



Ljiljana B. Mitić¹, Marija J. Dejković
University of Niš, Teacher Training Faculty, Vranje, Serbia

Valentina M. Zlatanović Marković
Medical school in Užice, Užice, Serbia

**Professional
paper**

Paper received: Oct 8 2021
Paper accepted: Dec 1 2022
Article Published: Jan 25 2023

Out of the Classroom Lessons of Science and Social Studies

Extended summary

The paper offers a critical analysis of the basic characteristics, as well as didactic-methodological values and shortcomings of the out of the classroom lessons of Science and Social Studies. The goal of the analysis is to discover the possibilities that this type of teaching and learning provides in the operationalization of the goals and outcomes of the teaching content of this school subject and other teaching content, especially in terms of two types of classroom teaching: school in nature and ambiental teaching. Although these are two different types of educational work, both school in nature and ambiental teaching, if well-planned and professionally implemented, offer numerous opportunities in all phases of the teaching process. As out of the classroom teaching, in which all teaching principles find their complete fulfillment, implies a total abandonment of the established way of teaching and a great engagement on the part of the teacher, it is not implemented to a sufficient extent. This, of course, does not support the ultimate goal, which is the greater mental engagement of students as an indicator of quality teaching. Teaching outside the classroom gives students the opportunity to apply what they learned in class to a specific situation. Learning outside the classroom is a process that involves active learning based on the principle that experience is the best teacher. Students face new problems, try to solve them under given circumstances, form new assumptions, check them, and come to new knowledge more independently than usual. They interact with the world around them, but also with their peers. This type of teaching implies the use and acquisition of knowledge from different fields; therefore, it implies a comprehensive approach to the world around us and the integration of new sensory experiences, making this kind of lesson the most appropriate way of observing phenomena for students in

¹ ljiljanam@pfvr.ni.ac.rs

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the lower grades of primary school. Despite the fact that the organization of out of the classroom lessons implies many requirements of technical nature, the benefits that students have are manifold and much more work must be done to promote it. All over the world, people are becoming more and more aware of the necessity of returning to nature, especially if we take into account the situation caused by the corona virus pandemic.

Keywords: Science and Social Studies lessons, out of the classroom lessons, ambient lessons, school in nature

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