Building awareness of environmental protection among university students in Vietnam

**Introduction.** For environmental protection activities in Vietnam to be effective, a prerequisite is that the participants, including students, must have a high awareness of environmental protection. The article analyzes the current situation and proposes ample fundamental solutions to build awareness of environmental protection for students in Vietnamese universities. The object of this study is to build the awareness of protecting the natural environment among university students in Vietnam.

**Research methods.** This study uses the method of dialectical materialism and historical materialism of Marxism – Leninism as the most general methodology. In addition, other specific methods are also used such as: Method of abstraction, generalization; Methods of document analysis; Methods of sociological investigation; Methods of investigation and interview. Data were processed using SPSS statistical software.

**Results.** Knowledge of environmental science and environmental protection has a great and necessary role, is an indispensable factor, and is the key for each individual to step into the future life. **Firstly,** students have learned scientific knowledge about the environment, environmental protection, and laws on environmental protection through the following channels such as educational activities at school account for 71.9%; television channels account for 9.92. **Secondly,** in regard of fostering and developing students’ feelings, beliefs, spirits, aspirations, and desires for environmental protection that 71.9% of students answered that they love the poetic and majestic beauty of nature, love the homeland, love the country and Vietnamese people. **Thirdly,** regarding the formation of students’ attitudes toward environmental protection, that 87.64% of students responded with great interest and 4.44% of students were concerned with the depletion of natural resources, pollution, environmental crisis, climate change, drought, and saltwater intrusion of the country and the locality. Finally, concerning students’ actions in environmental protection, that 87.08% of students confirmed that they will participate in planting trees and will voluntarily comply with regulations on hygiene and environmental protection. They should act together “for the green of the homeland”.

**Practical significance.** This study provided a scientific evidence for the Education and Training sector in planning environmental education awareness programs for students – the future owners of the country. The topic can be used as a reliable reference in research, teaching, learning and practical direction around the education of environmental protection consciousness for university students in Vietnam today.

**Keywords:** awareness, environmental protection, Vietnam, students

**For Reference:**
Introduction

The 1987 Moscow Environmental Conference co-organized by UNEP and UNESCO concluded on the importance of environmental education: without improving public understanding of the intimate relationships between environmental quality with a continuous supply of items to meet their growing needs, it will be difficult to reduce environmental hazards locally as well as globally. Because, people's actions depend on their motivation and this motivation depends on their own awareness and level of understanding. Therefore, environmental education is an indispensable means to help people understand the environment.

The UN also has launched the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) (2005-2014) triggered a global movement to reorient education to address the challenges of sustainable development. As the lead for the UN Decade on ESD (2005-2014), UNESCO has laid the foundations for ESD implementation around the world. The extensive partnerships and networks and strong political commitments built throughout the Decade have created a broad consensus that quality education in the twenty-first century means learning how to live and work sustainably.

During the 35 years of the economic renovation period, Vietnam has achieved many great achievements. The Vietnamese people’s well-being has improved significantly, and Vietnamese society has been gradually transforming from backward agricultural production to modern production. However, besides the achieved results, the negative side of economic growth has had a strong impact on the relationship among people and especially the relationship between people and the natural world with both positive and negative impacts. Therefore, the Communist Party of Vietnam is well aware: “Environmental protection is a vital issue of the country, humanity and a task of profound social nature, associated with the struggles for poverty reduction in each country, for peace and social progress on a worldwide scale” [1]. The 12th National Congress of the Party considers the protection of the natural environment both a content and an objective of sustainable development. One of the country’s development orientations for the period of 2020-2030, the 13th National Congress: “To proactively and effectively respond to climate change, mitigate natural disasters, prevent and fight against disease outbreaks; to manage, exploit and use natural resources in an economic, efficient and sustainable manner; to consider the protection of human health and the environment as the most important goal; to resolutely eliminate projects that cause environmental pollution in order to safeguard the quality of the living environment and protect biodiversity and ecosystems; to build a circular green economy, circular and environmentally friendly economy” [2].

Furthermore, the reality evidence elucidates that because of the unconsciousness of people in different classes in general and students in particular, the current natural environment has been severely damaged causing ample natural disasters for human beings. Unfortunately, one of the important and effective solutions in both the short term and long term is to build awareness of environmental protection among people in different classes, especially students - the future owners of the country have not been got deserved attention. Protecting the environment also means protecting our lives. Therefore, building awareness of environmental protection for students not only has an immediate impact on today’s generation but also has a long-term impact on the future.
The analysis of secondary documents and survey results of university students in Vietnam, about the feelings, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors regarding environmental protection, has suggested numerous dramatic solutions for building awareness of environmental protection for university students in Vietnam.

