

Opinion about SSE in France and its impact on the environment

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Introduction

Since 2020, the year in which COVID 19 became an inescapable factor in everyone's life, people have experienced confinements worldwide. This radical change in lifestyle impacted available time. The rate of short-time workers and the unemployment rate increased significantly. Some remote workers and a number of students saw their free time multiply. At the same time, social inequalities, more present than ever, have highlighted local needs (e.g. people with needs, such as the homeless, students living alone, single-parent families, the elderly,...)[1]. These two consequences of confinements - an increase in free time for some and the increased need for help for some others - have allowed a form of structure to come to light: the social and solidarity economy (SSE). The SSE brings together four main types of structures: associations, mutuals, cooperatives and foundations [2]. The SSE is based on two principles: limited profit-making and democratic governance. This new place that the social and solidarity economy had following this period leads to the study of the opinion of the population on this sector.

Methodology

This work examines the opinion of students on the SSE in France. We asked adult students to obtain a population that is not yet active. The study is limited to students from the "Ile de France", because it is the region with the largest number of students, and from all social and geographical backgrounds. A questionnaire is used to collect the data, which consists of three sections. The first section examines SSE from a global perspective, the second examines SSE on a personal scale, and the third section collects demographic data. The data were collected face-to-face in the student areas and electronically (e.g. Facebook). Data were analyzed using the SPSS statistical package. Statistical analysis includes descriptive analysis and chi-square test. Questionnaires are widely used to reveal the opinion of users from environmental and other issues [3,4].

Results

The results show that 53.3% of respondents are women 45.3% are men and 1.4% consider themselves to be other, while the average age of respondents is 22 years. Furthermore, there are 75% of respondents from "Ile de France" who study in Universities against 25% in High Schools. In addition, 41.2% of respondents live with their parents, while the majority of respondents left their parents, to live alone or with roommates or in couple.

In addition, the 49.5% of respondents do not work and 50.5% work. In particular, the respondents are mainly employed with "Practice" and "Help to the person, tutoring, teacher of all kinds, babysitting", while the majority of respondents works more than 31 hours per week.

Furthermore, a significant part of respondents is aware of SSE, while an equally significant part of respondents is not. However, the majority of respondents are positive regarding the definition of SSE. Working respondents are better aware of SSE.

Also, respondents are neutral or positive about the opinion that SSE is a solution to economic crises. However, respondents are negative about the opinion that its influence is commensurate with its place in the economy, mainly French citizens and respondents with poorer parents, and positive and very positive about the opinion that SSE will be developed in the future, and they desire its development, especially women.

Regarding the impact of SSE, respondents believe that SSE has a positive impact on the environment and on social inequalities, especially regarding women. In addition, respondents are equally distributed as to whether they pursued their professional work in an SSE structure related to their field of activity, mainly the residents of the suburbs and non-employees, while they do not consider themselves to be connected to SSE. Finally, the main reasons that respondents can dedicate their time to are related to the Environment, Humanitarian Action, Combating Discrimination and Social Solidarity. One third of the respondents has already volunteered in an SSE structure, mainly in the social sector and solidarity, and youth and education, while they have not yet participated for two main reasons: the opportunity did not arise and lack of time.

Conclusions

This paper examines the public opinion on the SSE in France. The students are rather favorable to the SSE, but we observe inequalities of opinion, in particular related to gender, social background and the activity. Generally, they think that SSE has a positive impact on the environment.

References

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