



ECOLOGICAL EDUCATION AS A BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE

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ABSTRACT

In this article, the concept of ecological education is considered as a basis for the development of ecological culture, it shows the importance of ecological education in modern society, the role of schools and educational institutions in its promotion, various educational programs and the role of learns teaching methods. In addition, it discusses the importance of experiential learning and hands-on activities, the importance of community participation and cooperation, and the evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of environmental education.

Ecological education plays a crucial role in shaping individuals' understanding of the environment and their role in preserving it. As the world grapples with pressing environmental challenges, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, fostering ecological culture through education has become more important than ever. By examining these aspects, we can gain a comprehensive understanding of how ecological education can contribute to a sustainable and environmentally conscious future.

Ecological education is more than just learning about the environment; it is a multidisciplinary approach that aims to foster a deep understanding of the interconnections between humans and the natural world. It encompasses knowledge, attitudes, values, and skills necessary for individuals to make informed decisions and take responsible actions towards creating a more sustainable planet. Ecological education has its roots in indigenous cultures that have long recognized the importance of living in harmony with nature. In modern times, environmental movements and growing concerns about ecological crises have propelled the development of formal ecological education. From early nature study programs to the emergence of environmental education in the 1960s, the field has evolved to encompass broader ecological principles and practices.

In today's world, where the realities of climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion are becoming increasingly evident, ecological education is more crucial than ever. It equips individuals with the knowledge and skills to address pressing environmental



challenges and encourages sustainable behaviors. Furthermore, ecological education helps shape a society that values and respects the natural world, paving the way for the development of ecological culture.

Ecological culture can be seen as a way of life that embodies principles of sustainability, conservation, and respect for nature. It involves adopting behaviors and practices that promote ecological balance and protect the environment for future generations. Ecological education plays a pivotal role in cultivating this culture by fostering a deep connection with nature and instilling a sense of responsibility towards the Earth. Ecological education serves as the foundation for the development of ecological culture. Through education, individuals gain awareness of the ecological challenges we face and the potential solutions. By promoting critical thinking, fostering empathy for the natural world, and encouraging active participation in environmental initiatives, ecological education cultivates a mindset that aligns with ecological culture. The development of ecological culture through education brings numerous benefits. It empowers individuals to make sustainable choices, promotes environmental stewardship, and nurtures a sense of environmental citizenship. Moreover, ecological culture promotes resilience in the face of ecological crises and leads to the implementation of effective practices for mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity.[1]

Schools and educational institutions hold a crucial responsibility in shaping ecological education. By integrating environmental themes across disciplines, incorporating hands-on experiences, and designing relevant projects, schools can ensure that ecological education becomes an integral part of the curriculum. This integration not only enhances students' understanding of ecological principles but also encourages them to apply this knowledge in their daily lives. To promote ecological education, teachers need appropriate training and ongoing professional development opportunities. By equipping educators with the knowledge and pedagogical skills necessary for ecological education, schools can enhance the quality of instruction in this field. This, in turn, ensures that ecological education is delivered in an engaging and impactful manner. Schools can also lead by example and create eco-friendly environments that reflect the principles of ecological education. By implementing sustainable practices within their infrastructure, such as energy-efficient technologies, waste reduction, and green spaces, educational institutions become living laboratories for ecological learning. These practices not only demonstrate sustainability in action but also inspire students to adopt similar practices in their own lives.

An effective ecological education curriculum encompasses a wide range of subjects, from natural sciences to social sciences, humanities, and arts. By incorporating diverse perspectives and addressing local, national, and global environmental issues, the curriculum provides students with a holistic understanding of ecological systems and their interdependencies. Inquiry-based learning is a powerful approach in ecological education that encourages students to explore ecological concepts through hands-on experiences and critical thinking. By engaging in field studies, experiments, and problem-solving activities, students develop a deeper understanding of ecological principles and their practical applications. This approach fosters curiosity and promotes a lifelong love for learning about the natural world. Incorporating technology and multimedia tools in ecological education can enhance the



learning experience and engage students in creative ways. Interactive simulations, virtual field trips, and multimedia presentations allow students to explore ecological concepts that may not be readily accessible in their immediate environment. These digital resources can also facilitate collaborative learning and provide opportunities for real-time data analysis, enabling students to make informed decisions based on scientific evidence.[2]

When it comes to learning about the environment and cultivating an ecological conscience, there's no better way than getting our hands dirty and immersing ourselves in nature. Experiential learning and practical activities play a vital role in ecological education, allowing students to engage with the environment firsthand and learn through direct experience. Field trips are a breath of fresh air (literally) in the realm of education. Taking students outside the classroom and into the natural world allows them to witness the wonders of nature up close. Whether it's a visit to a local reserve, a hike through the woods, or a trip to a botanical garden, these excursions open up a world of learning possibilities and help foster a deep connection with the environment. Growing our own food is not only a rewarding experience but also an educational one. Gardening projects teach students about the importance of sustainable agriculture, the significance of healthy soil, and the impact of our food choices on the environment.

Plus, there's nothing quite like the taste of a freshly harvested tomato straight from the vine! Putting knowledge into action is at the core of ecological education. Engaging students in hands-on conservation projects and campaigns empowers them to make a difference in their communities. Whether it's organizing a beach cleanup or advocating for the preservation of a local ecosystem, these initiatives instill a sense of responsibility and drive for protecting our planet. To ensure the effectiveness of ecological education, it is essential to measure its impact. Evaluation methods should go beyond traditional exams and textbooks, focusing on knowledge, attitude, and behavioral changes. Assessing knowledge retention and attitude change is vital to understanding the effectiveness of ecological education. Surveys, quizzes, and open-ended discussions can help uncover students' level of awareness, depth of understanding, and willingness to adopt sustainable practices. True ecological education goes beyond theoretical knowledge; it aims to inspire concrete actions. By measuring behavioral changes, such as reduced energy consumption or increased recycling rates, we can gauge the practical impact of ecological education and identify areas for improvement. [3]

Continued research and case studies are instrumental in improving ecological education methodologies. By documenting successful practices and analyzing their effects, we can refine our approaches and share best practices with educators worldwide. After all, knowledge should be shared like a good compost pile—spread around for everyone to benefit from.

In conclusion, ecological education serves as a powerful tool for cultivating ecological culture and inspiring individuals to become proactive stewards of the environment. By integrating ecological education into school curricula, promoting hands-on learning experiences, and fostering community partnerships, we can create a generation of environmentally responsible citizens. As we assess the impact and effectiveness of ecological education, it becomes evident that investing in this form of education is crucial for a sustainable future. By instilling ecological values and knowledge in learners, we can foster a deep appreciation for the natural world and empower individuals to take action towards



preserving it. Through collective efforts and a commitment to ecological education, we can pave the way for a harmonious coexistence between humans and the environment. Ecological education serves as the foundation for the development of ecological culture. By integrating ecological principles into curricula, fostering teacher training, and creating sustainable school environments, educational institutions can play a pivotal role in promoting ecological education. Through an ecologically-focused curriculum and teaching approaches such as inquiry-based learning and technology integration, students can cultivate a deep understanding of ecological systems and develop the skills needed to create a sustainable future.

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