Research methods

In this study, the survey area focuses on lecturers and students of universities in Vietnam. The article takes the method of dialectical materialism and historical materialism of Marxism-Leninism as the theoretical basis. On that basis, we conducted a search for a number of document resources by K. Marx, F. Engels, and Ho Chi Minh on the relationship between humans and nature in social development; Documents of the Party Congress, Resolutions and Directives of the Party and State; Dissertations, scientific articles, books, documents published in journals concerning education about awareness of environmental protection among Vietnamese students to analyze and draw necessary secondary data information of the topics. At the same time, in order to clarify the practicality as well as collect primary data, we carried out a survey and sociological investigation among university students in Vietnam to discover the characteristics and the nature of the research object related to the content of the topic. The data were processed using SPSS Statistics Software. To analyze and evaluate the results and limitations in building students' awareness of environmental protection, the author's team conducted a questionnaire and survey of 4840 students and 446 lecturers at universities in Vietnam.

In summary, with the method of dialectical materialism and the method of comparison, analysis and synthesis, the author analyzes the construction of environmental protection consciousness among Vietnamese university students in Vietnam today; thereby showing the value of building environmental protection awareness among Vietnamese university students in Vietnam today.

Literature review

Overview of environment and environmental protection

Environmental Crimes, Profiting at the Earth’s Expense, the author mentions a wide range of illegal activities in the logging and trade of timber, and wildlife; exploiting aquatic products; trading in substances that deplete the ozone layer; transporting chemicals and hazardous waste; trading in genetically modified organisms and genetic material. The above illegal activities can lead to environmental depression, affecting sustainable development, product management, security work, the strictness of legal institutions, and the economy of countries, markets, society, and local communities [5]. Stuart Bell, Environmental Law - The Law and Policy relating to the protection of the Environment, Blackstone Press Limited. Aldine London. The author of the book proves that environmental policy is the concretization of each country’s Law on Environmental Protection and International Conventions on the environment. Each administrative level has its own environmental policies. It not only concretizes the laws and policies of administrators but also takes into account local characteristics. The rightness and success of policies at the sub-national level play an important role in ensuring the success of policies at the central level [6].
Nowadays, environmental protection is not only a call but “a vital issue of the country, humanity, and a task of profound social nature, associated with the struggles to hunger elimination and reduce poverty in each country, for peace and social progress on a worldwide scale” [1]. Environmental protection is the right and obligation of every organization, every family, and everyone. It is an expression of a cultural and ethical lifestyle, an important criterion of a civilized society, and a continuation of the tradition of loving nature, and living in harmony with nature.

In our opinion, protecting the environment means protecting all necesseties so that the environment can both meet the requirements of the present generation and meet the living demand of future generations and for the sustainable development of people and human society.

In order to have the right awareness of environmental protection, it is necessary that people first have the understanding and ability to consciously act. According to the concept of Marxist-Leninist philosophy, consciousness is a special product of human interaction and objective reality. Consciousness is formed and developed through labor and language, whose source directly determining the existence and development of consciousness is a social reality. K. Marx and F. Engels stated that “Consciousness can never be anything else than conscious existence, and the existence of men is their actual life-process” [7]. The problem that has been discussed, is what the consciousness of environmental protection is, whether it is a form of social consciousness and how it manifests in the practice of social life.

Educating students with an awareness of environmental protection is to equip them with knowledge so that students have the correct and complete awareness of the position and role of humans in relation to nature. Humans are both subjects of the physical and social world, and at the same time a particular part of the natural world, formed by the laws of that evolution. Meanwhile, in order to survive and develop, human beings literally could not lose their connection with the environment.

Education aimed at building students’ awareness of environmental protection is a reflection of the purpose of education with appropriate content, methods, forms, and means to equip them with knowledge about the impacts of the role of the environment on humans and vice versa. In addition, the purpose is to propagate and update information, legal documents, guidelines and policies of the Party and State, and measures to protect the environment. Recognizing the importance of the natural ecological environment for human life, people have had a self-conscious attitude and actively act to protect the environment, participate in age-appropriate activities to protect the living environment of the community and society, and fight against acts, causing environmental pollution.

