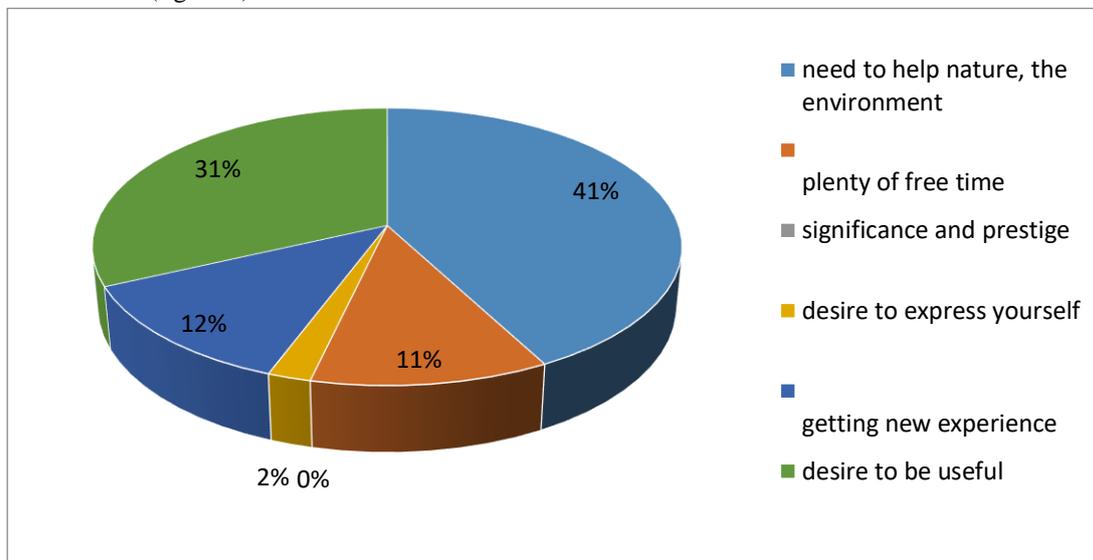
Eco-volunteer of ENU named after L.N. Gumilyov participated in the online event "Eco.Web-2018 "on" international and national eco-cooperation: ways of student cooperation". A webinar was held with the Russian Foundation named after V. I. Vernadsky. The purpose of this event was to increase the interest of young people, students and teachers who are not indifferent to the issues of international environmental dialogue. The webinar program included presentations by leading Russian scientists, representatives of the scientific and pedagogical community, government agencies and non-governmental organizations. The Russian partners shared the practice of organizing environmental

student volunteer organizations aimed at the formation of their environmental consciousness and thinking. Participation of the Kazakhstan youth in the online event allowed us to learn international experience in the environmental volunteer and further define a strategic vision for active volunteer activities in her University.

Let us consider the results of the study on the above four aspects. To do this, we selected some questions of the survey.

#### 1. Motives and values for participation in volunteer activities.

To the question, "What do you think is the main motive for environmental volunteering?" the answers were distributed as follows (figure 1)



**Figure 1.** Distribution of respondents' answers to the questionnaire question "What, in your opinion, is the main motive for environmental volunteering?".

Based on the figure, we can conclude that the main motive of students is the need to help the environment and the desire to be useful. There is free time to participate. 2% have a desire to declare themselves. And no one noted the importance and prestige. Let's take a closer look at one of the important components of volunteer activity, namely motivation. What motivates our volunteers? A system of encouragement, public recognition and attention, or satisfaction of one's personal needs? And what motives are more effective for volunteering? Today, most researchers emphasize that absolute altruism does not exist, as any volunteer in different degree gets a certain satisfaction from their involvement in volunteering (Simha, Topuzova, & Albert, 2011). Why volunteer at our University is not prestigious? After all, participation in volunteer movements is participation in the state youth policy. Volunteers acquire skills that they will need in the labor market and contribute to mutual understanding with the future employer. Today, employers actively support volunteer activities of students. According to Pevnaya (2015), it can be connected both with objective reasons (practical experience of any activity, social connections and contacts), and subjective (personal characteristics of students-volunteers) (Pevnaya, 2015). Volunteering shows the qualities that will be in demand in any industry.

Here we can apply the theory of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, which divided all of man's needs into five main levels (Maslow, 2014). The need that motivates to participate in volunteering coincides on the third level - the need to belong to a social group. After all, it is important for each of us to understand that we are necessary for society to be involved.

