
PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES

ECOLOGICAL POSITION AND CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE FACTS OF THE ECOLOGICAL REALITY

Karina Baieva¹

DOI: https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-588-11-2_30

Ecological changes from hidden of sight danger have evolved into a clear threat to the survival of all living things. Many biological species in consequence of harmful changes to the natural environment are struggling to be able to live. People are just beginning to wonder about what the dominant foundation of the life of human society is contrary to future stability. The anthropocentric nature of ecological change recognized by members of the scientific community, but not all subjects of ecological change are prepared to accept this fact. That response against ecological problems does not require efforts, and most importantly transformation behavior with destruction to nature conservation. It is worth noting that according to I.V. Kryazh eco-destructive or (eco)conservation course of actions of the subject depends on the ecological position. This position is represented by the ratio of biospheric and financial-economic (monetary) senses and identifies that the subject will review as the main resource for his vital activities – biosphere or money [1]. The mentioned senses can define the criteria for a «normal» environmental situation. The dominance of biosphere senses in a person leads to a feeling of changes in the natural environment, acceptance of the reality of environmental problems and responsibility as a reserve for coping. Reserves, which, would then be used as conservation of resources of vital activities – the biosphere, promoting to conservative behavior. Activation of the described (eco)conservation reserves and behavior build on the conviction, that people's actions can improve/aggravate the environmental situation, help/ harm other members of the ecological community. The dominance of monetary senses, vice versa, will cause the person to deny the reality of environmental threats as a defense of old lifestyle – the infinite possibility to obtain ecological goods and services. Such a disregard saves the monetary resource of a person's vital activity through habitual destructive behavior. Activation of the eco-destructive reserves and behavior will be strengthened confidence into something, that investing enough money release from environmental problems at any moment [1; 2; 3; 4]. Therefore, the *aim* was to study the effect of ecological position on consciousness of the realities and the severity of environmental threats.

In the furtherance of this aim were used: the questionnaire of ecological attitudes 'Eco 30' I.V. Kryazh (scales: biocentrism, 'Money'(financial-economic priorities)

¹ V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine

and 'The denial of global environmental threats'); the subscale 'The possibility of an ecocrisis' (Cronbach's $\alpha=0,52$) on the New Ecological Paradigm (NEP) scale devised by R. E. Dunlap, K. D. Van Liere, A. G. Mertig, R. E. Jones (in adapting I.V. Kryazh). Participants in the study were 94 individuals (age $M = 26$, 60,64% females and 39,36% males).

For data analysis was used multiple regression and structural equation modeling. In the regression equations of indicators of the ecological position: scales biocentrism and 'Money' as the explanatory variables explain 34% of the total variance of the scale 'The denial of global environmental threats' and 24% of the total variance of the scale 'The possibility of an ecocrisis'. While built and tested a structural model shows that the latent factor 'Ecological position' greatly affects the latent factor 'Consciousness of the reality and seriousness of environmental threats'. Validity of the model: $\chi^2/df = 0,90/1$; $p = 0,34$; RMSEA 0,03; GFI 1; AGFI 0,95. Thus, the results of the analysis confirm that the ecological position impact on the subject's ability to conceptualize environmental threats as facts are fraught with real danger for living beings or ecosystems. It as a threat, which can translate into a human-induced disaster on a planetary scale without sacrificing the consumer lifestyle of humanity.

Ecological position impact on the consciousness of the reality and seriousness of environmental threats, that is, a person's ability, first, to accept the fact of existence and the need to address environmental threats for productive vital activities of all living beings;; secondly, to realize the onset of anthropocentric environmental crisis, if the consumer way of interaction between man and nature is supported.

References:

1. Kryazh, V. I. (2013). *Psikhologiya smyslovoi reguliatsii ekologicheski relevantnogo povedeniia* [Psychology of meaning regulation of ecologically relevant behaviour] (report of PhD Thesis). Kharkov: V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University.
2. Dunlap, R. E. (2013). Climate change skepticism and denial: An introduction. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 57(6), 691–698,
3. Kollmuss, A., & Agyeman, J. (2002). Mind the gap: Why do people act environmentally and what are the barriers to pro-environmental behavior? *Environmental Education Research*, 8(3), 239–260.
4. Swim, J., Clayton, S., Doherty, T., Gifford, R., Howard, G., Reser, J., Stern, P., & Weber, E. (2009). Psychology and global climate change: addressing a multi-faceted phenomenon and set of challenges *A report by the American Psychological Association's Task Force on the Interface between Psychology and Global Climate Change*, 64–68. URL: <http://www.apa.org/releases/climate-change.pdf>