The current environmental challenges in Vietnam

The country’s renovation process has been gradually transforming backward agricultural production into modern production, and the Vietnamese people’s well-being has improved significantly. However, we have to admit that economic development has seriously affected the living environment, be it destroying the ecosystem and a number of rich agricultural land areas, some areas of desertification, being inundated by salt water, and seriously damaging people’s survival and development.

In Vietnam, each year, more than 2,000 projects are subject to environmental impact assessment reports; there are 297 industrial parks with more than 550,000m³ of wastewater/per day; there are 615 industrial blocks, and only about 5% of these have centralized wastewater treatment systems. Among more than 500,000 operating
manufacturing factories, there are numerous types of products that have caused environmental pollution and outdated production technology. In addition, there are 787 urban areas with 3 million m³ of wastewater/per day, but most of them are untreated. The worst situation is that each year people in the country use more than 100,000 tons of plant protection chemicals, generate more than 23 million tons of domestic waste, more than 7 million tons of industrial solid waste, and more than 630,000 tons of waste, leading to the widespread and significantly severe polluted environment [8]. Dead rivers not only lead to the extermination of formerly rich agricultural lands but also destroy aquaculture areas. Hence, the present and future generations will suffer extremely severe consequences. F. Engels said that “We should not be too proud of our victories over nature” [9]. It is the effects on the natural environment that make us ponder.

**Perspectives of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on building students’ awareness of environmental protection**

The environment is the part of the earth that surrounds human beings [3]. According to Article 3 of the Vietnam’s Law on Environmental Protection 2020, “Environment is a system of natural and man-made material factors that have an impact on the existence and development of humans and organisms” [4]. The environment is all the surrounding conditions affecting the life, production, survival, and development of people, society, and nature.

Recognizing the importance of environmental protection for the country’s sustainable development, the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have issued many guidelines and policies on environmental protection. Environment protection, including Directive No. 36-CT/TW on strengthening environmental protection in the period of industrialization and modernization of the country; Resolution No. 41-NQ/TW on strengthening environmental protection in the period of accelerating industrialization and modernization of the country; Directive No. 29-CT/TW on continuing to accelerate the implementation of Resolution 41-NQ/TW of the Politburo; The 2013 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam stipulates: “Everyone has the right to live in a healthy environment and an obligation to protect the environment” [10]. Continuing the spirit of the previous congresses, the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam emphasized: “Taking protection of the living environment and people’s health as the most important goal” [2], “Resolving harmoniously the relationship between economic growth and environmental protection” [2]. The national environmental protection strategy for 2020, with a vision to 2030, advocates including climate change in the content of environmental education at all education levels in the national education and training system; expanding training majors on the environment, in which priority is given to training majors with great demand in society; developing a set of environmental communication materials and textbooks suitable for each specific audience.

Thoroughly grasping the guidelines and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, following the spirit of previous years, the Ministry of Education and Training has issued many guiding documents for universities in Vietnam. study, research institute. Research institutes, pedagogical colleges under the Ministry of Education and Training, and the Department of Education develop environmental protection plans.
Means of building awareness of environmental protection among university students in Vietnam

During the lifetime of President Ho Chi Minh, he always paid special attention to students. To him, whether Vietnam would stand proudly as equals to major powers of the five continents, are much predicated upon the merits of learning, “the promotion of the glorious tradition of our nation, making a worthy contribution to the renovation work” [11]. Therefore, not only it is necessary to equip students with scientific knowledge and life skills but also the awareness of environmental protection to meet the development requirements of our country.

The transmission, formation, and improvement of creative capacity, professional qualifications, and life skills, and building awareness of environmental protection for students are the most important to encourage the enthusiasm of youth for the national construction and defense.

Building awareness of environmental protection among university students is necessary not only for the goal of comprehensive education of the future generation but also for spreading awareness in the community about environmental protection to behave civilly with the environment. As a result, there are the better and more useful environment, and the amiable relationship between people and the natural world.

Protecting the environment also means protecting our lives. In order to the act of protecting the environment effectively and deeply, building awareness of environmental protection has a special meaning.

Building awareness of environmental protection has an remarkable contribution to raising students’ awareness of environmental ethics, principles and standards. Therefore, students can be able to self-regulate their behavior, and break bad habits, which have affected nature and environment. Simultaneously, students should contribute to spreading good virtues in the community such as love for nature, respect, preservation and protection of the environment, and living in harmony and friendliness with nature. It contributes to the training of students to be knowledgeable and virtuous person, who has both heart and vision, live and work in accordance with the Constitution and laws, contributing their efforts to turning Vietnam into a modern industrialized country.