#### 2. Awareness of environmental issues and volunteer movement, international organizations for environmental protection

Among the sources of information on environmental issues, 61% of respondents responded with "TV and radio". And only 14% said "in the process of learning in schools." Thus, the main source of information for students is the media. The reason for this low result is the lack of attention in higher education to the promotion of environmental protection. In this regard, the system of higher education, as the main institution of socialization of young people and it should take the function of the development of environmental values in future professionals.

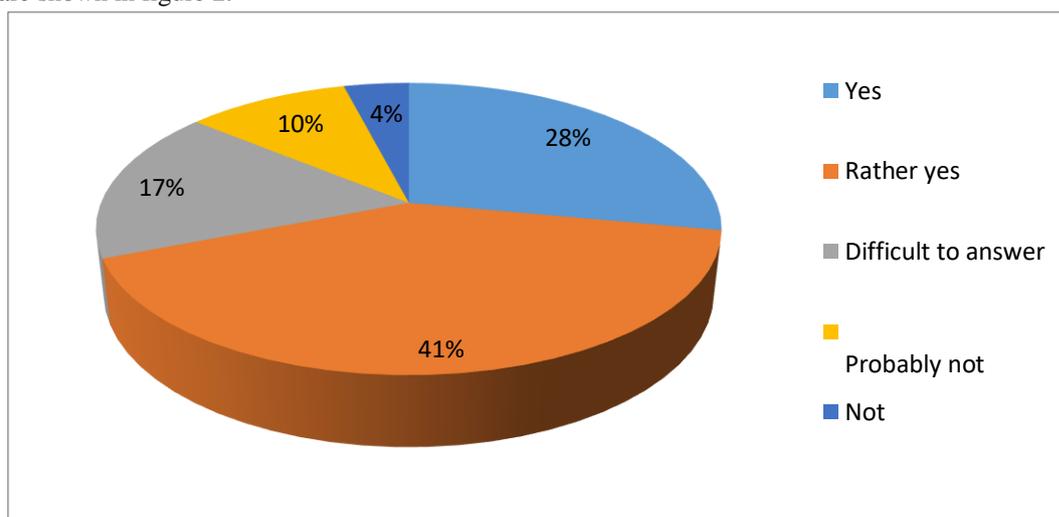
To the question, «what problems do you find the most acute?" the answers were distributed as follows.

67% household waste

- 19% saturation of streets with cars
- 9% water pollution
- 5% of air pollution.

From the results we see that students have information about the environmental situation and the causes of environmental problems in the city, country and world. And they put the problem of household waste management on the first place. Sorting waste is indeed the most modern, and at the same time, an interesting problem for young people. Students are interested in the sorting and classification criteria of waste sorting. Today's young people understand the danger posed by waste and its negative impact on the environment and human health. Therefore, the first event of ECO-volunteers of L. N. ENU is oriented on the development of accessible information materials on the importance of waste sorting and recycling, a memo on reducing the amount of waste, recommendations on the rules for the use of containers.

The question "Will you be a member of the environmental movement, if it is created at the University?" the answers are shown in figure 2.



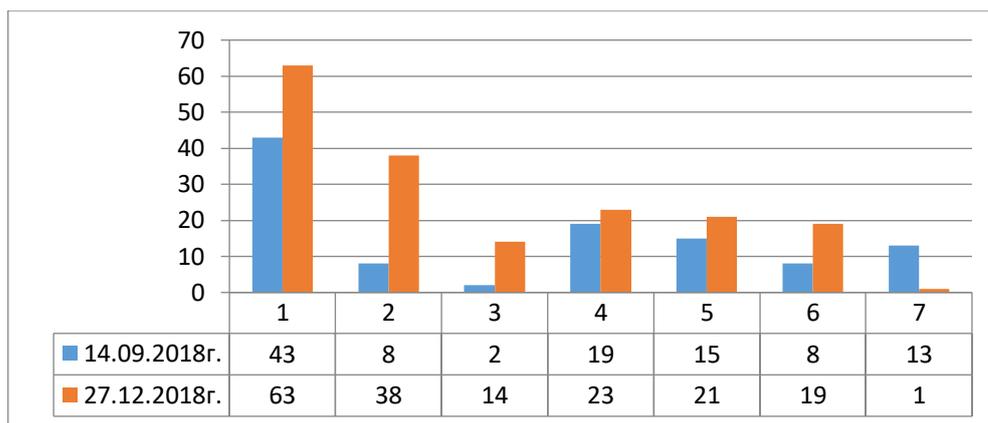
**Figure 2.** Distribution of respondents 'answers to the questionnaire question " Will you be a member of the environmental movement if it is organized at the University?»

