

The Relationship between Social Measures related to Sustainable Development and Climate Anxiety in Young People

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Abstract

Climate change is an existential threat that humanity must face globally. Every social actor, including young people, must participate in addressing this issue. Our research focuses on assessing the percentage of young adults struggling with climate anxiety. We also examine the extent to which they consider specific socio-economic measures acceptable and what shortcomings they experience in this regard. Next, we investigate the activities they undertake to reduce their climate anxiety. The respondents are young adults still pursuing higher education and about to enter the job market and start families. This allows us to answer questions about how uncertain they feel about their future regarding these factors. We have a database of 600 responses, which we plan to expand further through a long-term study. Our results show that young adults are becoming increasingly open and sensitive to social and environmental activities that reduce their ecological footprint, provide a more sustainable future, and keep their environment clean. Climate change, government inaction, and profit orientation are stress factors that can have significant, long-lasting, and increasing negative consequences on young people's climate anxiety and future uncertainty. We created clusters based on the collected data of different personality types and their relationship to the environment. Finally, we conducted a path analysis to explore the relationships between the various factors.

Keywords: sustainability, climate anxiety, socio-economic measures, social and environmental activities, ecological footprint, sustainable future, consumer behaviour