Accordingly, students are fully equipped with scientific knowledge about the environment and environmental protection, which means that more than 15% of the population has a profound and sufficient understanding about the environment and environmental protection. This number will be multiplied many times if students know how to propagate environmental protection in the community. Building awareness of environmental protection for students not only has an immediate impact on today’s generation but will also have a long-term impact in the future. It is one of the necessary solutions to change awareness, raise and develop students’ feelings, beliefs, spirit, vigor, aspirations, attitudes, and civilized and friendly behavior toward the environment, thereafter have perseverance in protecting the environment in both theoretical and practical significance.

Research results

Initially, equipping students with knowledge about the environment and environmental protection in universities in Vietnam is of particular interest. Knowledge of environmental science and environmental protection has a great and necessary role, is an indispensable
factor, and is the key for each individual to step into the future life. Survey results showed that students have learned scientific knowledge about the environment, environmental protection, and laws on environmental protection through the following channels such as educational activities at school account for 71.9%; television channels account for 9.92%; books, newspapers, and the internet with 10.74%.

In order to assess the level of awareness about the role of the environment in human life by conducting a random survey of 4,840 university students in Vietnam. That most students stated that the environment plays a significant role in human life, accounting for 82.64%. It can be seen that education and building awareness of environmental protection among university students in Vietnam are taken seriously.

In order to evaluate the level of students’ awareness and the accurate and sufficient understanding of the relationship between humans and the natural environment, the authors conducted a survey among university students in Vietnam. As a result, demonstrated that 87% of students perceived that humans and the natural environment have a harmonious relationship and interact with each other. Simultaneously, students also understand that the current problem of natural resource depletion and environmental pollution is not caused by the environment itself, but is the result of people’s unconscious activities.

Secondly, in regard of fostering and developing students’ feelings, beliefs, spirits, aspirations, and desires for environmental protection, the results in gave information that 71.9% of students answered that they love the poetic and majestic beauty of nature, love the homeland, love the country and Vietnamese people, 12.5% of students responded that they were touched by the poetic and majestic beauty of nature and 7.4% of students answered that they love animals and plants.

Thirdly, regarding the formation of students’ attitudes toward environmental protection, showed that 87.64% of students responded with great interest and 4.44% of students were concerned with the depletion of natural resources, pollution, environmental crisis, climate change, drought, and saltwater intrusion of the country and the locality.

The results indicated that 71.07% of students have the courage to fight, criticize and prevent actions that have affected the environment, and to change consumer attitudes in daily life, using eco-friendly bags instead of plastic bags, saving electricity and water included.

Finally, concerning students’ actions in environmental protection, the results in indicated that 87.08% of students confirmed that they will participate in planting trees and will voluntarily comply with regulations on hygiene and environmental protection; propagating and mobilizing all people to participate in activities on environmental protection and not to litter indiscriminately, not to dump domestic wastewater into streets and public places, not to hunt rare animals, not to destroy forests, not burn forests for farming. They should act together “for the green of the homeland”, save electricity and water by turning off the lights before going to bed, leaving the room, after school, and locking the water valve after using it.

According to the survey results of university students in Vietnam, when asked about the student’s level of understanding of environmental ethics (the relationship between people and nature, nature with humans, nature with nature, and human to human), 76.86% of students answered that environmental ethics adjust the relationship between human and nature, 4.13% stated that environmental ethics adjust the relationship between nature and humans; 19.01% responded that environmental ethics adjust the relationship between human to human. It proves that students are not only interested in environmental ethics, but more importantly, they have adjusted ethical behavior for the environment, which is legal for environmental protection.
Although we have built awareness of environmental protection among university students, 7.44% of students have not actively discovered scientific knowledge about the environment, environmental protection, and the laws on environmental protection through the activities of education in academic institutions, 9.9% of students stated that humans dominate and exploit nature, 2.84% of students thought that humans and the natural environment have no relationship, 11.57% of students were afraid to fight and criticize, 9.92% of students were apathetic, and 7.44% of students were still neutral, indifferent to the action of destroying the ecosystem, and the environment.

Some students lack awareness and are not self-disciplined in studying and practicing environmental protection behaviors and skills, considering environmental content and environmental protection as sub-parts, and not taking the exam. In addition, the negative features of the market economy have made most people run after money, putting economic interests first.