Based on the diagram, we can see that most of the students answered "Rather, Yes". They are ready to become active environmentalists, join the ranks of the environmental movement, if it is organized. For such students - potential participants of environmental volunteering, the University should continue to provide an opportunity to obtain new environmental knowledge. At the same time, it is necessary to widely use interactive forms of education, such as trainings, master classes, student debates and other didactic scenarios. Taking part in thematic classes, gaining new knowledge and seeing your personal contribution to the positive effect of environmental protection of the territories of the University and new opportunities in the implementation of the ideas of "green economy" students will be motivated and further participation in various environmental actions.

3. Initiative environmental activities in the organization, the availability of ideas for implementation in the specific areas and regions

To the question: "Do you take measures to protect the environment, if so, what?" we see the distribution of answers in figure 3.

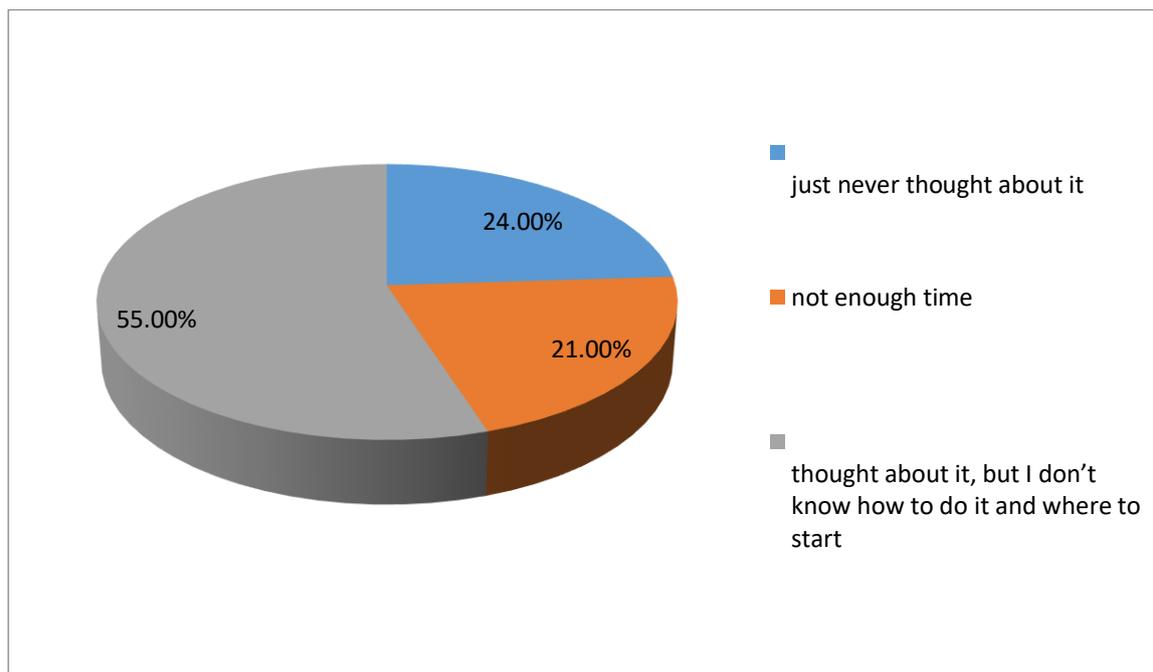
1. I do not pollute public space
2. Pass the trash, household waste in points of reception
3. I participate in various actions to protect the environment
4. I save electricity
5. Save water resources
6. I try not to use plastic bags
7. I'm not taking any action.



**Figure 3** Dynamics of differences of answers to the question "Do you take measures to protect the environment (what) in the experimental group

Based on the data obtained, we can conclude that the created pedagogical conditions have effectively influenced participation in environmental protection activities. If at the beginning of the study as much as 13% of people admitted that they do not take any measures, then in the end the number was reduced to 1%. We see high dynamics in other answers as well. If initially only 8% handed over waste paper and household waste to the reception points, then after listening to lectures, participation in webinars, round tables, this number increased to 38%. Students began to save water resources, electricity, if possible, do not use plastic bags.

To the question "If you have never engaged in volunteer activities, then answer why?" we see the answers in Figure 4.



**Figure 4.** Distribution of respondents 'answers to the questionnaire question "If you have never engaged in volunteer activities, then answer why?»

