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CONSCIOUS PERCEPTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS: THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY IN THE FORMATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS

Анотація. У статті наголошується на необхідності формування екологічної культури у дітей дошкільного віку який є початковим етапом становлення людської особистості. Саме в цей період закладаються основи взаємодії з природою, за допомогою дорослих дитина починає усвідомлювати її як загальну цінність для всіх людей..

Розкривається роль вихователя у формуванні екологічної культури у дітей дошкільного віку. Наголошується, що головним пріоритетом в освітньому процесі дошкільного закладу освіти має бути забезпечення належної екологічної культури.. Вихователю необхідно організувати освітній процес так, щоб він був екологічно сприятливим для дітей. Завдання вихователя □ виховати підростаюче покоління у традиції гармонійного співіснування з природою, раціонального використання та відтворення її багатств, у психологічній готовності оберігати природні цінності

Виявлено, що основу екологічної культури становлять елементарні знання про природу: орієнтування у найближчому природному середовищі; усвідомлення життєво необхідних потреб живих істот в умовах існування; ознайомлення з елементарними відомостями про взаємозв'язки живої природи, значення її в житті людини. Пізнання дітьми природи відбувається під час активної діяльності, коли вони оволодівають уміннями бережливого ставлення до її об'єктів, збереження та створення умов для їх нормального співіснування. Щоб виховати у дітей гуманне ставлення до природи, важливі не лише знання, а й виховання гуманних почуттів, позитивного досвіду у спілкуванні з природою.

Ключові слова: екологічна культура, діти дошкільного віку, екологічна свідомість, екологічне ставлення, екологічне виховання.

The article examines the role of environmental psychology in the formation of the environmental consciousness and conscious perception of environmental threats by humans. It examines how psychological factors influence people's perception and understanding of environmental issues, including barriers that prevent effective interaction with the environmental information.

This article will help reveal the importance of environmental psychology in the formation of environmental consciousness and understanding of environmental threats. It will contribute to the understanding of how psychological factors affect the perception and interaction with the environmental information, and will provide practical recommendations for increasing environmental consciousness in the society.

The purpose of the article is to emphasize the importance of targeted scientific and practical efforts in using the knowledge of environmental psychology to improve the conscious perception of environmental threats and stimulate sustainable environmental behavior.

The scientific novelty of the article consists in the combination of a theoretical overview of the main concepts of environmental psychology with an experimental research to study the level of conscious perception of environmental threats among respondents. In addition, the article focuses on understanding the interconnection between the concepts of environmental psychology and their role in the formation of

environmental consciousness. The obtained results of the study reveal the level of understanding of the respondents of the basic concepts of environmental psychology, which can be of practical importance for the development of programs and interventions aimed at increasing the level of environmental consciousness and changing behavior. Such a comprehensive approach to the study and understanding of environmental psychology contributes to the expansion of knowledge in the field of environmental psychology and the identification of ways to improve human interaction with the environment.

The article examines the role of environmental psychology in the formation of environmental consciousness and conscious perception of environmental threats. Using the testing method, the level of understanding of the main concepts of environmental psychology among the participants was determined. The results showed a low level of understanding of some concepts, which indicates the need for increased consciousness and education about environmental issues. This article contributes to the field of environmental psychology by combining a theoretical overview with an experimental study that is important for the further development of programs and interventions aimed at increasing the level of conscious perception of environmental threats and the formation of environmental consciousness.

Keywords: environmental psychology, environmental consciousness, perception of environmental threats, environmental communication, environmental education.

Formulation of the problem. The world faces serious environmental challenges, but many people do not realize the full extent of environmental problems or do not understand their role in solving them. This leads to insufficient motivation and involvement in environmental initiatives, which makes it difficult to achieve environmental sustainability. Therefore, an essential task is the formation of environmental consciousness, which involves conscious perception of environmental threats and readiness to take action to preserve nature.

