

Sustainable Behaviour related to Lighting Usage

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Introduction

The purpose of the study was to investigate people's receptiveness to pro-environmental interventions aiming to enforce sustainable actions. Due to the need of energy savings in Argentina, actual behaviour patterns related to lighting usage were included in the study. Then the social-cultural context and the respondents' individual resources were also taken into account.

Method

A questionnaire was developed based on the Brundtland Report (1987), also known as Our Common Future, which defined Sustainable Development as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and also based on previous results about the significant relation between people's time perspective and their tendency towards a responsible and sustainable use of natural resources (Corral Verdugo et al, 2006). Thus, the form consisted of the following sections: Environmental risk perception worldwide, in the country and locally; Who has the responsibility for such problems; For which environmental problems mentioned does the individual feel him/herself having a certain responsibility; To what extent do environmental problems affect nature, own health, own future, own lifestyle, everybody, kids, neighbours, relatives (brief version of Schultz scales, 2001); and finally, Questions about behaviours related to lighting usage. The individual characteristics of the sample were studied with a brief version of Zimbardo's Time perspective Inventory (ZTPI). The sample consisted of 90 persons belonging to an University Campus (students, teachers and administrative staff) with an age range from 21 to 64 (M= 35; SD = 12,17).

Results

The analysis of the data showed that the respondents shared a high awareness of global and local environmental problems. There was also a high degree of awareness as to the allocation of responsibilities on local and governmental levels, as well as their own responsibility. The results shows low but positive and significant intercorrelations between Schultz's scales and lighting questions, especially those related to the use of daylight, and ZTPI's scales related to future orientation dimension.

Discussion

The results indicate there seems to be a basis for introducing and achieving environmental actions in the campus. From the results, it is also possible to affirm that there is a sustainable attitude behind people's behaviours related to lighting usage, it is not just an effort of reducing electricity bills. As to social context no correlations were found for Life styles, perhaps due to the fact that such are hard to identify in Latin American countries with their ample spectrum of socio-economic levels.

References

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