

## “The Importance Of Environmental Education And Upbringing In Sustainable Ecological Development”

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### ABSTRACT

Today, preventing ecological crises and ensuring environmental safety in society is considered one of the key factors in the environmental-legal education, upbringing, culture, and spirituality of the population, especially the younger generation. The article discusses the idea that environmental education is the primary and fundamental goal in forming environmental culture among school students. In the context of globalization, developing and shaping environmental culture gains urgent significance.

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Nature is a complex system, and human beings and society are its product. A person obtains air, water, food, minerals, and fuel resources from nature to meet their needs and, in turn, influences it. As a result, a new object that is foreign to nature emerges. Such anthropogenic landscapes, created through human intellect and labor, inevitably exert their impact on the environment. The rapid growth of the world's population, the swift development of science and technology, and the desire to exploit natural resources as much as possible to accelerate social progress all lead to this. Consequently, the natural laws governing the relationship between humans and nature are disrupted. Regarding this issue, our President Sh. M. Mirziyoyev stated: “The most important matter is that we must seriously think about raising the environmental culture of the population. Of course, such problems cannot be solved solely through administrative means; this can be achieved by instilling love and a sense of belonging to Mother Nature in the hearts of the younger generation.” [1,392].

In the context of globalization, ecology, environmental protection, the systematic and regulated use of natural resources, as well as the creation and implementation of new innovative projects, have become some of the most important and urgent issues of today. The ecological crises occurring in various regions of the world indicate the necessity of forming the right attitude toward nature and paying greater attention to it. All necessary conditions have been created in our country for the younger generation to grow up physically strong and healthy. However, forming a healthy lifestyle cannot be imagined without a stable ecological environment. The cleanliness of the environment is a key factor in ensuring that children grow up healthy and mature. Today's environmental problems, the state of the ecological environment, anemia among children, various infectious diseases, allergies, and congenital defects increase the need for environmental education from early childhood. Studying the literature on the impact of ecology, analyzing modern pedagogical research, and developing new methods based on them further strengthen the demand for environmental upbringing among children from a young age. In the system of preparing the younger generation to manage the environment

wisely and to relate responsibly to natural resources, schools play an important role. They can be considered the initial stage in enriching and familiarizing humans with knowledge about the natural and social environment. Schools help form a holistic view of the world, fostering a scientifically grounded, moral, and aesthetic attitude toward it. Environmental education is an integral part of moral education. Therefore, environmental education should be understood as the unity of ecological awareness and behavior in harmony with nature. In shaping ecological awareness and culture, it is appropriate not only to provide theoretical ecological knowledge but also to make extensive use of all effective forms and methods of cultural and educational activities, including mass media, oral, visual, and technical means. This is because environmental promotion should not only influence the consciousness of specific groups but should cover all layers of the population, from preschool children to adults, and be understandable, visual, and transparent for everyone. Providing information about nature, land, water, plants and animals, and natural resources helps cultivate love for nature in the minds of the younger generation and emphasizes the importance of environmental education and upbringing in teaching them to use natural resources wisely. “Environmental education is organically connected with other types of human education and plays an important role in shaping the worldview of the population, especially the youth.” [2, 7] Environmental problems affect development, safety, the quality of life, and the very survival of people, posing a particularly serious threat to children, who represent the youngest segment of the population. It is well known that a polluted and toxic environment primarily impacts young, developing organisms, influencing both their physiological and psychological growth. Over the last century, our republic’s ecological system has suffered significant negative impacts, and the traditional customs and moral norms of our ancestors regarding the use of nature have been lost. Our people possess a rich ecological culture. The wealth of national spiritual values and heritage developed over centuries shows that our forefathers had a special attitude toward the Motherland, valuing water, soil, and air. They maintained the environment, homes, neighborhoods, streets, cities, villages, markets, canals, and ponds clean and orderly. In other words, they strictly followed ecological ethics, rules, and standards. When a child was born into a family, a tree would be planted for them, and no harm was done to living creatures. It is known that the rapid development of modern science and technology negatively affects the natural environment, resulting in complex ecological problems. At present, forming a healthy lifestyle in the family based on ecological principles and requirements is especially important. In our view, the family serves as a small but vivid model for establishing and promoting a healthy lifestyle, preventing harmful habits, and preserving a clean and pure natural environment. The attitudes of family members, household management practices, rules, and daily habits define the family’s values. Millennia of our society’s history demonstrate that great attention has always been paid to moral and ecological values within the family. Children primarily grow and develop in the family, learning to control their emotions and behaviors. Parents should understand that a child’s mood, condition, and conduct depend on their living environment. At the same time, they must teach their children hygiene rules necessary for maintaining health. This contributes to the formation of a healthy lifestyle within the family. Parents play an invaluable role in nurturing a child’s interest in life and love from an early age. Since children spend much of their time at home, it is essential that parents educate them in freedom, orderliness, and understanding of right and wrong. They should guide children to sweep the yard, care for and nurture plants and animals, and cultivate a spirit of respect and responsibility. Ecological culture manifests itself in moral duty and law-abiding behavior, preparing individuals for responsible actions and activities. The formation of ecological awareness is influenced by ecological knowledge and beliefs. Ecological ideas are shaped in lessons on natural history. In our republic, it is of paramount importance to determine the priority directions of state policy in the field of environmental protection and to develop universal models for improving the pedagogical system of environmental education and upbringing in educational institutions. On May 27, 2019, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan approved Resolution No. 434, “On Approving the Concept for the Development of Environmental Education in the Republic of Uzbekistan.” Chapter 3 of this resolution emphasizes the need to improve environmental education within the education system. [3, 17].

