

# Education for Sustainable Development: From Awareness to Ecological Values

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## Abstract

Ecological awareness is often limited to cognitive learning about environmental issues. However, developing ecological values involves a deeper understanding of these issues, leading to concrete choices and behaviors that support sustainability. Moreover, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) plays a central role in contemporary educational policies. Yet, simple awareness is insufficient to drive a profound transformation in attitudes and practices. The shift from awareness to a true integration of ecological values requires a psychological change that translates into more tangible commitment. What ecological values should individuals develop? What are the characteristics of each value? How does the transition from awareness to ecological values manifest? To what extent do current initiatives contribute to a lasting transformation of behaviors and mindsets? This paper explores the necessary conditions for a successful transition, drawing on recent research in environmental education. The findings aim to identify the levers and obstacles to an effective shift toward an education infused with ecological values. Ultimately, this research seeks to provide practical recommendations to enhance ESD integration within educational systems, promoting a more sustainable and engaged society. These results will aid in designing more effective educational programs and equipping educators to fully embrace their roles as catalysts for environmental change.

## Keywords

Education, Sustainable Development, Awareness, Ecological Values, Psychology, Transition