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RESPONSIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD NATURE AS AN IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF ECOLOGICAL CULTURE

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A R T I C L E I N F O.

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Abstract.
The article analyzes human attitudes toward nature and the environment as an important indicator of ecological culture. It highlights the role of national values, ancestral heritage, and traditional views on environmental protection in the formation of ecological consciousness and moral culture. The study emphasizes that ecological ethics and responsibility are essential components of modern human development and sustainable environmental interaction.

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1. Introduction

In modern society, where globalization and technological development are rapidly expanding, forming a responsible attitude toward nature has become a pressing issue. The moral relationship between humans and nature should be considered a fundamental principle of social life [1] .

Ethical culture is formed through education, daily life, and social interactions. In this context, ecological morality reflects human responsibility toward nature and society. It defines ecological awareness as a key condition for proper use of natural resources and sustainable development.

Although a person may achieve professional mastery in their field, they cannot be considered truly cultured or morally developed if they neglect the protection of the natural environment in which they live and work [2], [3].

Historical sources such as the *Avesta* demonstrate that ancient ancestors treated nature with deep respect, considering air, water, earth, and fire as sacred elements. Such traditions reflect an early form of ecological consciousness.

2. Methods

This study is based on a qualitative philosophical-analytical approach. The following methods were used:

- Historical analysis – interpretation of ecological ideas in ancient sources such as the *Avesta*
- Comparative analysis – comparison of traditional ecological values with modern ecological ethics
- Systematic approach – analysis of ecological culture as a component of moral and spiritual development
- Theoretical synthesis – integration of philosophical, ethical, and legal perspectives on environmental protection

The research also relies on normative legal documents, including environmental protection laws, as well as philosophical and pedagogical literature related to ecological culture.

3. Results

The analysis shows that ecological culture is directly formed through a person's interaction with nature in social environments such as family, community, and educational institutions [4]. It develops through a combination of objective and subjective factors, including moral values, social responsibility, and cultural traditions.

Key findings include:

- Respect for nature is historically rooted in the spiritual and cultural traditions of society
- Ecological morality is an integral part of human moral development
- Public awareness plays a significant role in strengthening ecological responsibility
- Legal frameworks contribute to regulating human interaction with nature
- Ecological education among youth strengthens environmental responsibility and civic awareness

The study confirms that ecological consciousness is not only a scientific issue but also a moral and philosophical one [5], [6], [7].

4. Discussion

The findings indicate that environmental protection is not only a legal or technical issue but also a deeply moral and cultural responsibility [8]. Ancient philosophical and religious teachings, particularly in the *Avesta*, emphasize the sacredness of natural elements such as water, air, fire, and soil.

Modern ecological culture requires the integration of these traditional values with contemporary scientific knowledge. The respect for nature in ancient societies demonstrates that ecological ethics has always been part of human civilization.

In addition, public participation and community awareness are essential in forming ecological culture [9], [10], [11]. Laws and regulations, such as environmental protection legislation, serve as institutional mechanisms for strengthening ecological responsibility.

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Educating young people about environmental preservation is especially important, as it shapes their worldview, strengthens civic responsibility, and develops sustainable thinking [12], [13], [14], [15]. Therefore, ecological culture should be considered a fundamental component of moral education and national development.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, ecological culture is a key indicator of a person's moral and spiritual development. A responsible attitude toward nature reflects both ethical maturity and social responsibility.

The research shows that sustainable environmental protection can only be achieved through the integration of moral education, cultural heritage, legal frameworks, and ecological awareness. Respect for nature, rooted in ancestral traditions and supported by modern ecological thinking, ensures the development of environmentally responsible citizens.

Thus, forming ecological consciousness among young people is one of the most important tasks of contemporary education and social development.

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