

PEDAGOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES IN ENSURING CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION AND UPBRINGING.

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Annotation: The integration of environmental values into the education system plays a crucial role in ensuring the continuity of education and upbringing. In the context of global environmental challenges, education is no longer limited to knowledge transfer but also serves as a key mechanism for shaping values, attitudes, and responsible behavior toward nature and society. This article examines the pedagogical significance of environmental values in maintaining the unity and continuity of education and upbringing. It analyzes theoretical approaches, pedagogical principles, and practical strategies for embedding environmental values into educational processes at different levels. The study highlights the role of environmental education in fostering sustainable development, moral responsibility, and ecological culture among learners.

Keywords: Environmental values, continuity of education, upbringing, ecological culture, sustainable development, environmental education, pedagogical approach.

In the modern era, humanity faces unprecedented environmental challenges, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and the depletion of natural resources. These global problems necessitate not only technological and economic solutions but also profound changes in human consciousness and behavior. Education, as a fundamental social institution, plays a decisive role in addressing these challenges by shaping environmentally responsible individuals. In this

context, environmental values become a core component of education and upbringing, ensuring their continuity and coherence.

The concept of continuity in education and upbringing implies a systematic, consistent, and interconnected process that integrates cognitive, moral, and behavioral dimensions of personality development. Environmental values serve as a unifying element that connects knowledge acquisition with ethical attitudes and practical actions. Therefore, understanding the pedagogical significance of environmental values is essential for designing effective educational systems oriented toward sustainable development.

This article aims to explore the role of environmental values in ensuring the continuity of education and upbringing, identify their pedagogical foundations, and analyze effective methods for their integration into educational practice.

The pedagogical significance of environmental values has been widely discussed in educational and environmental studies. Scholars emphasize that environmental education should go beyond the transmission of ecological knowledge and focus on value formation, ethical responsibility, and active citizenship. According to contemporary pedagogical theories, values act as mediators between knowledge and behavior, guiding individuals' decisions and actions.

Researchers argue that the continuity of education and upbringing can be achieved when environmental values are systematically embedded across all levels of education, from early childhood to higher education. Studies highlight the importance of interdisciplinary approaches, learner-centered pedagogy, and experiential learning in fostering environmental awareness and responsibility. Furthermore, the integration of environmental values is closely linked to the development of ecological culture, which reflects an individual's holistic relationship with nature and society.

The pedagogical significance of environmental values in ensuring the continuity (преемственность) of education and upbringing lies in their unique capacity to create a coherent, lifelong thread that connects cognitive development,

moral formation, emotional growth, and practical responsibility toward nature across all stages of human life. Environmental values—such as respect for living systems, sustainability, ecological responsibility, harmony between humans and nature, and intergenerational equity—serve as foundational orienting principles that transform isolated learning episodes into a unified, progressive process of personality development.

Core Role of Environmental Values as a Unifying Pedagogical Factor

Environmental values function pedagogically as an integrative axis that bridges formal education (school curricula), informal learning (family, community, media), and non-formal upbringing (personal experiences, habits, ethical norms). They ensure continuity by:

- Establishing early emotional-affective foundations during preschool and early childhood, where direct contact with nature fosters wonder, empathy, love for the natural world (biophilia), and initial moral attitudes. Without this early emotional bond, later rational knowledge often remains abstract and fails to translate into behavior.

- Providing progressive deepening of knowledge and skills from primary to secondary and higher education, where scientific understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity, climate dynamics, and human impacts builds systematically on prior stages.

- Extending into adulthood and lifelong learning, where these values manifest in professional ethics, civic participation, sustainable consumption, and family transmission of responsible behaviors.

This creates a spiral of development: early experiences shape attitudes → attitudes guide knowledge acquisition → knowledge reinforces responsible actions → actions strengthen values → values motivate further learning. Disruption at any stage weakens the entire chain, leading to fragmented environmental awareness or "knowledge without action."

