Abstract

In a recent master’s study in environmental education, the attitudes of rural communities regarding the sustainable use of water as a scarce environmental resource was investigated. It was investigated as to whether knowledge through education can shape attitudes. Several communities throughout South Africa inclusive of Botswana were covered, with an in-depth study being undertaken in Moruleng village in the Saulspoort region, North West Province. Focus group interviews were conducted from children to village headmen to collect data. The collected data was substantiated by evidence collected from photographs taken of the water-related issues being investigated.

Therefore the study suggests that education or knowledge alone cannot shape attitudes, thus shaping attitudes requires more than provisioning of knowledge.