

Ecological Culture in Modern Society: Theory and Practice

Qurbonboyeva Nodira Yusufjon qizi

Independent researcher, Uzbekistan State World Languages University, Uzbekistan

Received: 06 March 2026; **Accepted:** 29 March 2026; **Published:** 23 April 2026

Abstract: This article analyzes the formation of ecological culture in modern society, its role in sustainable development, and its impact on human activity. The object of the research is the dialectical relationship between humans and nature, as well as the significance of ecological competence in the development of both the individual and society. The article interprets ecological culture not only as environmental protection, but also as a moral and responsible direction of human activity.

Keywords: Ecological culture, sustainable development, biosphere, technosphere, ecological competence, anthropogenic impact, ecological responsibility, global civilization.

Introduction: Today, environmental problems have acquired a global character and pose a direct threat to the future of humanity. The concept of ecological culture is no longer limited to nature protection alone, but is increasingly manifested as an integral component of global culture. Although the relationship between humanity and nature has historically evolved, today it requires a transition from a “consumer” approach to one based on “cooperation” and “responsible living.”

This paradigm shift cannot be limited to technological solutions alone; it requires a fundamental transformation in human thinking. The notion characteristic of a consumer society—that nature is an inexhaustible source of resources—has already demonstrated its destructive consequences. Therefore, the concept of “ecological culture” holds exceptional importance in modern systems of education and upbringing. Ecological culture is not merely the memorization of environmental protection rules, but rather the ability of each individual to foresee the consequences of their daily activities and assume moral responsibility for them.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND METHODS

Ecological culture is an integral part of world culture. It is characterized by a deep understanding of the importance of contemporary environmental problems in human life and development. The environment is

defined as the totality of external conditions that affect organisms, populations, or more complex biological communities, causing specific reactions within them. It is a complex system consisting of various elements.

In the dictionary of modern ecological terms, G. Goncharenko and S. Sovgira define ecology as the science that studies the relationships of plants, animals, fungi, microorganisms, and viruses with each other and with their environment. The term “ecology” itself was proposed in 1866 by the German scientist Ernst Haeckel.

In M. Musiyenko’s explanatory dictionary, ecology is defined as a “complex science of survival in the environment.” This science studies the laws of development and functioning of the biosphere as an integrated system under the influence of natural and especially anthropogenic factors, and determines ways for the effective coexistence of the technosphere and biosphere.

RESULTS

Ecological culture is a direction of human activity and thinking upon which the natural existence and sustainable development of modern civilization largely depend. The study of the interaction between social and natural factors in human life reveals clear manifestations of ecological culture. Today, ecological competence (knowledge and skills) is becoming an

integral and necessary part of culture. A person's attitude toward the environment includes not only the rational use of natural resources but also responsibility for the consequences of such use.

According to M. Tarasenko, culture is "not only an expression of the freedom of a nation and an individual, but also their responsibility before the world." As a person's striving for independence and free activity increases, so does their responsibility. The place of humans in relation to nature is part of human culture. Such responsibility does not arise spontaneously in people's consciousness; it must be learned and developed. Ecological culture is closely connected with ecological journalism and ecological education. These fields ensure comprehensive coverage of environmental problems of global and regional importance. Their main task is to collect, analyze, and disseminate information about environmental events, trends, and issues to the wider public, since humans constantly live in direct interaction with these problems.

Ecological culture is both the process and the result of forming ecological consciousness in individuals. It includes knowledge and perceptions about nature, emotional and value-based attitudes toward it (internal culture), practical skills and the need for cooperation (external culture), as well as balanced and cooperative relationships within the "human–nature" system.

N. Chakanov studied ecological culture from different scientific perspectives and divided it into two main concepts. According to the first approach, ecological culture is primarily a spiritual and conscious phenomenon connected with the formation of ecological thinking and correct attitudes toward the environment. According to the second approach, ecological culture is a unity of spiritual and practical (material) aspects that reflects nature's development through a system of values aimed at satisfying society's ecological needs. An ecological worldview is a multi-level phenomenon composed of general views, values, and concepts that influence human behavior. It requires the presence of ecological and ecological-legal culture, which ensures order and legality in society. Thus, ecological culture occupies an important place not only in material production but also in the spiritual life of society.