According to the figure, we see that the main reason for the lack of participation in volunteer activities is the lack of necessary information. Respondents were thinking about it, but they did not know how to do it and where to start. Therefore, the educational work carried out by eco-volunteers will serve as the beginning for the practical activities of students in the field of nature protection. The increase in the level of environmental knowledge will be achieved through the dissemination of the necessary information at the departments, faculties.

4. The manifestation of a positive attitude in solving the tasks of eco-volunteer activities.

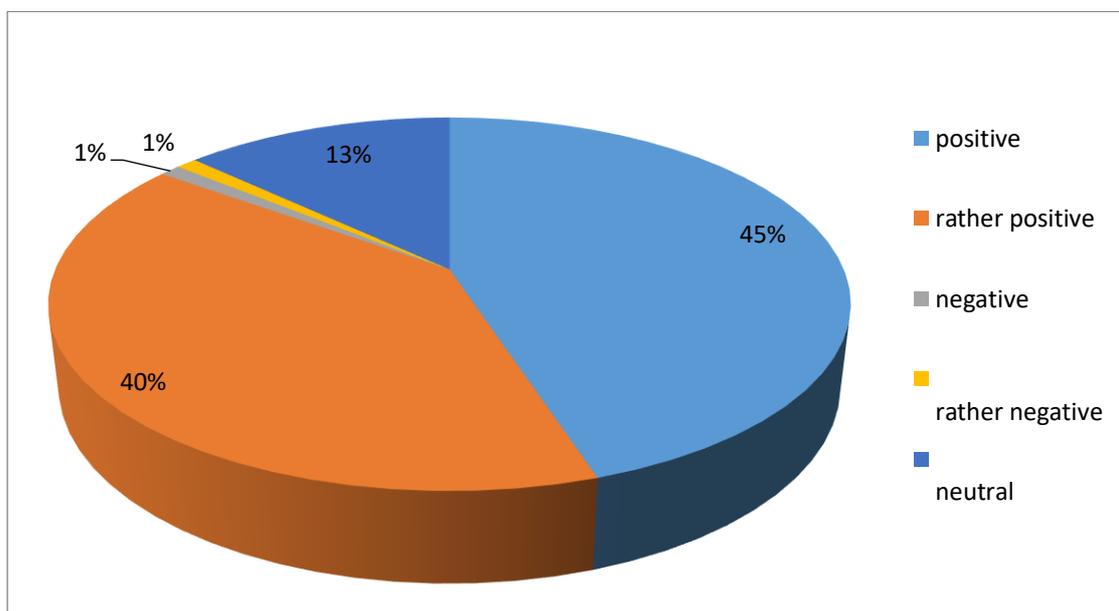
The respondents answered the question "please Choose personal qualities that an environmental volunteer should have (no more than 3 answers)" as follows:

- 26% responsibility
- 22% diligence
- 18% social activity
- 15% leadership skills
- 14% ability to work in a team
- 4% communication skills
- 1% ability to plan

It is possible to draw conclusions that participation in volunteer activity forms such qualities as diligence, responsibility, and also, it teaches youth people to look at the world around and think of its quality in the future. It is also important to develop leadership skills, because volunteers should be able to attract and motivate to environmental activities, to organize like-minded people around the problem. Since the volunteer movement is a society, it is a student who learns to work in a team.

To the question, "What connotation does the term "eco-volunteer?" the students responded in the following way.

Figure 5.



**Figure 5.** The distribution of respondents' answers on questionnaire question "What connotation does the term "ecovolunteer"?"

The interview with the students revealed that the mention of the word "eco-volunteer" caused such associations - clean, green, no trash, order, nature, the planet. Immediately, there are thoughts about the positive qualities of people, like-minded people dealing with environmental problems on a volunteer basis. The word "eco-volunteer" evokes positive emotions because eco-volunteer is engaged in activities beneficial for the whole society. The answers were considered as neutral when students wrote that they did not think about environmental problems and environmental volunteering.

**Findings**

Based on the results of the experiment, we obtained specific results and identified priorities for future activities of eco-volunteers.

The University created the youth ecological movement "Zheruyyk". Almost 100% of students participates in the experiment. For the first time the University has developed an environmental charter. Ecological volunteer youth movement "Zheruyyk" unites not indifferent students to the environment on a voluntary basis. Students seek to participate directly and to mobilize all the forces of society for the further implementation and strict observance of the rights to a favorable environment and environmental safety of people. The aim is to organize the necessary conditions for the possibility of volunteer environmental movement and to increase its social significance; presentation of environmental volunteer activities as an integral component of the formation of ecological consciousness and

environmental culture of the population; organization of conditions for self-realization of environmentally conscious students and cohesion of the student community around the principles of environmental protection.

