

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY - AS A CRITERION FOR IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION

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<https://doi.org/10.37602/IJSSMR.2023.6211>

ABSTRACT

The article deals with the problem of environmental safety - a specific criterion for improving the environmental situation. The role and importance of ecological capital in the context of ecological safety are analyzed. The main directions and prospects of the ecological society are explored in connection with alternative concepts of the ecological paradigm. The socio-philosophical aspects of state policy in this area are covered by studying the main factors that characterize environmental risk and ways to eliminate them.

Keywords: safety, ecological safety, "risk society", ecological society, ecological capital, ecological modernization, state policy in the field of ecological safety, alternatives, ecological paradigm.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

One of the main objects of human knowledge for centuries is nature. Nature is the main and inseparable partner of man, his home, and place of residence. Throughout human history, no matter how its priorities and needs change, nature remains the main source and generator of life. In the period of pre-industrial society, the explanation of natural phenomena and the surrounding world was carried out through the deification of nature. The understanding of nature as the highest divine force dictated a careful and respectful attitude towards it. This attitude to the environment, according to the sociologist and philosopher O. Comte, continued throughout the entire theological stage of the development of society [1].

Further historical development shows that society's attention is more and more focused on the field of scientific knowledge and experimental development of nature. F. Bacon's ideas about experimental violence and man's domination over nature predetermined the modern attitude of society to the environment [2]. Considering nature as a guaranteed condition for productive activity, the resulting economic growth was accompanied by a utilitarian, brutal attitude towards nature.

Today, no one doubts that the first and strongest blow to the environment was given by the developed countries (USA and Canada, Western Europe, Japan). The development of the economy of these countries required a lot of resources, including natural resources. Industrial growth of developed countries since the beginning of the 20th century By the 1950s, it had increased 30 times. It went along with the development of energy, automotive, and

petrochemical industries, the creation of large industries, and the growth of complex transport and communication systems. All this, of course, led to large-scale pollution of the environment [3].

The new stage of environmental problems is explained by the fact that, as a result of the intensive use of natural resources by developed countries, their well-being has become a criterion for developing countries. The colonial past of many developing countries has shaped the nature of their economies. They are primarily resource-producing countries, and their significant backwardness in science and technology has forced them to specialize in energy- and natural-resource-intensive industries that produce large amounts of waste. Thus, the developing countries were in conditions of much stricter environmental constraints than those faced during the formation of industrial and post-industrial.

In the long run, the main challenge for developing countries will be to achieve economic growth. Developing economies cannot escape poverty and destitution without the rapid consumption of natural resources. As a result, pressure on natural resources has been steadily increasing due to extensive activities.

The preservation of oil reserves, depletion of the ozone layer as a result of excessive emissions of carbon dioxide and methane, climate warming, etc., have become especially relevant for the world community. The idea of increasing environmental tensions began to take shape in the early 1970s. The topics of limiting the limits of growth and finding ways of sustainable development are becoming the most relevant among scientists, public figures and government officials. At the UN Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Convention on Environment and Development was approved, which calls for sustainable development by limiting essential needs to ensure the normal life of future generations [4].

2.0 LITERATURE ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY

Although it does not provide common solutions to environmental problems for every country, the convention raises doubts among many scholars about achieving a balance of development and equity in providing opportunities for different countries. According to some researchers, "the concept of sustainable development, which requires rational and ecologically appropriate rates of development, has turned out to be a euphemism for non-development for non-Western countries. Thus, taking into account the development prospects of the world economic system, it can be said that the vector of environmental threats is moving from the USA and Western Europe to the Asia-Pacific region [5].

In modern science, the concept of "social risks" is interpreted very broadly. From an economic point of view, this means the loss of a source of income due to various circumstances, and in the social sphere, the possibility of a worsening of the social situation, and loss of social status. By social risk, we understand the possibility of an external negative impact on society and human well-being, damage to physical and emotional health, or a change of a person's usual social status.

Long-term human activity "against nature" creates a potentially disastrous state of ecological, social, political and economic balance. The warnings of researchers about the deterioration of

the environment, the calls of scientists and public organizations to stop the "ecological chaos" do not have an adequate impact on the leaders of companies and industries, nor on the leaders of countries, which turns potential risks into risks. Underestimating environmental problems may lead to the development of the "October surprises" scenario in US forecasts [6]. Prerequisites for the development of this scenario are the predominance of the priority of economic growth in most countries, which immediately leads to a decrease in the volume of drinking water, as a result of climate change, a reduction in the food products needed by people.