Academic institutions have not innovated their teaching methods and procedures for forming an awareness of environmental protection for students. According to the investigated results, 11.21% of the lecturers answered that they were overloaded and tired with the syllabus of building awareness of environmental protection, 9.86% of lecturers recognized that the contents of the teaching program are still academically, and 4.93% of lecturers answered that the contents lack focus.

In order to analyze and evaluate the behavior of students, the author conducted a survey of 4840 students at universities in Vietnam. If you were caught dumping trash in the wrong place at school, which of the following behaviors would you choose? The survey results, showed that 80.17% of students choose the behavior of reminding, giving suggestions, and guiding their friends to throw away garbage in the right place, 6.61% of students would report it to the lecturers so that lecturers, the School Union, and the Student Union can handle that person, and 2.48% of students would report it to the government. Thus, the majority of students have a sense of responsibility, showing a sense of responsibility in protecting the environment and correcting behavior.

The Law on Environmental Protection is not strong enough to deter, and sanctions are too light for illegal acts on environmental protection. Therefore, businesses and people have intentionally violated and acted irresponsibly. In addition, the sense of respecting and strictly implementing the guidelines of the Party, laws, and policies of the State on raising students' awareness of environmental protection has not been thoroughly comprehended to create a spread among the tutors who work to build students' awareness of environmental protection.

Students are the object of education about environmental protection awareness of schools, families and social organizations. Therefore, it is necessary to create conditions for them to develop comprehensively and become useful citizens for society. In order to build a close and unifying relationship between people, society and the natural world, it is necessary to take the young generation as a bridge and regularly maintain and ensure this relationship in the education of the young generation.

Besides, the authors agree with Ho Chi Minh's point of view that humanity always cares about the good side of young people, setting a good example of daily action for the environment for everyone to follow. Ho Chi Minh is always interested in protecting the ecological environment, launching the Tet tree planting movement, he said: "Every good person, every good deed is a beautiful flower, our whole country is a beautiful flower forest". Following the example of a good person, doing good deeds to educate each other daily is
one of the best ways to protect everyone's common home. in each example of good people, good deeds for an environmentally friendly world, and at the same time showing the love of nature for the young generation of Vietnam in particular and the world in general.

Discussion and recommendation

Building a sense of environmental protection for students not only has a short-term impact on today's generation, but will have a long-term impact in the future. Therefore, in order to promote the positive aspects and limitations in environmental protection, we must simultaneously implement the following basic solutions:

The first solution is to build students’ awareness of environmental protection according to Ho Chi Minh’s thoughts on the environment and environmental protection.

President Ho Chi Minh affirmed that the environment is the place where humans were born. This is the basis and indispensable condition for people to maintain their existence. The relationship between humans and nature is the basis for realizing a rich people and a strong country [12]. Humans impact on nature is not a blind influence, indiscriminately, but has to be based on scientific knowledge, have a full, deep, and correct understanding of the environment, protect the environment and act in accordance with objective regulations. There is a saying that “the world today is making giant steps in terms of human knowledge. Natural science, as well as social science, are constantly opening new horizons, people are increasingly mastering nature, as well as mastering society and of themselves” [13] so it is necessary to study hard. Because of having the basis of a correct, complete, and profound understanding of nature, humans can conquer nature.

Currently, in the process of accelerating the industrialization and modernization of the country, our country has become an industrial country, but we are also facing challenges due to the negative side of the process of industrialization and modernization. It is very meaningful to study and follow Ho Chi Minh’s thoughts on environmental protection in the current environmental situation of our country. Specifically, it is important to build awareness of environmental protection for all people in general, and for students in particular. Because environmental protection not only requires high determination of the entire Party and citizens but also has to come from a complete theoretical foundation and is close to the current situation of Vietnam. Ho Chi Minh’s thought on environmental protection is the most complete and realistic foundation under the situation of our country because the philosophy in his thought is the philosophy of action for people, for the environment, and for the love of nature.

The problem of environmental pollution and climate change is becoming more and more complicated and unpredictable. Ho Chi Minh’s thoughts on the environment and environmental protection and environmental improvement are increasingly valuable in theory and practice. It is a guideline for the sustainable development of our country in the period of industrialization in the direction of modernity. We need to be aware that the responsibility to protect the environment belongs to the entire Party and citizens. It is necessary to strengthen the awareness of environmental protection for the people in general and students in particular according to Ho Chi Minh’s thoughts on environmental protection for the development of the present and future generations. President Ho Chi Minh has outlined for us the most complete scientific worldview, dialectical methodology, and human view in dealing with the relationship between environmental protection and
socio-economic development – a sustainable society. Therefore, students are an important resource of the country and the future owners of the country. They should study and follow Ho Chi Minh’s thoughts on environmental protection, to meet the cause of industrialization and modernization of the country for making Vietnam a strong country with prosperous people and a fair, democratic, civilized society and sustainable development of the country.