Activities have been started in the environmental movement. A group of volunteers offered light, durable eco-bags, which are alternatives to plastic bags. Currently, the first eco-bags are ready, which will be offered to students in the ENU named after L. N. Gumilyov. Volunteers in order to attract the attention of students to the problems of environmental pollution held a campaign "NO-plastic bags and YES-eco-bags!» They called for the abandonment of plastic bags in favor of eco-bags.

Eco-volunteers have developed memos and postcards with environmental content, informing about the main directions of environmental activities in the world and in our country. Gaining the experience of advanced universities about the creation of "green" universities, eco-volunteers talk about the first steps of the L. N. ENU. Gumilyov. They have developed various kinds of memos in the conduct of private households, which have explanations for all citizens on the economical use of energy resources and waste management at home. Also, available information on the choice of goods in favor of the quality of the environmental product, the use of eco-labels, the approximate number of years required for the decomposition of a material are contained in the memo.

Eco-volunteers developed a project of educational nature - the creation of signs to draw attention to resource conservation. Signs will be located in the most crowded places of the University, such as the corridors, offices, departments, canteens, etc. Here is an example: "Save paper", "Why am I burning?", "Use resources wisely", "2 drops per minute-2000 liters per year". Such simple actions, as saving water, electricity, securities will be the manifestation of active environmental positions of eco-volunteers in the promotion among young people about the necessity of universal adherence to the savings and thrift.

In addition, it should be noted about the desire of volunteers to contribute to the environmental movement under the slogan "Think globally – act locally!": they installed hand-made containers to collect used batteries and waste paper. Currently, master's degree students have already gone beyond the University and install the same containers in the workplace, conducted interviews and polls among citizens and collected opinions on their readiness to participate in environmental volunteer activities. Volunteers developed a booklet that contained the explanations to the population about ways to correct allocation of waste. The purpose of distribution is to form a positive attitude to the separate collection of garbage as the most effective resource-saving means. Information booklets are aimed at the formation of environmental culture and raising awareness among the population. According to statistics, most people prefer to perceive information visually, so it is attracting attention with the help of memos, postcards, booklets, posters is the most effective way to educate residents.

Closer to the summer season, the eco-volunteers plan to carry out an action to clean up the territory in the form of a plogging. Plogging is derived from the verb "pick up" and the noun "Jogging", which means slow Jogging. This phenomenon first appeared in Sweden. Now such runs with garbage become popular around the world. The scheme is very simple: instead of just doing the usual running, ploggers take a large package and collect garbage in it, found on their way. Ploggers not only lead an active lifestyle, but also help the environment, cleaning it from rubbish. As we know, Sweden has now achieved almost one hundred percent recycling.

Active work is carried out among eco-volunteers who are master students-philologists and who implement cognitive and communicative technology developed by Professor of ENU Gumilyov. On the basis of this technology the environmental volunteers engage with the global environmental movement through the English language (Bulatbaeva, Dlimbetova, & Fahrutdinova, 2018). Every student has developed some lessons in English on the same ecological problem, which implements during student teaching. Eco-volunteer according to the developed program can hold classes outside of the educational process in any group.

### **Discussions**

Thus, on the basis of the above, we believe that the environmental movement in the ENU Named after L. N. Gumilyov began. Environmental competence of students should become an integral part of education, integrated into the formal, informal and informal educational system.

Eco-volunteers not only participate in environmental debates, actions, but also conduct educational activities for other students, the population and promote the norms of environmental behavior. Indeed, young people are a mirror reflecting social reality. Students are the most mobile community, naturally inclined to volunteer activities. Due to their

age characteristics, they are always ready for a variety of social activities. And the educational environment of the institution is the best for the development of volunteer movements. Volunteer movement forms the civil society, forming public ecological consciousness. According to Chernyshova (2015), the spiritual and moral educational environment as a well-structured pedagogical technology has the ability to purposefully and consistently influence the formation of students' personal moral qualities and direct their abilities to spiritual and creative activity, and which positively affects self-improvement, self-creativity, self-actualization of students, regardless of their age characteristics.

