

## **ABSTRACT**

This thesis focuses on analyzing the attitudes and knowledge of lower secondary school students concerning the issue of palm oil, which represents a significant global environmental and social challenge. The aim of the research is to assess students' awareness of the environmental, social, and economic impacts of palm oil production and evaluate how targeted education can influence their attitudes and behaviors. The thesis is divided into two parts – theoretical and practical.

The theoretical part describes the environmental issues related to palm oil production, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, greenhouse gas emissions, and negative impacts on local communities. It also examines the role of environmental education in school curricula, emphasizing active learning methods that promote critical thinking and active student engagement in the learning process.

The practical part presents research conducted on a sample of students using questionnaires, pre-tests, post-tests, and an educational program. The aim of the research was to determine students' knowledge and attitudes before and after participating in the educational program. The findings revealed that prior to the intervention, students had only basic awareness of palm oil issues. However, the educational program significantly improved their knowledge and attitudes, highlighting the program's effectiveness. The teaching activities enhanced students' understanding of environmental problems, increased their ability to critically evaluate consumer behavior, and motivated them to adopt more sustainable lifestyle habits.

In conclusion, the thesis underscores the importance of incorporating environmental topics, such as palm oil issues, into primary school education. The use of active learning methods enables the development of environmentally responsible attitudes and supports students in becoming informed and responsible citizens. The thesis also provides specific suggestions for integrating environmental topics into the educational process and highlights the need to combine theoretical knowledge with practical activities.

**KEYWORDS :** palm oil, environmental education, student attitudes, global environmental issues, active learning methods, sustainability, deforestation, biodiversity