

Early Development in Environmental Values Through Ecopedagogy in Primary Education

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ABSTRACT

This study addresses the importance of ecopedagogy as a tool to foster environmental values in primary education, responding to the current ecological crisis. Inspired by Freire's critical thinking, ecopedagogy promotes a dialogic and ethical education that connects students with nature, strengthening their commitment to sustainability. The objective was to analyze how ecopedagogy fosters the early development of environmental values in primary education, integrating meaningful experiences, curricular cross-curricular approaches, and ethical approaches. Methodologically: A qualitative integrative documentary review was conducted, consulting databases such as Scopus, Web of Science, and ERIC (2014-2025). Empirical and theoretical studies relevant to primary education were selected, using inclusion criteria such as relevance to environmental values and school applicability. The thematic synthesis codified concepts such as emotional bonding, curricular integration, and active methodologies. The findings highlight that direct experiences with nature (gardens, field trips) strengthen ecological awareness, according to Chawla (1998) and Sobel (2004). Curricular transversality, supported by Sauvé (2005) and UNESCO (2017), consolidates values by integrating sustainability into all areas. Methodologies such as service-learning (Freire, 1970; Gadotti, 2000) transform values into habits. Collado et al. (2020) show increases in environmental attitudes, although behaviors require explicit strategies. Monem (2024) emphasizes the importance of global approaches for planetary citizenship. The author concluded: Ecopedagogy is effective in developing environmental values through meaningful experiences, curricular integration, and critical perspectives. It is recommended that teacher training and school culture be strengthened to sustain these values.

Descriptors: Training, Early, Values, Environmentalists, Ecopedagogy, Education, Primary

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