

UDC 32

## Introduction of the environmental agenda in education policy

**Oleg A. Smirnov**

PhD in Physics and Mathematics, Associate Professor,  
Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science,  
Russian State University named after A.N. Kosygin,  
115035, 52/45, Sadovnicheskaya str., Moscow, Russian Federation;  
e-mail: smirnovoleg1952@mail.ru

**Aleksei V. Novikov**

Doctor of Pedagogy,  
PhD in Law,  
Professor;  
Chief Researcher,  
Scientific-Research Institute of the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation,  
125130, 15-a, Narvskaya str., Moscow, Russian Federation;  
Professor of the Department of Criminal Law,  
Astrakhan State University,  
414056, 20-a, Tatishcheva str., Astrakhan, Russian Federation;  
Professor of the Department of Private Law,  
Perm Institute of the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation,  
614012, 125, Karpinskogo str., Perm, Russian Federation;  
e-mail: novikov.pra vo@mail.ru

**Diana N. Slabkaya**

Senior Researcher,  
Scientific-Research Institute of the Federal Penitentiary Service of the Russian Federation,  
125130, 15-a, Narvskaya str., Moscow, Russian Federation;  
e-mail: sdn10.70@mail.ru

### Abstract

In our time, environmental issues are becoming increasingly urgent, including climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution. This article discusses the important role of education in shaping ecological awareness and a responsible attitude toward nature. It emphasizes that the integration of ecological principles into educational policy helps develop an understanding of sustainable development and the necessity of harmony between social, economic, and environmental aspects. The global nature of these problems and the importance of joint efforts among countries are also highlighted. Teaching students the fundamentals of ecological literacy fosters the formation of an active civic position and a willingness to participate in international environmental initiatives. The development of technology opens new pathways for addressing environmental challenges, and educating students in ecological sciences and technologies

promotes innovation in this field. The implementation of an ecological agenda in educational programs plays a key role in preparing future generations to tackle pressing environmental issues and create a sustainable future for all.

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**Keywords**

Environmental policy, environmental education, teacher training, social justice, teacher education, research methods.

## Introduction

The modern world faces significant environmental challenges, including climate change, loss of biodiversity, and pollution. Education plays a crucial role in developing ecological awareness among individuals and encourages a more responsible attitude towards the environment. Integrating environmental issues into educational policy helps students understand the principles of sustainable development and the need for balance among social, economic, and ecological aspects.

Environmental problems are global and require collaborative efforts from all countries. Teaching students about ecological literacy and the importance of environmental preservation fosters civic engagement and readiness to participate in international environmental initiatives. With advancements in technology and scientific discoveries, new opportunities arise for addressing environmental issues. Educating students in environmental sciences and technologies promotes innovation in ecology and sustainable development.

Incorporating an environmental agenda into education policy is vital for preparing future generations to tackle pressing environmental challenges and create a sustainable future for everyone.

## Main part

Environmental education is a learning process aimed at enhancing students' ecological literacy and fostering their sense of responsibility towards the environment. Many countries around the world, including New Zealand, Australia, the United States, Brazil, and others, have implemented national policies on environmental education following the Tbilisi Declaration of 1977 and the Rio de Janeiro Declaration of 1992. For instance, in South Africa, energy efficiency policies began to be developed in 1992 and were incorporated into the government's White Paper on Education and Training in 1995.

In 1996, South Africa transitioned from developing national educational policy to creating curricula for environmental education (EE). This shift accelerated the development of educational programs through the establishment of a Curriculum Initiative. The goal of this initiative was to align policy efforts in environmental education with curriculum development.

For effective implementation of environmental education policies in schools, it is essential for school administration to encourage and support a comprehensive approach to environmental education through school policy. An integrated approach simplifies the planning and execution of educational policies. The school's environmental education policy should have the backing of the entire school community, including administrators, parents, teachers, students, and the surrounding community.

Based on the theory of the policy cycle, which outlines the stages of policy development and implementation, this policy prescribes a systematic order for initiating and executing policies. Implementation, as one of the stages of environmental education, was crucial in this study. The theory has been incorporated into various concepts developed by different authors. Many policymakers and practitioners formulate concepts during the policy process, where policy selection always takes precedence, followed by implementation.

The structure of the policy cycle, with some adjustments, serves as a tool for analysis and recommendations for policymakers, making it more feasible. The theoretical foundation of the policy cycle involves several stages: agenda setting, policy formulation, legitimization, implementation, evaluation, and maintenance or termination of the policy.

Policies often establish goals and paths to achieve them. Implementation is defined as the execution of fundamental policy decisions enshrined in legislation or other acts. The process begins with the enactment of a law, continues with defining policy outcomes, and concludes with a review of core principles.

The study delved into the philosophical perspective on policy implementation, particularly in relation to the theory of the policy cycle. Constraints on implementation include ineffective execution, political factors, and a lack of strategic vision. These issues must be critically examined to identify problems and inaccuracies in the implementation of environmental education policies in schools.

Pragmatism, associated with mixed methods, aims to create flexible and dynamic curricula that can adapt to the evolving needs of students and society. According to pragmatic philosophy, human actions are always connected to past experiences and the beliefs that arise from those experiences.

Employing a mixed-methods research approach has allowed for the integration of qualitative and quantitative data, leading to a better understanding of the issue at hand. There is a need to review and clarify the objectives and goals of educational programs to make them more specific and comprehensible for all stakeholders.

