

PAPER

# FUNDAMENTALS OF FORMATION OF ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN GENERAL EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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## Abstract

This article focuses on the need to improve the environmental culture of students, to develop responsibility and personal qualities such as self-control, the ability to anticipate the immediate and long-term consequences of their actions in the natural environment.

**Key words:** Ecology, meta-subject approach, natural resources, nature protection, ecological culture, ecological education, ecological consciousness.

## Introduction

Nowadays, the requirements of environmental education and culture are becoming integral qualities of a person's general culture. More and more attention is being paid to environmental education, the formation of environmental awareness, and environmental culture.

The interest in environmental issues is not accidental. It is caused by the alarming ecological crisis and its consequences, as well as the search for new ways out of it. However, technocratic thinking is so strong that the environmental crisis is presented as something external to a person, and not as something that is contained in himself. Therefore, the formation of ecological consciousness, ecological culture and the worldview of the individual as a whole should become the primary task of environmental education and upbringing.

The most serious environmental crisis that has hit our planet has made significant adjustments in relation to man and nature, forced us to rethink all the achievements of world civilization. Since about the sixties of the twentieth century, when humanity first faced the problem of the destruction of all life in connection with industrial activity, a new science began to take shape – ecology, and as a result of this emergence, an ecological culture appeared.

In connection with the global environmental crisis, it is necessary to find out which relations between man and nature can be considered harmonious, how human activity affects the environment and to note why ecological culture and environmental

education are so important especially now. It is important to note how the level of environmental education correlates with the state of affairs in the world, in what correlative relations it consists with the global environmental crisis. As a result, it should be shown that the level of ecological culture is directly proportional to the ecological situation in the world, and is directly dependent on environmental education.

The question of the survival of mankind depends on the level of ecological education and ecological culture, whether a person will be able to stay on our planet, or whether he will face extinction or degradation with subsequent mutation. It is such a discipline as "ecological culture" that today is entrusted with the mission of saving humanity, developing mechanisms to counteract extinction and death. Therefore, it is necessary to take a very careful approach to the problem of the environmental crisis and counteract it through education and by reviewing both the achievements of civilization and all legislation.

Environmental responsibility is directly related to environmental education and to such personality qualities as self-control, the ability to anticipate the immediate and long-term consequences of one's actions in the natural environment, and a critical attitude towards oneself and others. The observance of moral requirements related to the attitude to nature implies the development of conviction, rather than fear of possible punishment and condemnation from others.

The current system of school and extracurricular education and upbringing includes a large amount of environmental knowledge,

skills and abilities that meet the requirements for the growth and development of environmental culture. In the current environmental situation, the greening of the entire system of education and upbringing of the younger generation is important. One of the most important principles of environmental education is considered to be the principle of continuity, an interconnected process of learning, upbringing and development of a person throughout his life. Nowadays, life sets educators and teachers the task of developing the personality of a child, a student as a single, integral process, can be realized when the educator and teacher have a clear picture of the lines of development of ecological culture. Environmental education and upbringing is possible only if the content of educational subjects contributes to an ecologically holistic orientation.

Usually, "environmental education" is understood as fostering a love of nature. Indeed – this is an integral part of such education, but often the methods used to foster such love are very questionable. For example, wild animals are kept in captivity for this purpose, or without proper care – guinea pigs and hamsters that suffer in front of children. And children get used to not noticing their torments. Often, for educational purposes, during summer walks, children are offered to pick flowers or catch butterflies, dragonflies and other insects. Such activities become a constant summer fun for the kids. Having no substitutes, which should not be given to small children, the child has no choice but to tear off the wings, then the legs and finally the head of his victim or to impale her alive on a needle. Thus, such educational activities teach children not to love, but to destroy life, and quite cruelly. The child's environment, social and cultural environment, as well as his special view of everything from an early age play an important role in shaping a person's worldview.

## Conclusion

Nowadays, every person, regardless of their specialty, must be ecologically cultured. Only in this case will he be able to really assess the consequences of his practical activities in interacting with nature. If a lot has already been started in the field of environmental education and enlightenment, and most importantly, it is being done, then little has been done in relation to environmental culture. Perhaps this is also due to the difficulty of accurately defining what an "ecological culture" is. In its most general form, we can say that "ecological culture" is a system of knowledge, skills, values and a sense of responsibility for decisions made in relation to nature.

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