Scientific research on environmental psychology helps to reveal the psychological mechanisms that influence people's perception and response to environmental threats. This allows us to understand what factors influence the formation of environmental consciousness and how they can be used to improve perception and involvement in environmental actions. Scientific research aims to examine various aspects, including emotional responses, social influences, and feelings of personal effectiveness.

Implementation of the knowledge of environmental psychology in practice is of great importance for the formation of environmental consciousness and behavior change. Developing effective communication strategies that promote understanding of environmental issues and increase motivation for action is an important task. It is also important to integrate environmental psychology into educational programs for the younger generation to form environmental consciousness and develop skills for sustainable environmental behavior.

Thus, understanding the role of environmental psychology in the formation of environmental consciousness is a key scientific and practical task for ensuring an effective response to environmental challenges and achieving sustainable development.

Research in the field of environmental psychology in Ukraine began in the early 90-s of the last century. The works of such foreign authors as J. Gibson [4], R. Gifford [5], D. Stokols [6] and others became the basis for modern Ukrainian scientists. Among Ukrainian scientists, one should note the works of V.O. Skrebets [2], O.V. Batsylieva and I.V. Puz [1], as well as Yu.Zh. Shaihorodskiy [3].

The identification of previously unresolved parts of the general problem is an important step in the development of understanding of the role of environmental psychology in the formation of environmental consciousness. Despite the available research in the field of environmental psychology, some aspects, such as the impact of environmental psychology on environmental behavior and the effectiveness of communication about environmental issues, remain understudied. In addition, more research is needed to understand the relationship between environmental education and environmental consciousness, as well as to identify optimal methods of interventions to increase consciousness of environmental threats.

The main goal of this article is to analyze the role of environmental psychology in the formation of environmental consciousness and conscious perception of environmental threats. By examining the key psychological factors that influence people's perception and response to environmental issues, the article aims to understand how environmental psychology can contribute to the formation of environmental consciousness. The goal is to emphasize the importance of focused scientific and practical efforts in using the knowledge of environmental psychology to improve consciousness of environmental threats and encourage sustainable environmental behavior. This article seeks to provide important scientific and

practical guidance for developing effective strategies for communication, education, and public engagement in environmental initiatives.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The study of the conscious perception of environmental threats is based on the concepts of environmental psychology, environmental consciousness consideration of the definitions of these concepts by domestic and foreign scientists [1-6], we defined our own generalized vision for each concept.

Environmental psychology is a field of psychology that studies the interconnection between man and the natural environment. Environmental psychology examines how human behavior, perceptions, and emotions influence interactions with nature, as well as how the natural environment itself affects people's psychological state and well-being.

Environmental consciousness is a person's awareness of environmental problems, their impact on nature and society, as well as their personal responsibility and readiness to take action to preserve nature. Environmental consciousness involves understanding the importance of sustainable use of resources, preservation of biodiversity and the development of an ecologically oriented way of life.

Environmental behavior is a set of actions and decisions aimed at preserving nature and rational use of resources. Environmental behavior can include actions such as using energy-efficient technologies, sorting waste, eco-friendly way of eating, and active participation in the environmental initiatives.

Environmental communication is a process of exchanging environmental information between people with the aim of increasing awareness of environmental problems and motivation for action. Environmental communication includes the development of the effective information strategies, awareness of the emotional aspect of environmental issues, and creation of the favorable environment for discussing environmental topics.

Environmental education is a process of learning and acquiring knowledge, skills and values related to environmental consciousness and sustainable environmental behavior. Environmental education aims to increase people's understanding of environmental issues, engage in action and develop skills to preserve nature and accelerate the transition to sustainable development.

These concepts are the basis of environmental psychology and are used to study the interaction between people and the natural environment, the formation of environmental consciousness and the promotion of sustainable environmental behavior. The relationship between the above concepts is shown in Fig. 1.