**The second solution is to strengthen the role of law in building environmental protection consciousness for university students in our country today.**

In our life, ethical standards do not consistently control human behavior. When individuals cannot overcome their greed, self-interest, and selfishness, they are willing to violate the principles of environmental ethics. At this time, mandatory law is an effective enforcement to prevent acts of infringing upon the legitimate interests of others and the country. Therefore, in the process of industrialization towards modernity, strengthening the role of the law on environmental protection and building students’ awareness of environmental protection becomes an effective and compulsory tool to educate students to demonstrate good qualities for the environment, especially the spirit, sense of law, and responsibility in protecting the environment, “makes the good part of each person bloom like a flower in spring, the bad part fades away” [14-16].

In fact, in our country, there are many Vietnamese people in general and students in particular still keep the habit of living and behaving according to village rules and local customs. The understanding of the law on environmental protection of some students is still limited, they even have acts of disregard for the law, and violations of the law on environmental protection are quite common in school, in many public places and fields, affecting the socio-economic development of the country. The 6th National Congress of the Party emphasized the requirement to “build a lifestyle and follow the law, restore order and discipline” [17-19]. The 8th National Congress emphasized that it is necessary to “strongly deploy the work of disseminating, propagating and educating people about the law on environmental protection to the whole people” [20-22]. Continuing the spirit of the previous congresses, the 13th National Congress of the Party determined that it is necessary for everyone to understand that the environment plays an important role in the development of the country and the survival of the people. People with the right awareness, friendly, polite, and civilized actions toward the environment, it is essential to “strengthen propaganda and education, raise awareness, sense of responsibility and improve the efficiency of law enforcement” on resource management, environmental protection, and response to climate change” [2], helping students – the future owners of the country to comply with “living and working according to the law”, building a civilized and environmentally friendly lifestyle for the sustainable development of the home country.

**The third solution is to change in the thinking, perception, and capacity of educational subjects in building environmental protection consciousness for university students in Vietnam today.**

First of all, there is to continue to promote awareness raising - awareness of the Party Committee, the Board of Directors in building students’ awareness of environmental protection. It is necessary to have clear regulations on responsibilities, to include the principles of building students’ awareness of environmental protection into one of the standards for assessing the quality of staff and lecturers and one of the promotion criteria to appointing, classifying and rewarding lecturers. We need to strengthen the inspection, assessment, compliment, and replication of good models and initiatives. Simultaneously, it is also significant to properly discipline the school or individual lecturers who do not pay
much attention to the education of environmental protection consciousness for students through regular subjects and through extra-curricular activities. When lecturers and students realize that building awareness of environmental protection is their business and benefits themselves, the lecturers are proactive and active in building environmental awareness for students. Because of the proactive spirit, each student’s awareness of environmental protection will be gradually formed and enhanced.

Secondly, improving the capacity and skills of the Youth Union, Student Union, and Student Affairs Office of universities in Vietnam is the core force with great roles and responsibilities in building awareness of environmental protection for students. To direct activities to build students’ awareness of environmental protection, there is close and systematic coordination, requiring Youth Union, Student Union, and Student Affairs Office to have certain capabilities.

The Youth Union, Student Union, and Student Affairs Office have to consistently determine that building students’ awareness of environmental protection is one of the key missions. It is necessary to focus on propagandizing and disseminating the guidances and undertakings of the Party, the policies, and laws of the State on environmental protection to students such as “World environment day”, and “day to make the world cleaner”, “national week on clean water – sanitation”, “campaign to make the world cleaner”, “Vietnam green sea campaign”, “green schools”, and “green summer”, the campaign of “students go out to clean the environment”, etc. The message for a green Vietnam has to be diverse and rich in the form to attract a large number of students to participate and create a spillover in the social community, with the criteria “don’t rest on our laurels and achievements too long”. With the above movements, the Youth Union, Student Union, and Student Affairs Department have to consistently promote the core role of scientific research and organize competitions. They should propagate the drawbacks of using plastic bags and plastic waste on the environment and human health.