Principles Supporting Continuity Through Environmental Values

Several key pedagogical principles, drawn from established frameworks in environmental education, highlight how these values secure uninterrupted progression:

Principle of Continuity and Preemstvennost (Преемственность) — The most critical for ensuring seamless transitions. It demands that each educational stage maximally utilizes achievements from previous ones while preparing for the next. Environmental values provide the constant "red thread": a child who learns to care for plants in kindergarten carries this ethic into school projects on conservation, then into adult decisions on resource use. This principle resolves contradictions between personal knowledge levels and societal needs by requiring ongoing knowledge renewal throughout life.

Principle of Lifelong (Непрерывного) Environmental Education — Environmental values demand involvement "from cradle to grave." Preschool lays emotional foundations; school develops scientific literacy and critical thinking; higher education and adult learning apply values to professional and civic contexts. UNESCO and related frameworks emphasize that only continuous exposure prevents loss of early-formed attitudes and enables adaptation to evolving ecological challenges.

Integration of Education and Upbringing (Обучение и Воспитание) — Environmental values inherently merge cognitive (knowledge about ecosystems) with axiological (value-based attitudes) and behavioral (practical actions) domains. This holistic approach prevents education from becoming purely informational while upbringing remains merely emotional. The result is a personality with ecological responsibility as a core trait, not an add-on.

Humanization and Value-Orientation — These values humanize pedagogy by shifting focus from anthropocentric dominance over nature to harmonious coexistence. They cultivate ethical norms, aesthetic appreciation, and moral responsibility, making upbringing more profound and education more meaningful.

Stages of Continuity Enabled by Environmental Values

- Preschool and Early Childhood — Emphasis on sensory-emotional experiences (wonder, joy in nature, empathy for living things). Values form the base: love precedes knowledge. Positive early bonds predict lifelong pro-environmental behavior.

- Primary and Secondary School — Systematic knowledge building (ecosystems, sustainability principles) combined with value reinforcement through projects, problem-solving, and ethical discussions. Continuity appears in curriculum progression and habit formation (e.g., waste reduction, nature observation).

- Higher Education and Professional Training — Application of values in specialized contexts (environmental management, policy, engineering). Values ensure ethical decision-making amid technical expertise.

- Adult Lifelong Learning and Family Upbringing — Values manifest in daily practices, community involvement, and intergenerational transmission. Educated adults model behaviors for children, closing the loop and ensuring societal reproduction of ecological culture.

Outcomes and Pedagogical Impact

When environmental values anchor continuity:

- Individuals develop as ecologically responsible personalities — capable of critical thinking about human-nature relations, making informed decisions, and acting sustainably.

- Education becomes transformative rather than transmissive, addressing global crises while fostering personal growth.

- Upbringing gains depth, as values like intergenerational justice and respect for all life forms shape moral character beyond narrow self-interest.

- Society benefits from cumulative effects: generations progressively more attuned to sustainability needs.

In essence, environmental values are not peripheral to pedagogy; they are a strategic mechanism for making education and upbringing truly continuous, purposeful, and future-oriented. Their absence fragments development, while their

systematic integration creates resilient, ethically grounded individuals ready to sustain both human well-being and planetary health. This pedagogical function remains especially vital in addressing contemporary ecological challenges, where short-term thinking must yield to lifelong, value-driven responsibility.

The findings suggest that environmental values are not supplementary but central to the educational process. Their pedagogical significance lies in their ability to unify educational content with upbringing objectives, ensuring the holistic development of learners. The continuity of education and upbringing is strengthened when environmental values are consistently reinforced through curriculum design, teaching methods, and institutional culture.

Conclusion

In conclusion, environmental values play a fundamental pedagogical role in ensuring the continuity of education and upbringing. They bridge the gap between knowledge, values, and behavior, fostering ecological culture and sustainable thinking. To enhance their impact, the following recommendations are proposed:

Integrate environmental values systematically across all educational levels and disciplines;

Employ learner-centered and experiential teaching methods;

Promote teacher training focused on value-based environmental education;

Encourage collaboration between educational institutions and local communities.

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