

# ROLE AND IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ON ECOLOGICAL CONSUMPTION

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Environmental threats to the existence of human civilization are officially recognized at the highest international level: the historical development of humankind involves different natural resources that endanger the global environment. This prompts us to reconsider the priorities and values which we have previously developed. Simultaneously, it is very important to form an environmental culture for all citizens; especially for the youth. Without the creation of these culture citizens, their consumer choices, as well as their administrative and technological decisions, will continue to destroy our natural environment.

One of the elements of the creation of such a culture is environmental education.

Unfortunately, as research shows, the teachers who provide environmental education and insist on its necessity start with the following assumptions for the relationship of cause and effect: « economic activities - deterioration of environment - deterioration of health ». Such a generalization is wrong and has no convincing scientific basis because only separate cases are scientifically established. Nevertheless, this is the basis of environmental classes at schools. Ecology becomes a super science, incorporating our societies past, present and future knowledge of the natural. The result is a mechanical conglomerate of fractional information from different textbooks and mass media which support the idea of mankind's guilt for destroying nature and the ancient threat of doomsday; this time, in the form of «environmental crisis».

Environmental education actually provokes and encourages scientific intervention in nature by people who do not know much about the subject and do not take any responsibility for their decisions or actions. If an environmental crisis ever happens, it would result from similar uncontrolled behavior.

It is obvious that the person who considers himself an "expert" is in danger in other situations, especially in the one that is critical. Firstly, such a person will worsen the situation instead of improving it. Secondly, such a person can be a victim of real danger that he may be unaware. Thirdly, these people are constantly lobbying. Here are some examples.

In 1990 the environmental "specialists" who knew neither the economy, nor atomic engineering, initiated the "Greenpeace" movement in Armenia and closed the atomic power station in Octemberane. As a result, Armenia lost 40 % of their electric power production. It destroyed life-supporting infrastructures and has led to social crises in the cities. Urban plant life has been cut down and used for firewood. The rationale to close the Armenian atomic power station was that of its location in a seismic area. However, the station was constructed as an individual project. The station designs have been improved as verified by the terrible Spitaks earthquakes which did not damage the station in the slightest. The decision to close the station was reversed, and in 1997, the atomic power station once again began operation.

The Chernobyl atomic power station accident that happened in the time of democratization has been transformed by "green" people into the greatest industrial accident of all times, and the concept of "radiation" has become a synonym for the concept of "death". From the point of view of the experts, this idea is completely erroneous.

Almost 90 % of the population considers that the operation of atomic power stations is harmful to the health of the population. According to the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation, the contribution of anthropogenous radiation in medicine exceeds that of the atomic industry by a factor of 200. According to Dr. A.J.Bushmanov, the head of Radiation Medicine Clinic, during semi centennial history of atomic engineering (since 1946) about 3000 people developed chronic radiation sickness from internal or external irradiation, and 90 % of those cases occurred up until

1960. Only 71 cases (less than 13 %) resulted in fatalities (including Chernobyl accident). Nowadays, radiation sickness is only a possibility in the event of an accident.

It has been observed that in Japan, the longest life expectancy registered is at xibakusi. These people have been exposed to radiation through nuclear bombardment. Physicians constantly control their health.

From this history lesson, the main conclusion is that the destruction of the artificial environment always has a negative impact on the physical and mental health of the population. The ecological niche of the modern civilized society is not natural, rather it is the artificial environment for which the necessary conditions for peoples' lives were created.