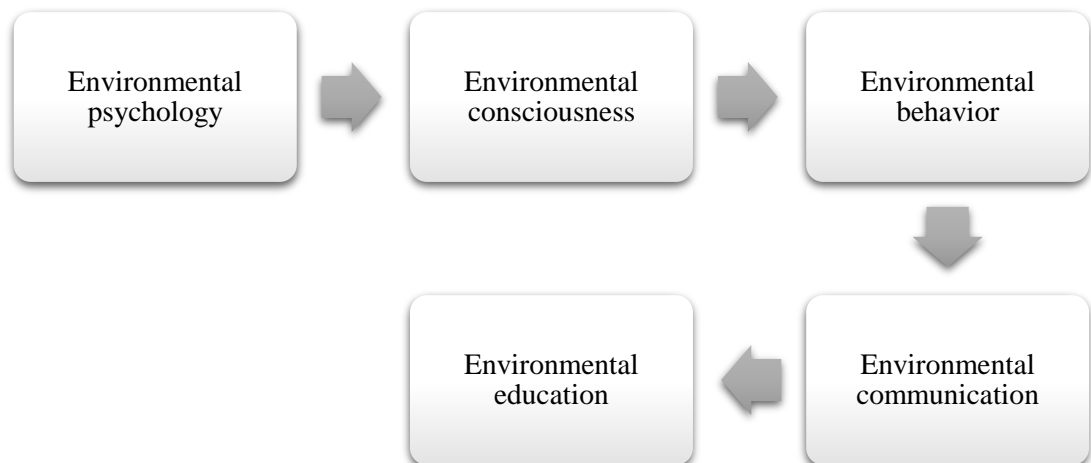


Fig. 1. Interrelationship of the main concepts of conscious perception of environmental threats

Fig. 1 shows that environmental psychology is the basis that studies the relationship between man and the natural environment. It helps to understand the psychological mechanisms influencing the formation of environmental consciousness and environmental behavior. Environmental consciousness determines the understanding of problems and responsibilities towards nature, as well as affects the motivation and readiness for environmental actions.

Environmental behavior is a practical manifestation of environmental consciousness. It covers actions and decisions aimed at nature preservation and rational use of resources. Environmental behavior can be determined by environmental consciousness, and at the same time, the behavior itself can influence the further formation of consciousness.

Environmental communication and education are tools for disseminating the environmental information, strengthening environmental consciousness, and supporting environmental behavior. Environmental communication includes the development of the effective information and communication strategies based on the psychological mechanisms and knowledge of environmental psychology. Environmental education involves the transfer of knowledge, awareness and development of skills that contribute to the formation of environmental consciousness and the development of environmental behavior.

Diagram in Fig.1 demonstrates the interrelationship between the main concepts of environmental psychology, emphasizing that environmental psychology serves as a foundation for the formation of environmental consciousness, environmental behavior, environmental communication, and environmental education. It helps to understand how all these aspects work together to achieve sustainable development and nature preservation.

Consideration of the main concepts of environmental psychology should be done from the position of a single system, since they are interconnected and influence each other. Understanding this system helps to solve environmental problems and move towards sustainable development.

Environmental psychology studies how people perceive and interact with nature. It helps to understand the psychological mechanisms influencing the formation of environmental consciousness and environmental behavior. Environmental consciousness, in its turn, affects motivation and readiness for environmental actions. Environmental communication and education are tools for disseminating environmental information and stimulating change in people's consciousness and behavior. Considering the concepts jointly allows you to understand this interrelationship and develop a comprehensive approach to solving environmental problems.

The interaction between environmental consciousness and environmental behavior is a key to achieving sustainability. Environmental consciousness defines understanding of problems and responsibility, and environmental behavior means practical steps to preserve nature. These two concepts are interconnected, since environmental behavior can be determined by environmental consciousness, and at the same time, the behavior itself can influence the further formation of consciousness.

Considering the concepts of environmental communication and environmental education jointly helps to develop strategies and methods that contribute to the formation of environmental consciousness and support of environmental behavior. Effective communication involves the use of psychological mechanisms and approaches based on the knowledge of environmental psychology. Environmental education includes the transfer of knowledge, awareness and skills that contribute to the formation of environmental consciousness and the development of environmental behavior.