The absence of elements that facilitate the implementation of educational policies within the school system highlights the necessity for improved support and mechanisms for successful policy execution, including training for teachers and school administrators. There is insufficient knowledge among teachers and school directors regarding policy development and strategies to support the implementation of environmental education; thus, training and informing educators about the goals, methods, and importance of environmental education is critically important.

There is also a need to reassess the objectives of the national curriculum for environmental education; these goals should be refined and made more specific to ensure the successful realization of principles related to social and environmental justice and human rights.

Therefore, to enhance the implementation of environmental education policies in schools, it is essential to clearly define objectives, provide support for educators, raise awareness among teachers and school leaders, and review national curriculum goals in line with principles of social and environmental justice.

Researchers affirm that schools are key venues for implementing educational policy. Teachers play a crucial role in this process by taking responsibility for introducing new regulations and changes into the educational framework. For effective policy implementation in environmental education, a clear strategy is necessary. The foundation and rationale of the policy must be clearly defined to address needs and resolve issues within the education system.

The roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the implementation process should be clearly delineated to prevent conflicts and ensure harmonious collaboration. Implementation plans for educational programs must be tailored to the context in which they will be executed, taking into account

institutional characteristics. An effective implementation strategy should consider various aspects and responsibilities of participants in the learning process to ensure successful achievement of established goals.

## Conclusion

Integrating an environmental agenda into educational policy involves incorporating ecological aspects into curricula, teaching methodologies, and school life. This is a crucial step towards fostering environmental awareness among students and preparing them for responsible stewardship of the planet.

Some methods to achieve this include:

- Introducing lessons on ecology, sustainable development, conservation, and other environmental topics into various subject curricula;
- Organizing field trips to nature reserves, raising awareness of local environmental issues, and participating in clean-up campaigns and tree planting activities;
- Establishing school or university clubs focused on ecology, where students can discuss environmental challenges and propose solutions;
- Conducting practical sessions on waste sorting, energy conservation, renewable energy sources, and other aspects of ecological literacy;
- Implementing environmental projects aimed at exploring ecological problems and finding solutions;
- Including information in curricula about laws and regulations related to environmental protection and responsible use of natural resources.

By integrating an environmental agenda into educational policy, we can not only enhance students' ecological literacy but also prepare a new generation for a more responsible approach to our planet.

This integration fosters values of sustainable development among students, which are essential for preserving nature and ensuring the well-being of future generations. It also promotes critical thinking and the ability to make informed decisions regarding environmental issues. Teaching ecology and sustainable development can ignite students' interest in scientific research, technological advancement, and innovations in the field of ecology. This may lead to new ideas and solutions for addressing global environmental challenges.

In summary, the incorporation of an environmental agenda into educational policy has numerous positive aspects that contribute not only to ecological education but also to personal development among students and their preparation for civic responsibility regarding the future of our planet.

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## **Интеграция экологических принципов в образовательную политику**

### **Смирнов Олег Аркадьевич**

Кандидат физико-математических наук, доцент,  
кафедра прикладной математики и программирования,  
Российский государственный университет им. А.Н. Косыгина,  
115035, Российская Федерация, Москва, ул. Садовническая, 52/45;  
e-mail: smirnovoleg1952@mail.ru

### **Новиков Алексей Валерьевич**

Доктор педагогических наук, кандидат юридических наук, профессор;  
главный научный сотрудник,  
Научно-исследовательский институт Федеральной службы исполнения наказаний России,  
125130, Российская Федерация, Москва, ул. Нарвская, 15-а;  
профессор кафедры уголовного права,  
Астраханский государственный университет,  
414056, Российская Федерация, Астрахань, ул. Татищева, 20-а;  
профессор кафедры частного права,  
Пермский институт Федеральной службы исполнения наказаний России,  
614012, Российская Федерация, Пермь, ул. Карпинского, 125;  
e-mail: novikov.pravo@mail.ru

### **Слабкая Диана Николаевна**

Старший научный сотрудник,  
Научно-исследовательский институт Федеральной службы исполнения наказаний России,  
125130, Российская Федерация, Москва, ул. Нарвская, 15-а;  
e-mail: sdn10.70@mail.ru

#### **Аннотация**

В наше время экологические проблемы становятся все более острыми, включая изменения климата, утрату биоразнообразия и загрязнение окружающей среды. В данной

статье рассматривается важная роль образования в формировании экологического сознания и ответственного отношения к природе. Подчеркивается, что интеграция экологических принципов в образовательную политику помогает развивать понимание устойчивого развития и необходимость гармонии между социальными, экономическими и экологическими аспектами. Также отмечается глобальный характер этих проблем и важность совместных усилий стран. Обучение студентов основам экологической грамотности способствует формированию активной гражданской позиции и готовности участвовать в международных экологических инициативах. Развитие технологий открывает новые пути для решения экологических вызовов, а обучение студентов экологическим наукам и технологиям способствует инновациям в этой области. Внедрение экологической повестки в образовательные программы играет ключевую роль в подготовке будущих поколений к решению насущных экологических задач и созданию устойчивого будущего для всех.

#### Для цитирования в научных исследованиях

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#### Ключевые слова

Политика образования, экологическая повестка, педагогическое образование, инновации в образовании, экологические задачи.

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