The dominance of economic interests in the world, and the perception of the social system from the point of view of the economy led to the emergence of the concepts of social (social relations and trust in society), and human (knowledge and the ability of a person to develop). Initially, these terms were introduced by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and were used in sociology as a metaphor that complements the economic concept of capital. With their help, the economic centralization of the neoliberal concept, widespread in the 20th century, is replaced by the recognition of the importance of social, human, cultural and political spheres of society. "At the present time, the global aggravation of the environmental situation has become a factor determining the compromise nature of international socio-political relations and the directions of cooperation, requiring the prioritization of the principles of compromise and tolerance in the environmental policy of various countries, and the political technology for their implementation is being formed" [7].

Ecological capital is the rational use of natural resources, the creation of environmentally friendly productions and the preservation of human health. The concept of "ecological capital" is extremely important today due to the rapid economic growth of many countries and the lack of resources, as well as the risk of resource loss due to the threat of climate change [8].

Following E. Toffler, who divided the history of society into three stages of development according to the principle of the dominant production method (agrarian, industrial and post-industrial), we can assume that in the context of the problem under consideration [9]. The next stage of society's development will be the ecological stage ("ecological society").

This article used scientific research methods such as analysis and synthesis, comparative analysis, systematic functional and retrospective approach.

3.0 DISCUSSION

The issue of ecological society worries many Western scientists (B. Commoner, M. Bookchin, B. Ward, J. McHale, etc.). M. Bukchin writes that the main feature of ecological society should be responsible and careful management of nature: "Ecological society organized around confederal communes, each of which is organized according to the ecosystem and bioregion in which it is located" [10]. At the same time, each country should look for its own way of development, adhering to the common goal of achieving an ecological society. O. N. Yanitsky calls the way to achieve an ecological society "ecological modernization" [11]. At the same time, "ecological modernization should be a common channel for the development of any human activity, including sociology, and therefore should be comprehensively developed, modeled and implemented." Yanitsky calls the way to an ecological society "ecomodernization".

An ecological society should strive for the purity of production and life. However, this does not mean that humanity should give up comforts and various privileges, in which case new risks and dangers will appear and the usual system of the whole life will be disturbed. Great efforts of science, society and technology are required to create mutually favorable conditions for man and nature. We follow the ideas of D. Bell, Z. Brzezinski, S. Lindsay, E. Robinson, who believe that technology and science create breakthroughs and achieve success.

In the context of an ecological society, environmental capital can be considered as a basic and structural element, because it:

- relatively isolated and independent;
- confirms the value of nature (just like social capital - the importance of society and social relations, human - the value of individual development and education, cultural - recognition of the leading role of culture, economic
- the fundamental importance of economic capital), the main thing in it is nature;
- Convertible like other types of capital.

The considered model of society recognizes the unconditional priority of environmental capital over all types of capital. "Ecological society", in our opinion, is the antipode of "risk society".

To achieve the desired green production, governments need to invest heavily in the development and future deployment of clean technologies. If developing countries are forced to adopt "dirty" but cheaper production and technologies, only developed countries can afford it. The best solution to this problem will be international environmental aid, because absolutely all countries are interested in improving the environmental situation. The backwardness of the third world countries frustrates the efforts of the leaders, and the "risk society" does not stop.

Environmental hazards can be caused by both natural causes and human activities. Undoubtedly, the risk arises when human activity is reasonable in relation to nature and the idea of consumption prevails in society, and producers of products and services are oriented towards maximizing profits. Ecology is increasingly becoming a source of social risks that lead to undesirable consequences for society in the form of morbidity, mortality, death of people and a decrease in their quality of life. The object of social risk is no longer small social groups, but the whole society. One of the possible options for the development of society, in our opinion, is the formation of an "ecological society" based on responsible environmental management, restoration and preservation of the planet's ecosystem.

The European Union has announced a "green deal" with the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050. However, we are still lagging behind the Paris targets in the fight against climate change globally. Carbon emission rates have only significantly decreased with the economic contraction paralleling the COVID-19 process. The progress of the fight against climate change in the post-COVID-19 era will be directly related to the steps taken by decision-makers towards sustainability to eliminate the positive correlation between carbon emissions and economic growth.

