



FORMATION OF ECOLOGICAL THINKING AND ECOLOGICAL VALUES IN STUDENTS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE IN SOCIETY

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Annotation. This article discusses the formation of ecological thinking and ecological values in students and their significance in society, focusing on the development of relations between man and nature, global environmental problems, ways to solve them, factors of formation of ecological thinking and values, ensuring the widespread formation of ecological consciousness and ecological values among citizens.

Keywords: Man and nature, ecological balance, environmental degradation, human thinking, global ecological problems, ecological thinking, harmonious and conscious attitude, unity of society and nature, pure thinking.

The relationship between man and nature has taken on different forms at different stages of development. Previously, man lived as a part of nature, but in the post-industrial revolution period, he considered himself superior to nature and began to exploit it. This approach led to a disruption of the ecological balance and gave rise to such consequences as modern environmental problems as global warming, biocultural loss, climate change, and environmental degradation. In such conditions, a change in human thinking became necessary to combat the root of environmental problems. This led to the formation of ecological thinking.

Ecological thinking is a form of thinking that expresses a conscious, responsible, and systematic approach of man to nature. This form of thinking is formed not only based on scientific knowledge, but also in harmony with moral, aesthetic, and social values.

According to this approach, man perceives nature not just as a resource, but as an internal need and value necessary for his life and well-being. Respect and care for nature is a moral position. Every element of nature: a tree, a bird, a river is valued as an integral part of human life. For example: By teaching a child to care for plants from a young age, the value of "love for nature" is formed in him.



While the traditional economic approach is based on maximizing the use of resources, the sustainable and careful use of resources is a priority in ecological thinking. Biodiversity is also recognized as a key factor in ensuring the healthy functioning of ecosystems.

An ecological thinker adheres to the principle of prior assessment of the impact on the environment of any activity or decision - business, political, domestic - this approach allows you to reduce environmental risks, prevent damage and ensure environmental sustainability. For example: Conducting an "Ecological Expertise" before the start of construction work is a decision based on ecological thinking.

Ecological thinking requires a collective approach. Decisions that are beneficial not "for me", but for the unity of society and nature serve as the main approach. This approach is based on the philosophical view that "everything is interconnected". For example: Using water sparingly is not only for our own benefit, but also for society and future generations.

Although global environmental problems - global warming, climate change, plastic pollution - are global issues, local activities play an important role in solving them. Feeling ecological responsibility and showing social initiative at the level of each citizen or neighborhood is a sign of ecological thinking. For example: Initiatives of neighborhood youth such as waste separation, tree planting, and bicycle promotion are local actions aimed at solving a global problem. Ecological thinking is not only a set of knowledge, but also a set of values, moral positions and practical actions. It forms a responsible, harmonious and conscious attitude of a person towards nature and serves as the basis for sustainable development.

Factors in the formation of ecological thinking and values

Shaping factor	Sphere of influence
Family and social environment	Love for nature and habits of avoiding wastefulness, instilled in us from childhood
Education system	Environmental knowledge taught in schools and higher education
Religious and spiritual ideas	Ideas of compassion, love, and protection for nature (also found in Islam, for example)
Mass media and art	Eco-activities promotion, documentaries, eco-literature
Practical experience	Daily activities such as waste sorting, tree planting, and water conservation

Ecological values are a set of internal norms that regulate the moral and substantive relations of people with nature, the animal and plant world, water, air and land resources. These values determine the ecological thinking of a person, give direction to his relationship with the natural environment and are expressed in ecological behavior.

Scientific basis: According to UNESCO (2022), ecological values are formed in a person from a young age through education. These values play a decisive role in achieving sustainable development.

The main types of ecological values and their explanation include the following.

1. Biocentric value

This type of value recognizes the right to life of every living being. Man sees himself not as superior to nature, but as a part of it. In biocentrism, human interests are not prioritized over the interests of other biological beings. A person with this value opposes violence against animals, killing or destroying wildlife. Deforestation, hunting animals, and damage to biodiversity are contrary to this value.

2. The value of environmental protection

According to this value, a person recognizes the need to avoid polluting the environment, to carefully preserve and protect it. Natural resources (water, air, land, energy) are not considered a means to be used carelessly, but rather a sacred trust that must be passed on to future generations. The owner of this value strives to reduce waste, recycle, and choose harmless products. Lives on the principle of “Clean environment — clean thinking.”

3. The value of ecological justice

This value connects the concepts of social equality and justice with environmental problems. People and societies should have the right to fair use of natural resources. No generation or social group should be exposed to environmental risks at the expense of others. For example, if large industrial enterprises pollute the air in populated areas solely for economic gain, this contradicts the principle of environmental justice. Also, actions that do not take into account the interests of future generations are ecological injustice.

4. Social ecological value

This value includes human health, environmental safety and civic responsibility. Human health is directly related to clean air, clean water, and



unpolluted food. Therefore, improving the ecological environment is a common task of society. A person or group living on the basis of this value is not indifferent to environmental issues in society, but an active participant - plants trees, separates waste, and calls others to environmental awareness.

How are ecological values formed?

1. Formation in the family and early social environment

The first source of ecological values is the family and the immediate social environment. From an early age, a child gets acquainted with nature, communicates with surrounding animals, trees, and water. If parents and the older generation:

- encourage to take care of nature,
- teach not to harm trees,
- show not to throw garbage on the ground,

These circumstances form the child's initial ecological sensitivity and moral approach.

Scientific basis: According to Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory, the closest and strongest sphere of influence on a child's development is the microsystem (family, kindergarten).

2. Formation through the education system

Environmental values are systematically formed through preschool education, general secondary education and higher education. Special environmental subjects, the presence of environmental components in the curriculum, extracurricular environmental activities (excursions, clean-up campaigns, tree planting) reinforce these values at a conscious level.

The main means of influence in the educational process:

- Environmental lessons and topics;
- Environmental projects, competitions;
- Environmental corners and campaigns at school;
- Discussions, debates on environmental protection.

Scientific basis: According to UNESCO (2022), education is the main tool for instilling environmental values. Early eco-education guarantees positive environmental behavior throughout life.

3. Formation in the community and society environment

Ecological values are also developed through social activities at the community, district and city levels. Environmental campaigns in society, propaganda tools, nature-related materials provided in the media, ecological actions,



mass tree planting events - ensure the broad mass formation of environmental awareness and values among citizens. For example: the active participation of the population in planting trees within the framework of the “Green Space” initiative serves to form environmental responsibility on a broad social basis.

4. Formation through cultural and religious influence

Love for nature, respect for land and water, and compassion for animals have long existed in the ancient culture of the Uzbek people. Islam also commands not to pollute, not to waste, and to value land and water. Therefore, cultural and religious values are an integral part of ecological ethics.

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