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METHODOLOGY FOR DEVELOPING ECOLOGICAL COMPETENCE IN STUDENTS BASED ON NATIONAL-SPIRITUAL VALUES

Turakulova Visola

Jizzakh State Pedagogical University, teacher

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Abstract: This study addresses the methodology of developing ecological competence in general secondary school students by integrating Uzbekistan's rich national-spiritual values and heritage of Eastern thinkers into modern pedagogy. Analyzing current systemic gaps in ecological education, the paper proposes a structured framework based on integrated learning, eco-clubs, and interactive methods. The findings conclude that harmonizing traditional environmental ethics with modern educational practices effectively enhances students' personal responsibility and supports global ecological sustainability.

Keyword: Secological competence, national values, environmental education, pedagogical methodology, sustainability, ecological culture.

In the era of modern globalization and ecological crises, fostering a responsible attitude toward nature among the younger generation has become one of the most paramount priorities of pedagogical science. Within the process of developing the continuous education system in the Republic of Uzbekistan, students are required to acquire not only theoretical knowledge but also the ability to solve ecological problems in daily life—namely, ecological competence.

The core objective of this study is to develop and practically substantiate a methodical system for shaping the ecological competence of general secondary school students based on national-spiritual values.In resolving this problem, our people's centuries-old national-spiritual values, customs, Islamic sources, and the heritage of Eastern thinkers (such as Abu Rayhan Beruni, Abu Ali ibn Sina, Alisher Navoi, and others) regarding the harmony between nature and humanity possess an incomparable educational power. However, modern school education does not fully, systematically, and methodically utilize the potential of this spiritual heritage. Consequently, developing a methodology to shape students' ecological competence within the matrix of national values stands as a highly relevant scientific-pedagogical issue. Considering that environmental issues are assuming an increasingly global significance, particular attention has been dedicated in recent years to environmental protection, ecological culture, ecological education, and ecological enlightenment, alongside other critical priorities.

The urgency of ecological education is dictated by the necessity to protect our country's nature, ecosystems, and environment from instability and degradation, to elevate the ecological culture of the population, and to ensure that all segments of society—particularly the youth—contribute to these profoundly vital and existential matters.

However, a systematic analysis of the ecological education implementation process reveals that serious problems and shortcomings persist, hindering the full realization of reforms in this sector. Specifically: Inadequate Compliance: Requirements regarding the mandatory nature of ecological education, as stipulated in Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Nature Protection," are not sufficiently fulfilled across all types of educational institutions.

Curriculum Deficiencies: Current state educational standards and curricula are not adequately enriched with the necessary ecological knowledge, skills, qualifications, and competences.

Lack of Parameters: Clear parameters for developing an ecological culture among learners based on advanced national and foreign experiences have not been established. Ecological competence (a capacity encompassing ecological knowledge, skills, values, and behavior) occupies a vital place in the modern education system. Fostering ecological competence based on national-spiritual values is essential not only for developing collective approaches to environmental issues but also for ensuring ecological sustainability at both national and global levels.

Ecological Competence: Concept and Importance Ecological competence represents a student's capacity to understand the environment, evaluate its condition, and solve environmental problems. This competence encompasses an individual's ecological knowledge, attitude toward the environment, and practical skills. The formation of ecological competence serves as a foundational factor for sustainable development in students.

National-spiritual values are inextricably linked with ecological competence. By incorporating historical, cultural, and spiritual perspectives regarding natural resources, national values play a critical role in shaping approaches to environmental protection. Therefore, national-spiritual values must be systematically taken into account when developing ecological competence.

National-Spiritual Values and the Formation of Ecological Competence National values instill a sense of respect and care toward nature in students. For instance, Uzbekistan's ancient traditions, national holidays, and customs foster a deeply respectful approach to ecological issues.

To cultivate an ecological culture in students, the following national values must be integrated into the educational process: Religious and Philosophical Foundations of Nature Protection: Understanding traditional and spiritual tenets that mandate environmental stewardship. Living in Harmony with Nature: Aligning human lifestyles with natural cycles and ecological boundaries.

Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development: Fostering long-term preservation and responsible resource management.

Methodology for Shaping Ecological Competence To improve the methodology for developing ecological competence based on national-spiritual values, the following pedagogical approaches can be implemented: Integrated Education: Embedding ecological concepts across various disciplines (such as biology, geography, and science).

Practical Activities and Field Trips: Engaging students in hands-on environmental projects, nature excursions, and direct observations. Establishing Eco-Clubs in Schools: Creating student-led ecological clubs to foster teamwork, leadership, and voluntary environmental initiatives. Interactive Methods: Utilizing modern pedagogical tools such as case studies, role-playing, and problem-based learning to enhance engagement.

Conclusion Enhancing the methodology for shaping ecological competence based on national-spiritual values is vital for developing ecological awareness in students and teaching them to preserve nature. This process helps establish not only ecological knowledge but also personal ecological responsibility. Therefore, it is essential to harmonize the development of

ecological competence with national values within the education system, while utilizing modern pedagogical methods.

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