There are many perspectives on the concepts of environmental upbringing, environmental education, and ecological culture. According to scholar F. R. Qodirova, environmental education and upbringing is defined as follows: “Environmental education and upbringing is the process through which a person, from the

moment they step into nature and throughout their life, learns to use nature consciously, cultivates in themselves the customs and traditions of our people that respect and care for nature, is encouraged to increase natural resources, establish gardens and flower beds, and develops good qualities in their heart.” [4, 59]

Various aspects of the topic, including the global nature of ecological problems, have been studied by B. Omonov, G. Ochilova, A. Qo‘ldoshev, Z. Akromov, Z. Kenjayev, A. Berdimuratova, while the impact of globalization processes on the ecological sphere has been examined by F. Qilichev and A. Aymatov. Scientific and philosophical issues related to the ecological field have been researched by U. Abilov, H. Ahmedov, M. Baxodirov, A. Zikirayev, M. Mamanazarov, O. Mannopova, S. Mamashokirov, A. Nig‘matov, S. Sanginov, E. Usmonov, U. Xo‘janazarov, J. T. Xolmo‘minov, O. Qosimov, O. Tilavov, M. Bahodirov, S. Davletov, S. Kamalov, R. I. Mamatqulov, E. S. Hoshimova, and others. Environmental education and upbringing is a new form and integral component of general education, intended to be implemented across all subjects in schools. The main purpose of environmental education and upbringing is to instill in the younger generation a conscious attitude toward the environment and its problems. During the process of ecological upbringing, young people are taught to conserve and protect the natural resources around them. The main tasks and objectives of environmental education and upbringing are to engage individuals with nature and its processes, identify the causes of problems between humans and the environment, find solutions and measures, and ensure environmental protection based on sufficient ecological knowledge. According to Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Environmental Protection,” “...ecology education is mandatory in all types of educational institutions.” [6, 5] One of the primary tasks of environmental education is to explain knowledge in the field of ecology to young people and to promote educational and awareness activities. This requires understanding the preservation of the environment, the interaction between society and nature, and the unity of the living and non-living natural environment. Humans live within nature and benefit from its selfless generosity, gifts, and mercy. Therefore, every person has a sacred and honorable duty to respect and cherish nature. Caring for nature and cultivating love for it begins in childhood and develops over time.

The primary goal of environmental education is to foster a conscious attitude toward environmental protection among all layers of society, including preschool and school education, as well as in colleges, technical schools, lyceums, universities, and postgraduate education. As ecological relationships have become globalized, environmental protection has turned into a worldwide issue. For example, this was especially evident at the online summit held on April 22–23, 2021, initiated by the United States, aimed at uniting the efforts of world countries to combat climate change. Leaders from more than 40 countries participated in the event. The leading nations, accounting for nearly half of the world economy, agreed to cooperate in combating climate change. Additionally, the United States announced that, to prevent negative changes in the climate, it would halve harmful emissions by 2030 and completely eliminate them by 2050. China stated that it would begin reducing coal consumption starting in 2026. [7, 2].

In summary, the formation of ecological culture involves the development of ecological awareness and understanding, and it is closely connected with the environment. The central idea of ecological culture is that the relationship between humans and nature should not be based on material considerations, but rather on moral and spiritual values. The history of ecological culture serves as an important tool and method for educating young people in love for their homeland and respect for the heritage of their ancestors. Indeed, as the German scholar V. Derngols emphasized: “Cultivating ecological culture is a condition for human existence.” [10, 213]

It is every person’s duty to avoid harming nature and to think globally. For life on Earth to be sustained, humanity must continually preserve, restore, and develop ecological culture in the environment in which it lives. Providing proper ecological education to children from an early age is becoming one of the primary tasks today. Alongside general education and upbringing in educational institutions, fostering ecological awareness is an effective and urgent solution to contemporary environmental challenges. The main goal of environmental education is to form the “ecological personality.” Only an “ecological personality” can ensure that nature is preserved and passed on intact to future generations. A failure to develop such ecological individuals results in the continued practical harm to nature. In their thinking, non-ecological individuals prioritize the notion that all resources exist solely for human use. An “ecological personality,” however, understands that in exchange for protecting nature, it provides its gifts and benefits to humans. In shaping

ecological culture, the function of education and upbringing must clearly reflect its purpose and goals. By its nature, this function is complex, encompassing both the preservation of nature and the rational use of natural resources in a coordinated manner.

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