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# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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Abstract. Environmental education and environmental awareness of young people is one of the important socio-cultural processes that serves the sustainable development of society. This process is aimed at forming harmonious relationships between man and nature, developing skills in understanding environmental problems and finding solutions to them. This study discusses the methods, principles of environmental education and its role in improving the environmental culture of the younger generation. Environmental education is a continuous process from preschool institutions to the higher education system, which includes not only providing theoretical knowledge, but also the formation of practical skills. The role of family education, the media and various non-governmental organizations in the formation of environmental awareness is also emphasized. The study also covers modern environmental problems, climate change, environmental pollution and their impact on human life. At the same time, the effectiveness of interactive educational methods, ecological events and projects, and ecological propaganda on social networks to increase the ecological responsibility of young people was studied. This work highlights the importance of ecological education on a scientific basis and draws attention to the urgent issues of educating young people to be environmentally conscious.

**Keywords:** Physiological, interactive, air pollution, soil degradation, "Green space", integration, natural disasters, educational integration, eco-business.

**Introduction:** First of all, in the formation of ecological culture lessons for the future generation and instilling in their minds the attitude of adults to nature and the environment plays a big role. Children, seeing and feeling the constant attention and efforts of their parents to maintain environmental cleanliness, try to follow them, take an example and role model from them. Planting trees in the yard and street together in

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the early spring, caring for them, carrying out landscaping and landscaping work, beautifying the yard serves as a good model school for each child and creates a foundation for determining a good attitude towards the environment. Today, environmental problems have become a global issue facing not only a specific region or state, but also all of humanity. Environmental problems such as climate change, atmospheric pollution, water and soil degradation, waste recycling problems, and biodiversity loss pose a serious threat to the environment. Environmental education is an important factor in solving these problems and leaving a clean, sustainable environment for future generations. Environmental education is a systematic process aimed at shaping people's relationship with nature, guiding them to understand environmental problems and learn ways to eliminate them. In particular, the development of the ecological consciousness of the younger generation is one of the main factors in educating them as environmentally responsible individuals in the future. After all, the formation of ecological culture is directly dependent on the educational process, and a person's attitude to the environment should be developed from a young age. In world experience, various forms of environmental education have been introduced, through which environmental knowledge and skills are instilled from preschool age. In particular, in countries such as the Scandinavian countries, Japan, Germany and the USA, environmental education programs have been developed at the level of state policy. This helps to form an environmentally responsible and conscious attitude in each member of society. The system of environmental education and upbringing in Uzbekistan is also gradually developing. The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan has adopted a number of resolutions and programs to improve the ecological environment and ensure environmental protection. In particular, the "Green Space" project, the integration of environmental sciences into the education system, environmental campaigns and various projects on nature protection for young people are being implemented. This study is dedicated to analyzing the importance of environmental education, its impact on human life and the environment, as well as effective approaches to developing environmental awareness among young people.

Relevance of the topic: A number of resolutions issued by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan provide for the improvement of work on nature protection and the training of specialists in this field. In order to solve such a complex issue, environmental education and upbringing on environmental protection should be carried out continuously in the family, kindergarten, school, college, lyceum, universities, various enterprises and organizations. The issue of preserving our mother nature, preserving clean air, water and soil for living creatures, including humanity, and the habitat of plants and animals, determines the relevance of the topic. In order to implement regulatory documents on environmental education and upbringing, in particular, the formation of ecological knowledge and culture, it is necessary to deeply

study its scientific foundations, conduct pilot work on the basis of newly developed State Educational Standards and curricula in traditional and non-traditional areas of education, widely discuss the results obtained, and create a new generation of educational literature based on improved educational documents. In this regard, the formation of ecological knowledge and culture of young people occupies a special place, since they make up almost 60 percent of the population in Uzbekistan and are therefore an integral part of ensuring national security. Ecological problems affect the development, safety, and directly affect the life of people, especially the lives of children, the youngest part of the population. After all, a polluted, poisoned environment primarily affects a young, developing organism, its physiological and psychological development. Today, environmental problems have become one of the urgent problems not only of individual countries, but also of all mankind. Problems such as climate change, atmospheric pollution, waste problems, depletion of water and land resources, and loss of biodiversity pose a serious threat to human life. The role of environmental education in solving these problems, rational use of natural resources, and ensuring environmental safety is invaluable. The relevance of environmental education is explained by the following main aspects:

1. Intensification of global environmental problems - In recent years, climate change has been accelerating as a result of the increase in the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere. This is leading to the melting of glaciers, rising sea levels, droughts and an increase in natural disasters. Environmental education allows the younger generation to understand the causes and consequences of these problems and to teach them measures to reduce them. 2. Limited natural resources - There is a decrease in land, water and energy resources around the world. Water scarcity and land degradation have a serious impact on agriculture, industry and human health. Through environmental education, people gain knowledge and skills on issues such as the efficient use, recycling and conservation of resources. 3. Lack of ecological culture -In many countries, including Uzbekistan, the level of ecological culture of the population is insufficient. This leads to problems such as improper waste management, damage to nature, and non-compliance with environmental laws. Through environmental education, it is possible to increase the environmental responsibility of the population and contribute to the creation of a clean and green environment. 4. The need to achieve sustainable development goals - One of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations is aimed at protecting the environment, and environmental education is a decisive factor in achieving this goal. By educating young people to be environmentally conscious, the future generation can be guided to the rational use of natural resources and adherence to the principles of a green economy. 5. Integration of digital technologies and environmental education - Modern technologies are making it possible to make environmental education more effective. Virtual laboratories,

environmental simulations, artificial intelligence and digital media play a major role in developing environmental awareness. Since today's youth are close to technology, innovative approaches to teaching environmental issues are gaining importance. 6. Increased attention to environmental education in Uzbekistan - The government of Uzbekistan is implementing a number of state programs to improve the ecological environment and protect the environment. In particular, the national project "Green Space", improving the environmental education system, and developing environmental science in schools and universities are important steps in this direction. Also, involving young people in environmental projects, including the development of environmental entrepreneurship, is one of the urgent tasks. The relevance of the topic of environmental education and environmental awareness of young people. Ecological problems remain one of the most important problems of the world community. This situation further increases the relevance of environmental education, since one of the most effective ways to protect the environment is to educate an environmentally conscious generation. The relevance of this topic is due to several important factors: 1. Disturbance of the balance between man and nature - The damage caused to nature as a result of human activity is increasing. Factors such as deforestation, extinction of animal species, water and air pollution, uncontrolled discharge of industrial waste disrupt the ecological balance. Through environmental education, it is possible to restore harmony between man and nature and raise awareness of the ecological consequences of human activity. 2. Environmental education is the key to sustainable development - Today, special attention is paid to the concept of sustainable development. In this case, economic development should be combined with environmental safety and social well-being. Environmental education is an important factor in achieving sustainable development goals by educating young people in the principles of rational use of nature. 3. Social and economic factors - Environmental problems have a negative impact not only on nature, but also on society and the economy. For example, an ecological crisis can damage agriculture and lead to food shortages. In addition, air pollution causes an increase in diseases and places an additional burden on the health care system. Therefore, through environmental education, young people should be taught to contribute to economic and social stability. 4. Attracting young people to ecological entrepreneurship - Currently, ecological entrepreneurship (eco-business) is becoming increasingly popular. Areas such as renewable energy sources, production of ecological products, waste recycling are creating new opportunities. Ecological education directs young people to such areas, and among them, it gives impetus to the development of ecological innovations. 5. Development of ecological awareness and technologies - In today's age of information technologies, ecological education can be more interactive and effective. Ecological mobile applications, virtual laboratories, online courses and ecological games are being

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developed for young people. These tools allow you to convey ecological education in an interesting and understandable way. 6. Development of environmental policy in Uzbekistan - In recent years, Uzbekistan has implemented a number of important environmental protection measures. In particular, new national programs, laws on environmental education, and the "Green Space" project are aimed at improving the ecological environment. This increases the need to strengthen environmental education and actively involve young people in this process.

Conclusion. Ecological education and the formation of ecological consciousness of young people are an important task not only for today, but also for the future. This process is of great importance in increasing people's ecological responsibility, achieving sustainable development and preventing ecological crises. Therefore, the development of ecological education is one of the most urgent issues of our time. Like other types of education, ecological culture is considered the highest criterion of quality indicators in a person. Regardless of the type of education, a person can achieve a level of civilization only if he can embody a number of positive features in himself. Such a process is carried out taking into account age, individual, pedagogical, psychological characteristics in the formation of a person. The formation of ecological consciousness and culture of young people is a gradual process. Only continuous and consistent improvement of this process can give high results in practice. The levels of determining the ecological consciousness and culture of young people are also continuous and interconnected. This requires special training and retraining by dividing teachers into different categories. The role of the national education system in the upbringing of a person with high ecological spirituality is great, and to ensure it, it is necessary to rationally use all means and means of social life. In environmental education and upbringing, the positive work of our state in the development of the nation and society, its achievements or policies in various fields, in a timely manner, directly or indirectly, increases the social prestige of ecology. All subjects, including environmental education, are the main means of forming ecological knowledge of young people.

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