



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION — AN INTEGRAL PART OF SPIRITUALITY

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Abstract: This article analyzes the moral and legal foundations of environmental education. It examines the content of environmental education, its connection with spirituality, state legal documents, and practical measures for fostering ecological culture among children and youth.

Keywords: environmental education, ecological culture, spirituality, legal documents, environment, environmental problems, sense of responsibility, rational use of resources, formation of moral values.

Today, due to the rapid changes in human lifestyle, industrial development, and urbanization, the damage to the environment is increasing. Therefore, the issue of environmental education is becoming relevant not only as a scientific or technological problem but also as a moral issue. Environmental education is the process of forming a harmonious and responsible relationship between humans and nature, teaching them to protect it.

Environmental protection today is not only a matter of international ecological policy but also one of the priority directions of each country's domestic policy. Environmental education is the process of forming a moral and responsible attitude of a person toward nature and is an important component of spirituality. It integrates a person's inner world, values, and legal awareness. Environmental education



develops a sense of responsibility toward the environment and the culture of rational use of natural resources. This process is not limited to providing scientific knowledge but also forms moral values such as respect for nature and responsibility for its protection. Scientific research shows that if ecological awareness is formed from an early age, it leads to environmentally responsible behavior in the future.

In our country, environmental problems are globally relevant and are connected not only with nature protection but also with human spiritual development. Environmental education helps form responsibility, respect for nature, and a sustainable lifestyle among children. Therefore, strengthening environmental education through legal frameworks and mechanisms is essential. Environmental education is closely linked with a person's moral values. Protecting nature reflects a person's inner spiritual world:

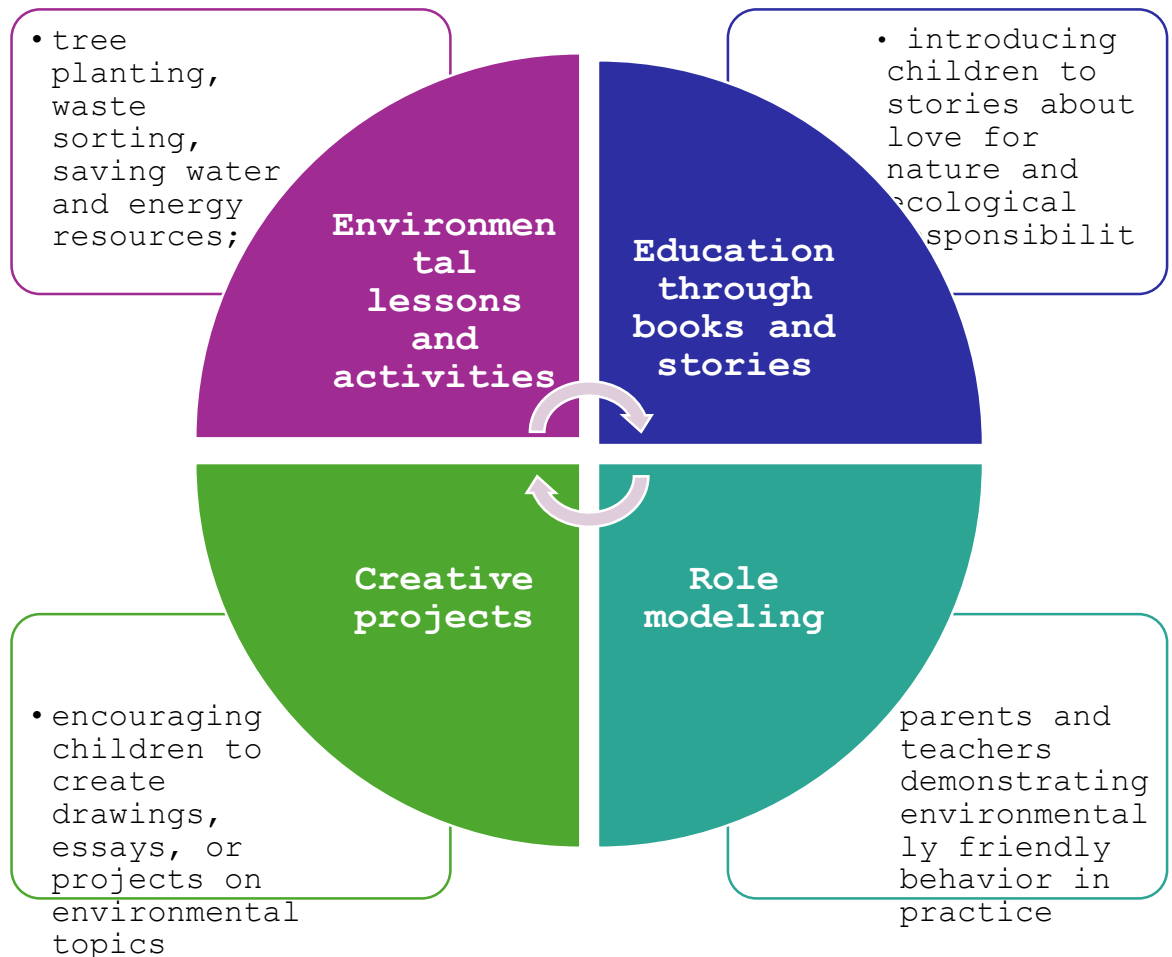


These values ensure a balanced relationship with the environment.



Spirituality expresses a person's moral and ethical values and responsibility toward society and nature. From this perspective, environmental education is an inseparable part of spirituality. Respecting nature, saving resources, and protecting living organisms demonstrate a person's moral maturity. A spiritually developed individual values the environment not merely as a resource but as a vital space and a priceless heritage for future generations. Environmental education should begin in early childhood. Children need to learn to love nature, protect it, and understand environmental issues from a young age. It also develops a sense of responsibility, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, and helps spread environmentally friendly habits in society.

To develop environmental education at school and in the family, the following practical measures can be applied:



Environmental education is not only about protecting the environment but also about forming moral values. Through strengthening the legal basis of education, it is possible to develop ecological awareness and raise responsible citizens. Three key components play an important role in forming ecological culture:



1. **Family:** If a child grows up seeing parents planting trees and saving water, respect for nature develops naturally.
2. **Educational institutions:** Schools should teach ecology not only theoretically but also through practical activities such as community work and planting trees.
3. **Society:** Public control and environmental awareness campaigns encourage responsibility.

The nationwide project “**Yashil Makon**” (**Green Space**) implemented in Uzbekistan is also a manifestation of spiritual renewal. Planting a tree means sowing seeds of goodness for the future. A spiritually developed person does not pollute the Earth but strives to improve and beautify it.

In conclusion, environmental education is not limited to environmental protection but also contributes to a person’s moral development, ethical values, and social responsibility. Therefore, environmental education is an inseparable part of spirituality and should be formed from early childhood. Respect and responsibility toward the environment help raise conscious, ethical, and socially responsible individuals for a sustainable future.



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