Yu. I. Zelesskaya emphasizes the role of education and upbringing in forming ecological culture, defining it as the result of purposeful environmental education and linking its presence in individuals to the level of their ecological upbringing.

DISCUSSION

At the present stage of societal development,

particularly in Uzbekistan, it is important to implement environmental policy based on national legislation and to integrate international environmental legal standards into domestic law. In particular, on May 15, 2025, a presidential decree approved the concept of improving ecological culture among the population until 2030. The document sets goals such as forming ecological culture among 3.3 million preschool children and strengthening ecological education among 4.2 million school students.

This demonstrates that one of the priorities of state environmental policy is a deep understanding of ecological crisis risks. Improving the system of ecological and legal education is therefore essential. Environmental issues are increasingly shifting from spontaneous human impact toward conscious, purposeful, and sustainable interaction with nature. Such an approach is only possible with a sufficient level of ecological culture and awareness, which begins in childhood and develops throughout life.

Environmental organizations today face new tasks, including:

- forming ecological awareness,
- encouraging ecological behavior,
- developing ecological thinking,
- shaping ecological values,
- improving aesthetic perception of the environment,
- fostering ecological responsibility and creativity.

Ecological culture encompasses the process of forming ecological consciousness, including knowledge, emotional attitudes, values, practical skills, and communication needs. A nature-oriented approach is based on:

- informational and intellectual components (knowledge and concepts),
- motivational and value components,
- behavioral and activity components (practical actions).

The integration of these components ensures the formation of a complete ecological culture.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, ecological culture is one of the essential and important factors in the development of modern society. It is not only a body of knowledge aimed at environmental protection but also a complex social phenomenon that forms a conscious, responsible, and value-based attitude toward nature. Ecological culture plays a crucial role in ensuring harmony between

humans and nature, achieving sustainable development, and preventing ecological crises. Its formation is a continuous process based on the unity of ecological awareness, knowledge, skills, and values. Environmental education, journalism, and state policy must work in harmony in this process.

In particular, shaping ecological awareness among the younger generation is one of the key conditions for future development. Ultimately, the development of ecological culture is one of the most important directions for ensuring the future of humanity, establishing balanced cooperation with nature, and effectively addressing global environmental problems.

REFERENCES

1. “On Approval of the Concept of Raising the Ecological Culture of the Population in the Period up to 2030”: Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan dated May 15, 2025, No. PQ-184 // (UzA). – 2025. – May 15. – URL: https://uza.uz/oz/posts/2030-yilgacha-bolgan-davrda-aholining-ekologik-madaniyatini-yuksaltirish-konsepsiyasini-tasdiqlash-togrisida_720987
2. Ecological Encyclopedia: In 3 vols. / Ed. by A.V. Tolstoukhov. – Moscow: LLC “Center for Ecological Education and Information”, 2007. Vol. 2. – 416 p.
3. Dictionary of Modern Ecological and Environmental Terms / [incl. G.E. Goncharenko, S.V. Sovgira]. Kyiv: Scientific World, 2010. 67 p.
4. Musienko M. M. et al. Ecology: Explanatory Dictionary. – Moscow: Lybid, 2004. – 376 p.
5. Khusainov Z. On Ecological Culture // Higher Education in Russia. – 2004. – No. 9. – pp. 84-85.
6. Tarasenko M.F. Philosophical Aspects of the Relationship between Man and Nature. – Kyiv: Naukova Dumka, 1975. – 116 p.
7. Chakanova N., Chakanova M. Ecological Culture and Fundamentals of Ecological Ethics // Bulletin of Science. – 2023. – Vol. 1, No. 5 (62). – pp. 414-416.
8. Kravchenko S.N. Socio-psychological Aspects of Legal Protection of the Environment. – Moscow: Higher School, 1988. – 154 p.
9. Zalesskaya Yu.I. Management of the Process of Forming the Ecological Culture of the Individual // Management in Education. – 2008. – No. 4.
10. Omari A.O., Omoogun M.R., Effiom J.E. Mass Media as an Environmental Awareness Strategies and Attitude of Farmers towards Deforestation in Southern Cross River State, Nigeria // Journal of Education, Society and Behavioural Science. 2019. № 3 (32). P. 1-8.