

An Approach to the Study of Sustainable Development Awareness Among University Students

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Abstract : On the basis of the definition of sustainable development, the aim of this research is to know first-hand the level of compromise and knowledge that the university students have about the Sustainable Development Goals, in general terms, and specifically, focusing in their proximal environment, that is the university. So this study was carried out on the 2022-2023 course. The definition of Education for Sustainable Development provided by the Environmental Association for Universities and Colleges is central to the construction of the theoretical framework of this paper, as noted in the starting point for the development of the research. The turning point in this process came when United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization drafted the report of recommendations on Education for International Understanding, Cooperation and Peace and Education Relating to Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in 1974, recognizing the importance of this education as a means of contributing to the solution of the problems facing humanity. This UNESCO report was written with the intention of educating for international understanding and cooperation, understanding education as the driving force to achieve the goals set out in the Charter of the United Nations, the UNESCO constitution, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international Geneva Conventions. This report referred to the need to consider, as guiding principles of educational policy, education in an international dimension and a global perspective, the understanding of the need for solidarity and international cooperation and the will of all States to participate in the solution of the problems of their community, their country and the whole world. The consideration of education as one of the most important methods of solving the fundamental problems surrounding human survival and well-being along with cooperative measures, gives ESD a leading role at the international level and makes it a priority for many countries. As a fundamental part of any country's education system, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have an important role to play in ESD, fostering the learning of skills and values and preparing students for decision-making to promote pluralistic development and sustainable societies. They also play a key role in clarifying the role of ESD, linking sustainability not only to environmental, but also to social and economic aspects. The methodology is empirical, based on a questionnaire prepared to be answered by university students from a public university of Spain. The response rate was an eighty per cent. Once we obtained the responses, the questionnaire was validated with a Cronbach test resulting in a 88%. Then, the data was treated and analysed with SPSS software with firstly a Component principals analysis to strenght the factors and then we carried out multivariate analysis to deepen in the topic trying to explain which are the factors that explain the SDA model. As primary results sustainable development factors such cooperative learning, action statements, perceived functions for universities, source of information about sd students used, actions during the past month for sd reasons and attitudes towards esd explained the awareness of university students related to SD.

Keywords : SDG, awareness, higher education, ESD

Conference Title : ICER 2024 : International Conference on Educational Research

Conference Location : Paris, France

Conference Dates : December 30-31, 2024