

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (20831) - ADOLESCENTS' INTEREST IN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM: THE ROLE OF GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

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Background and objectives

Various forms of environmental activism are crucial to achieve much needed tightening of national and international environmental crisis-related policies as well as to stimulate actions of relevant stakeholders. Environmental activism could be expressed via participating in protests, signing petitions, contacting politicians, initiating environment protection actions at the community, national or international level, among many others. Studies show that, for example, environmental activism events can significantly increase society's interest in climate change issues (Sisco et al., 2021). This suggests that environmental activism could be considered as important competence and it is crucial to foster it. Especially among young people, because they will need to deal with the complexities of the environmental crisis in the near future. Environmental considerations such as environmental values, self-identity and personal norms have shown to explain multiple environmental actions. Thus, they also might be important factors that explain young people's interest in environmental activism.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

We tested this in a pilot study (November-December 2021) among adolescents (N = 114; 56.1% were girls; M = 15.45, SD = 0.79), from schools in one administrative region. The Value-Identity-Personal norm model (VIP; van der Werff & Steg, 2016) was used to explore the extent to which environmental considerations can explain adolescents' interest in environmental activism, which was measured with five items created specifically for this study (e.g., "I considered my participation in protests against climate change and the ecological crisis"). Other constructs were measured with the established instruments.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

The results indicated that indeed biospheric values, environmental self-identity and personal norms can explain adolescents' interest in environmental activism.

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

This initial evidence suggests that environmental considerations can be the way to facilitate young people's involvement in environmental activism. These results might be of interest to stakeholders that work in the educational institutions.

Palavras-chave : adolescents, environmental activism, environmental considerations, the Value-Identity-Personal norm model