In the end, the criterion of the effectiveness of the ecological movement will be the significant improvement of the ecological state of the University as a future "green University", achieved by the efforts of students. It is not possible to form ecological consciousness of a person without direct creative and harmonious communication with nature. Therefore, environmental volunteering is a priority of the modern environmental education (Dilimbetova & Abenova, 2018). Well-known scientists understand ecological consciousness as knowledge and understanding of human capabilities to impact nature and assessment of expected behavior in ecological environment. They introduced ideas about the necessity of a collective ecological consciousness, which will consist of an individual consciousness enriched with knowledge created by a variety of individual knowledge (Medvedev & Aldasheva, 2001). Today, the issue of environmental consciousness is a global problem. The solution to the human problems is impossible without internal understanding of the human need for activity and internal willingness. The solution to environmental problems suggested by young people is the volunteer movement and it shows a high level of environmental awareness. The criterion of ecological consciousness is the practical activity based on the sense of responsibility to nature. The beginning of practical actions towards the environmental movement shows the awareness of young people of a sense of belonging and responsibility for the preservation of the environment.

Modern scientists involved in the greening of education give new definitions and one of them is the concept of "green" skills. Green skills are automated actions aimed at reducing energy consumption, protecting ecosystems and biodiversity, minimizing polluting emissions and waste. In addition to the professional competence of higher school students, it is also necessary to form environmental competence. Aliyeva (2016) brings her model of environmental competence, including such elements as: knowledge → environmental knowledge; skills → green skills; personality traits → socially significant and professionally significant personality traits. Scientists note the need to instill the younger generation with these "green" skills. Formed "green" skills will largely determine the high level of environmental competence, along with the existing environmental knowledge and social and professionally significant qualities of the individual.

Along with "green" skills, we can introduce the term "green workplace" into the University environment. The UN defines green jobs as sector with jobs that minimize pollution and waste. According to scientists, green jobs will reduce the negative impact on the environment (Belén Sanchez, & Hofmann, 2009). The entire staff of the University will have to reduce energy consumption, reduce paper consumption, through the use of the reverse side or the storage of documentation and educational materials to electronic versions in order to call their workplace "green". Each teacher will have to control students' knowledge using electronic systems and also, all training material will be used in electronic form. All these personal examples will be the first step of young people to environmental volunteering.

Other scientists involved in the environmental education noted that "...the search for means and ways to optimize natural science education, its enrichment and fundamentalization, harmonization of social and humanitarian, natural science and professional components in the training of students is one of the urgent tasks of modern education of the Republic" (Zhilbayev & Moiseyeva, 2016). Improvement of the environmental education in Geography is taking place in the L. N. ENU. Gumilyov. Saipov and Anguina discuss key environmental indicators of water use in their teaching materials (Saipov & Zhanguzhina, 2019).

As a result of the above studies, we believe that development of environmental style and behavior, environmental consciousness and thinking and environmental culture of students will be formed. By changing their way of life, habits, behavior, young people can become an example of how to reduce their negative impact on the environment. Ecological culture presupposes a harmonious attitude of people to the natural environment and social environment, as well as attitude to themselves as a part of nature (Rakhimzhanova, 2018). Therefore, the modern younger generation needs not only to obtain environmental knowledge but also to actively use them in practice.

## **Conclusion**

Analysis of the literature shows the novelty of the environmental volunteering in order to modernize the consciousness of future professionals. The development of environmental volunteering in the university will combine theory with practice and complement the professional and social competence of future specialists. Ecologically educated young people after graduation will contribute to the prevention of activity of the enterprises, threatening environmental security and will preserve the environment for sustainable development of society. Every future specialist should have an environmental ethics and culture. In our case, the purpose of training future specialists for professional activities is the development of the potential for sustainable development and decent work. This goal is influenced by the main trends of the Kazakhstan labor market in conditions of globalization of the socio-economic, political, and intercultural relations (Dlimbetova, Zhilbayev, Syrymbetova, & Aliyeva, 2016).

The center of youth policy of the University should take a key position on the development of environmental volunteering. It should coordinate environmental movements and be responsible for the systematic activities. The center should focus on two goals: the success of youth socialization and the creation of a system of social and moral education of students. It is necessary to create pedagogical and psychological conditions for the development of a young person's personality. The analysis of the available Kazakh literature shows the scientific novelty and relevance of this direction. The possibility of introduction of eco-initiatives and eco-education to the university is an important direction in the greening education in the Republic of Kazakhstan. In recent years, there has been an active activity of researchers in this direction.

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