Considering the concepts of environmental psychology, environmental consciousness, environmental behavior, environmental communication, and environmental education jointly helps to see the broad picture and take into account the interrelationships between them. This contributes to the development of comprehensive strategies and programs for the formation of sustainable environmental consciousness and the stimulation of positive changes in human behavior.

Experimental part. To study the actual conscious perception of environmental threats, a research based on the testing method was organized. The experimental group included 30 ordinary citizens aged 18 to 50 living in the city of Vinnytsia.

To organize testing, the author developed the test "Determining the Perception of Environmental Threats through Understanding the Basic Concepts of Environmental Psychology." The test included six main questions. The purpose of the first five questions was to determine the respondents' correct understanding of the main concepts of environmental psychology: environmental psychology, environmental consciousness, environmental behavior, environmental communication, and environmental education. When answering these questions, the respondents had to choose one correct answer from the three offered. The obtained results are shown in Fig. 2.

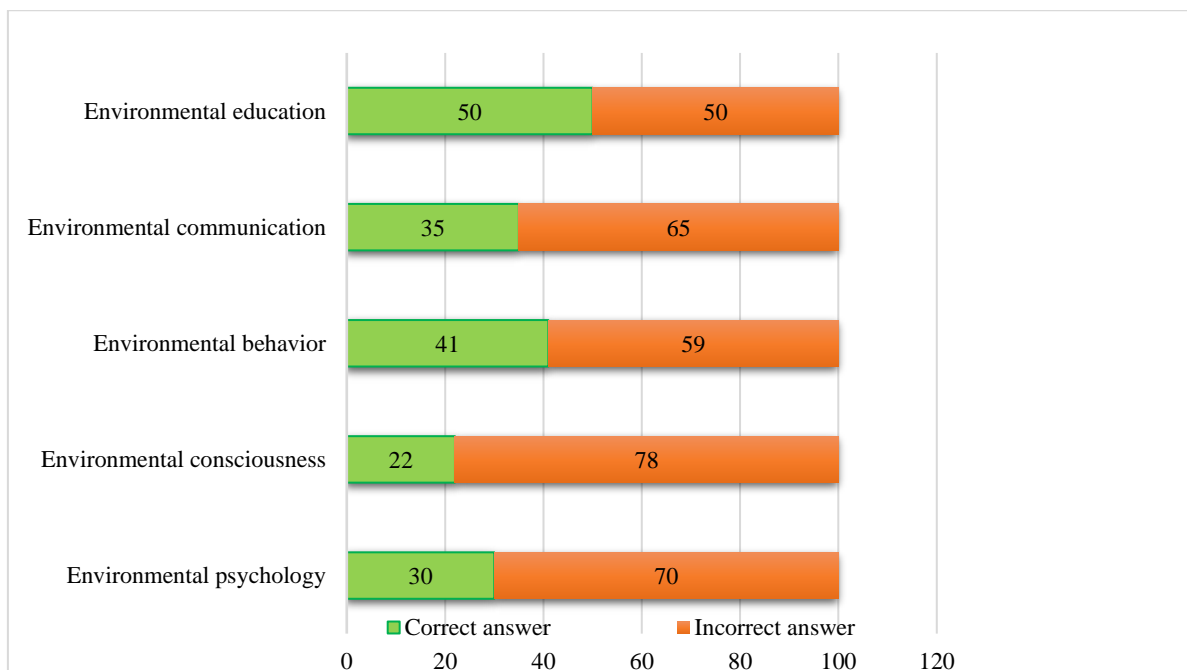


Fig. 2. Results of the test "Determining the Perception of Environmental Threats through Understanding the Basic Concepts of Environmental Psychology" on the issues of understanding the basic concepts of environmental psychology

The data obtained during testing can be used to analyze the actual conscious perception of environmental threats and understanding of the basic concepts of environmental psychology among the study participants. The results shown in Fig. 2 indicate the level of understanding of the basic concepts of environmental psychology among the study participants. The more correct answers were given, the higher the level of understanding is. Only 30% of respondents correctly answered the question about environmental psychology. This indicates that only a third of the participants have a correct understanding of this concept. 22% of respondents correctly answered the question about environmental consciousness. This shows that less than a quarter of the participants have a sufficient understanding of this concept.