The fourth solution is to innovate contents, programs, curricula, methods, and forms of building students’ awareness of environmental protection in accordance with reality.

First of all, the content, program, and curricula are the core and fundamental elements of the teaching process, it creates the basic content of the lecturer’s teaching activities, affecting the acquisition of knowledge, and developing students’ skills. When developing content and curricula to build awareness of environmental protection through core subjects, it is initially necessary to overcome the incoherent approach at each learning level and to develop content and programs to raise awareness of environmental protection in a comprehensive and consistent manner from preschool to university. People have to select the necessary scientific content for the formation of consciousness, feelings, beliefs, desires, attitudes, behaviors, and life skills for students. Students have to learn practical knowledge, that is close to life, and well-applied when they face current environmental problems. This is a considerable necessary task, in the process of compiling content, programs, and textbooks to build students’ awareness of environmental protection in accordance with educational goals, scientific and comprehensive education.

Secondly, innovating teaching methods does not mean completely rejecting or denying traditional teaching methods, but it means giving up teaching in the style of one-way transmission, in the style of memorization – repetition. These are the huge barriers to the innovation of teaching methods at the university. Innovating teaching methods to build a sense of environmental protection for students has to also follow the basic principle of taking students at the center of the teaching process, with lecturers playing
the role of guiding and prompting, and raising the problems. This is a method that will lead to a correct awareness of the role of teachers and students, which means that we are approaching modern teaching methods. Following this method, the lecturer is not taken lightly, but they will have a great and active role in suggesting, raising problems, and orienting students to implement.

Thirdly, innovating the form of building environmental awareness for students in Vietnam today: Building students' awareness of environmental protection directly through core subjects, and lessons with complete content. In line with the educational content to raise awareness of environmental protection, the lecturer only needs to teach all the main content of the lesson, this knowledge will be felt and absorbed by the students through the lecture and engraved into their minds. Hence, students will have changes in thoughts, feelings, beliefs, desires, and attitudes and have self-conscious behaviors, obligations, and responsibilities to protect the environment. This is the best condition for educational content to build awareness of environmental protection to work for students through the specifics of each subject.

Building an awareness of environmental protection for students, combining teaching in class and in nature is really useful and interesting. In nature, students have the opportunity to observe, experiment, and participate in activities to learn about the natural environment, and promote their positivity, initiative, and creativity in learning. Students arise and develop a love of nature and become more attached to nature, having faith, desires, and energy to overcome difficulties to protect the environment. Through teaching in class together with outdoor activities, it also gives students the right view of the environment, nurtures emotions, arouses feelings of attachment, develops aesthetic abilities, and cultural lifestyles to environmentally friendly behavior. Extracurricular activities at the higher-education are diverse and rich, “open”, having a vibrant and free atmosphere, and promoting the positivity, initiative and creativity of each student.

The fifth solution is to promote the initiative and positivity of students in learning to raise awareness of environmental protection. In the process of education to build students’ awareness of environmental protection, self-study, especially self-improvement of their own behavior is an indispensable task. If they would like to be done the tasks, they have to strive and adapt themselves to the surrounding circumstances and conditions.

The sixth solution is to educate students about environmental protection in terms of ethics, aesthetics, traditional culture, science, and technology.

Firstly, we have to educate students about environmental protection awareness in terms of ethics. Concerning educating students about environmental protection from an ethical point of view, Engels pointed out, “everything that motivates people to act through their minds” [23-26]. Therefore, the strategic solution is to educate students about environmental protection, that means there should be a fundamental change in students' awareness of the natural living environment. In the development conditions of a civilized and modern society, people do not easily give up their interests, but cannot give up sustainable development. Moreover, they should not for the short-term interests of today's generation, but neglect benefits of future generations. Therefore, we should educate students about environmental protection awareness on the basis of environmental knowledge and environmental protection, applying this knowledge in social life, first of all in production and consumption, a friendly and thrifty civilized lifestyle. We help students understand that natural resources are limited, and people need to avoid waste but have a reasonable and harmonious lifestyle, a long-term strategy for the sustainable development of the country. In the current
context, the nation’s good moral traditions are the source of spiritual strength for the cause of national construction and development. However, there are many problems posed, which are a pragmatic, selfish, lying way of life; living without ideals and the orientation, pessimism, and fluctuations of many students. Therefore, educating a new moral sense, including building awareness of environmental protection for students in terms of morality, and making an important contribution to a healthy spiritual life is one of the important tasks of educational reform in our country.