Environmental security is one of the concepts related to environmental protection and reduction of environmental risks. It is a way of protecting ourselves from environmental threats and makes us dependent on all environments in which humans live.

Environmental safety has become a very important point in the development of cities, countries, companies and society as a whole. Environmental security is the provision of vital interests of man and society, protection of the environment from threats that threaten it as a result of anthropogenic and natural influences [12].

The social attitude to environmental problems, which is the objective law of the development of society (regardless of its political totalitarianism or subjective-voluntarism), and its international environmental political relations are clearly visible at the level of globalization. Therefore, the modernization and global transformation of the heritage of ecological national historical values in the interests of the universal civilization has nothing in common with orthodox-conservatism and nihilism. If we evaluate them with this criterion, "the isolation of traditions and nations will appear, which can lead to totalitarianism or authoritarianism" [13].

A turning point in the history of the environment occurred in the 1980s, when the idea of environmental security, which includes social, economic and human elements, began to gain popularity. Later, in the 1990s, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) introduced the concept of "human rights" for the first time as part of the broader concept of human rights. In other words, people have the right to a healthy environment in which they can live in harmony [14].

Environmental safety is one of the priority areas of state policy, and state programs adopted for this purpose are an important document in ensuring environmental safety.

The main directions of the state policy in the field of ensuring environmental safety as an integral part of human, society and state security are as follows:

- 1.1. Ensuring the priority of environmental safety in the formulation and implementation of the country's development strategy;
- 1.2. Development of international cooperation in order to ensure environmental security at the global, regional and local levels;
- 1.3. Creating a system to ensure that the biosphere and all its components are kept in an environmentally safe environment for human life and activity;
- 1.4. Ensuring coordinated activities of state and local self-government bodies on the territory of the country, including the part of the Aral Sea (lake) belonging to the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- 1.5. Development and consistent implementation of measures to prevent a dangerous and emergency environmental situation, including its consequences that may affect future generations;

1.6. Regulation of economic and other activities affecting the environment in terms of ensuring environmental safety.

1.7. Regulation of the level of vibration and noise pollution that adversely affects the environment and human health.

According to the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On approval of the general technical regulation on ecological safety", "Environmental safety requirements are defined and mandatory requirements for the prevention of environmental damage" [15].

The environmental situation in our country is the direction of the environmental security policy. Every country, including Uzbekistan, pays special attention to environmental protection. Decisions made on ecology, a number of regulatory documents are the basis for saying so. In recent years, certain works have been carried out in Uzbekistan in terms of environmental protection and solving environmental problems. The effectiveness of work in this regard is giving its positive results.

Another concept within the ecological paradigm is the concept of an alternative civilization. According to the creators of this concept, it is possible to achieve a high quality of life within the framework of an alternative civilization focused on qualitative and not quantitative growth. Changes in the conditions, principles and meanings of existence. I.V. Bestujev-Lada defines an alternative civilization as "low-energy (in terms of energy efficiency), highly sustainable (in terms of humanity-based global rebalancing), ecologically clean, completely disarmed and truly humane" [16]. Here Yu.Shodimetov said: "Social ecology is not just a field that investigates a number of practical problems, but is a unified science about the laws and methods of socio-natural relations, the rules and methods of first facilitating and then coordinating the interaction of humanity and the environment" [17] his opinion is noteworthy.

Modern society, according to "alternativeists", is an unbalanced society in which fuel and energy, material and raw materials, food, transport, trade, environmental, demographic, economic, housing, education, military and other balances are broken. According to proponents of alternative civilizations, the growing gap between developed and developing countries has become another scourge of the post-industrial world. "Alternatives" pay great attention to the problem of improving the quality of life in developing countries. They believe that the reason for their low quality of life is the increase in population. Proponents of alternativeism offer various ways to improve the quality of life. Among them: use of the latest technical inventions, strengthening of urbanization processes, provision of education and labor, administrative policy.

4.0 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the quality of life within the framework of the ecological approach means not only the creation of conditions in which the environment is not damaged, but the question of the existence of a person as a bio psychosocial being is not raised. Necessary natural resources are preserved for future generations to live. Supporters of the ecological approach believe that economic growth that does not correspond to the laws of nature will lead to the depletion of

the resource base, the destruction of the natural environment, and the death of humanity. They see the way out of the situation in restoring the broken balance between nature and man.

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