The results of understanding the concept of environmental behavior are somewhat better - 41% of respondents correctly answered the question about environmental behavior. 35% of respondents correctly answered the question about environmental communication. This means that a third of the participants have a relatively correct understanding of this concept. Among the proposed concepts, the results of understanding "environmental education" are the best - 50% of respondents correctly answered the question about environmental education. This means that half of the participants have a relatively correct understanding of this concept.

Therefore, it can be concluded from the obtained data that the level of understanding of the basic concepts of environmental psychology among the study participants is different. Some concepts, such as environmental psychology and environmental consciousness, are understood by fewer respondents, while other concepts, such as environmental behavior and environmental education, have a higher number of correct answers.

In the last question of the test, respondents were asked to establish the sequence and relationships between the main concepts of environmental psychology: environmental psychology, environmental consciousness, environmental behavior, environmental communication, and environmental education. The obtained results are shown in Fig. 3.

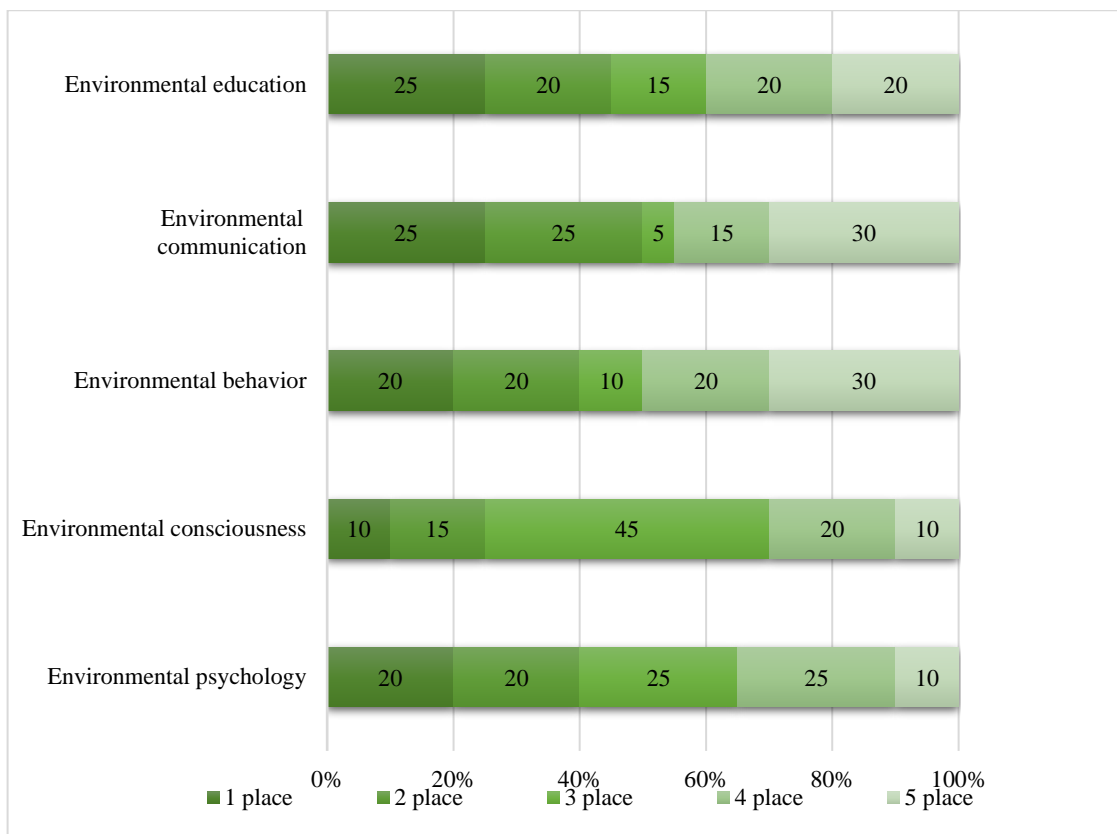


Fig. 3. Results of the test "Determining the Perception of Environmental Threats through the Understanding of the Basic Concepts of Environmental Psychology" when establishing the sequence and interconnection of the basic concepts of environmental psychology

From the data shown in Fig. 3, the following conclusions can be drawn: the majority of respondents (25%) placed the concept of environmental psychology in the third place, but 20% of respondents placed it in the first or the second place. This shows that many respondents understand that environmental psychology has an important place in the system of concepts, but not everyone is sure of its exact placement. The majority of respondents (45%) placed the concept of environmental consciousness in the third place. 20% of respondents placed it in the second place. This shows that some respondents understand the importance of environmental consciousness, but not all of them see it as a basis for other concepts. 30% of respondents placed the concept of environmental behavior in the fifth place. 20% of respondents placed it in the first or the second place. This shows that respondents distinguish environmental behavior from other concepts, but not everyone understands its special importance. 30% of respondents placed the concept of environmental communication in the fifth place. 25% of respondents placed it in the first or the second place. This shows that respondents understand the importance of environmental communication, but not everyone is sure of its exact place in the system of concepts. 25% of respondents placed the concept of environmental education in the first place. However, 20% of respondents placed it in the second place. This shows that some respondents understand the importance of environmental education, but not all of them understand its role in the interrelationship with other concepts.