**Secondly**, Second, we should educate students about environmental protection awareness in terms of aesthetics. The resolution of the 7th midterm congress of our Party emphasized fostering the soul and noble emotions, upholding the spirit of national pride, the desire for self-reliance, striving to make the rich people, a strong country, and criticizing the bad and wicked habits.

We educate students about environmental protection awareness in terms of aesthetics in order to help students aim for beauty, distinguish between beauty and evil in practical activities and in human behavior with the natural environment. In addition, we should educate people in general and students in particular about the polite, civilized, environmentally friendly lifestyle behaviors, and protecting nature, especially students have to perform well in study, in work and application in friendly relations, in harmony with nature.

**Thirdly**, the school administrators should educate students about environmental protection awareness in terms of traditional culture of the nation. Educating students about environmental protection consciousness cannot be separated from national traditions, whose core values are ethical standards, Vietnamese people’s behavior towards nature, “Clement weather – favourable terrain – concord among the people” or “Clement weather – concord among the people”. Humans have the demand to live in harmony, stick with nature, love nature, and shape environmental principles and standards to adjust their attitude of respect, behavior, and lifestyle practices and natural ecological environment. Those behaviors have entered the subconscious of Vietnamese people very early, creating a valuable tradition of the Vietnamese people, and contributing to raising awareness and responsibility of the Vietnamese people. It has the responsibility of all classes of people, including students, in protecting and preserving the ecological environment of nature.

The education of environmental protection consciousness for students in terms of culture is both a motivation, a goal, and a tool to promote a society participating in environmental protection activities. For instance, educating about a culturally friendly lifestyle in harmony with the ecological environment is not merely about taking care of, preserving, and protecting the environment, but also knowing how to exploit, utilize and regenerate natural resources, together with the laws of nature, to maintain the balance of the ecosystem. Educating students on environmental awareness in terms of culture is a very important solution to direct people and society to the values of truth, goodness, and beauty in dealing with the natural world, which is easily accepted by students.

**Finally**, We educate students about environmental protection in terms of science and technology. The accelerated industrialization and modernization of Vietnam inevitably leads to bad environmental consequences, which is the most difficult challenge. In order to continue promoting economic development and national construction, our Party emphasized “taking science, technology, intellectuals, and high-quality human resources as the main driving force” [6]. Educating students about environmental protection awareness regarding science and technology is essential to focus on the quality of training, and the proficient use of technological equipment to implement environmental protection activities, exploiting and
promoting endogenous capacity in science and technology. This effectively has contributed to the cause of industrialization and modernization of the land, together with both the realization of economic goals and the achievement of preserving environmental protection.

**Conclusion**

In summary, humanity has entered the 21st century, the problems of environmental pollution, climate change, saltwater intrusion, resource depletion are becoming more and more serious, directly threatening the existence and development of the world. development of human society. One of the causes leading to this disaster is the wrong, misleading and one-sided perception of people. For the immediate benefit, humans have exploited indiscriminately, depleted resources, and polluted the environment, forgetting that humans are part of the natural world, and they themselves have been destroying the environment. mine. In the face of current challenges and environmental pollution, raising environmental awareness among university students in Vietnam is considered an effective and long-term measure to protect the environment. Implement the following methods: The first solution is to build students’ awareness of environmental protection according to Ho Chi Minh’s thoughts on the environment and environmental protection. The second solution is to strengthen the role of law in building environmental protection consciousness for university students in our country today. The third solution is to change in the thinking, perception, and capacity of educational subjects in building environmental protection consciousness for university students in Vietnam today. The fourth solution is to innovate contents, programs, curricula, methods, and forms of building students’ awareness of environmental protection in accordance with reality. The fifth solution is to promote the initiative and positivity of students in learning to raise awareness of environmental protection. The sixth solution is to educate students about environmental protection in terms of ethics, aesthetics, traditional culture, science, and technology.

Building a sense of environmental protection for students not only has an immediate impact on today’s generation, but will also have a long-term impact in the future. Equipping students with sufficient scientific knowledge about the environment and environmental protection means making more than 15% of the population, but this number does not stop there, but also spreads across the world community. For the environment. This is one of the most effective solutions to change awareness, arise and develop feelings, beliefs, will, energy, aspirations, attitudes, and environmentally friendly civilized behavior. and the perseverance and persistence in environmental protection of students, future owners, the mainstay of the country of Vietnam have both theoretical and practical significance.

**REFERENCES**


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