THE IMPACT OF THE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM ON STUDENTS’ VIEWS AND ATTITUDES PERTAINING TO HUMAN RIGHTS

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ABSTRACT_ This paper is an attempt to address the gap between the initially stated objectives oriented towards promoting citizenship and Human Rights values, and learners implementing them within the community. To answer the problematic, the research methodology adopts a descriptive-analytical approach which is based on a field study, through such research tools as the questionnaire. The aim is to assess a group of students’ ability to assimilate and conceptualize some human rights values that are emphasized in the main guidelines pertaining to the Citizenship Education course. Besides, the survey involves identifying the target sample’s attitudes and opinions on the subject. Thus, the study sample consists of 41 randomly selected male and female pupils. Some of the important results of this study include asserting that there is a positive relationship between the Citizenship Education Course and students’ representations of human rights values, as well as the impact of the family’s cultural level on students. However, results of the study show a gap between the notions that students acquire as part of the Citizenship Education course and the implementation of these values within the educational institution and therefore within the community.

KEY WORDS: education, citizenship, citizenship education, human rights, human rights education.