In general, the obtained data show that the study participants distributed the concepts of environmental psychology, environmental consciousness, environmental behavior, environmental communication, and environmental education differently. This may indicate different levels of awareness and perception of the connections between these concepts among the participants.

Conclusions. The study focused on the conscious perception of environmental threats and the role of environmental psychology in the formation of environmental consciousness. The theoretical part of the article examines the basic concepts of environmental psychology, such as environmental psychology, environmental consciousness, environmental behavior, environmental communication, and environmental education. It was found that these concepts have an important interrelationship and determine various aspects of perception and reaction to environmental problems.

The experimental part of the article was based on testing, where the participants were offered questions related to understanding the basic concepts of environmental psychology. The results of the test showed that the level of understanding of these concepts among the participants was different. Some concepts, such as environmental psychology and environmental consciousness, were less clear to most respondents. At the same time, other concepts, such as environmental behavior and environmental education, were better understood by them.

In general, the study highlights the importance of developing environmental consciousness and understanding the concepts of environmental psychology for more effective implementation of environmental behavior and communication. The results of the testing serve as a basis for further research and development of the programs aimed at increasing the level of conscious perception of environmental threats and changing behavior.

The test data indicate the need for increased efforts in the formation of environmental consciousness and education, and are intended to encourage further research to identify factors that influence the understanding of environmental concepts. The results can be used to develop programs and interventions aimed at improving the perception and consciousness of environmental threats among the public.

Prospects for further research. Insufficient understanding of the concepts of environmental psychology, environmental consciousness, environmental communication, and the need for environmental education may indicate the limited consciousness of environmental issues and their impact on our environment.

This reflects the need for further research and work on the formation of environmental consciousness. By understanding the interrelationship between the concepts of environmental psychology, environmental consciousness, environmental behavior, environmental communication and environmental education, it is possible to contribute to the formation of the deep understanding of environmental problems and to contribute to changing behavior and perception of environmental threats.

In the future, based on the obtained data, it is possible to analyze the factors that can influence the understanding of environmental concepts. These can be factors related to education, social environment, media, etc. Analysis of such factors can help identify the causes of limited understanding and identify ways to improve conscious perception of environmental threats.

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