



1. Introduction

The environmental attitudes of people occupy the research community and researchers from various fields study people's environmental attitudes, using various tools such as scales. The New Environmental Paradigm Scale (NEP) is a widely used measure of environmental concern [1,2]. The aim of the study is to better understand the environmental attitude of people, using the NEP scale, continuing the research in this area (3-12)

2. Methodology

The sampling method used was simple random sampling and the data were collected using a structured questionnaire. The survey was conducted in November 2020 in Greece. The questionnaire consists of two sections. The first section includes the NEP scale (15 questions, ranging from 1 to 5: 1: strongly agree and 5: strongly disagree). The second part records the socio-demographic data of the respondents. Totally, 1,689 valid questionnaires were collected. Data analyzed using descriptive statistics and chi-square (χ^2) test to reveal correlations between the answers and the socio-demographic characteristics of the sample.

3. Results and Discussion

The results of descriptive analysis and the effect of socio-demographic characteristics on NEP show that almost four in five respondents agree that:

- humans are severely abusing the environment (81.5%),
- plants and animals have as much rights as humans to exist (87.2%). Females, people with higher education and those living outside Athens region, the capital of Greece, agree more with this option,
- when humans interfere with nature, disastrous consequences are often occur (81.8%). Females agree more with this opinion,
- the earth has plenty of natural resources, if we just learn how to develop them (84.4%),
- if things continue on their present course, we will soon experience a major ecological catastrophe (80.5%). Females, people with higher incomes (>15,000€) and those living outside Athens region agree more.

Furthermore, almost two in three of respondents:

- agree that, despite our special abilities, humans are still subject to the laws of nature (75.9%). Older people (>40 years old), people with higher education, people with higher income (>15,000€) and people with left political attitude agree more,
- disagree with the opinion that humans were mean into rule over the rest of nature (78.2). Younger people (<40 years old), people without children and people with higher education disagree more,
- agree that the balance of nature is very delicate and easily upset (77.2%). People with children and those who live outside Athens region agree more.

In addition, the results show that almost half of respondents:

- believe that we are approaching the limit of the number of people that the earth can support (55.4%),
- disagree that the balance of nature is strong enough to cope with the impacts of modern industrial nations (55.3%). People with higher education disagree more,
- disagree that the so-called "economic crisis" facing humankind has been greatly exaggerated (50.2%). Respondents with higher education disagree more.

Finally, the results show that almost two in five respondents:

- agree that the Earth is like a spaceship with very limited room and resources (44.0%). Married, people with children and people with higher education agree more,
- disagree that humans have the right to modify the natural environment to suit their needs (40.8%),
- believe that human ingenuity will ensure that we do not make the earth unliveable (42.3%). Unmarried and people with lower education do not agree with this opinion,
- agree that humans will eventually learn enough about how nature works to be able to control it (42%). Unmarried and people with left political attitude do not agree with this opinion.

4. Conclusions

The environmental attitude of the citizens of Greece was investigated, in order to understand the way they feel, think and act in relation to the environment, using the NEP scale. In conclusion, we could say that Greek citizens show a high environmental concern, both for the current state of nature and for the future. It is worth noting that citizens living outside the Athens region are more sensitive to the environment and are more concerned about the negative effects of human intervention on the environment. This may be due to the fact that the Greek province is not as densely populated as the capital, the natural environment dominates and the citizens experience more directly the destructive effects of human intervention and the degradation of the natural environment.

References

1. Dunlap, R., & Van Liere, K. (1978). The New Environmental Paradigm. *Journal of Environmental Education*, 9, 10-19. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00958964.1978.10801875>.
2. Dunlap, R., Van Liere, K., Merting, A. G. & Jones, R. E. (2000). Measuring endorsement of the New Ecological Paradigm: A revised NEP scale. *Journal of Social Issues*, 50(3), 425-442. <https://doi.org/10.1111/0022-4537.00176>
3. Chrysa Vogiatzi, Georgia Gemenetzi, Lina Massou, Stavros Pouloupoulos, Spiros Papaefthimiou, Efthimios Zervas (2018), *Energy use and saving in residential sector and occupant behavior: A case study in Athens*, Energy and Buildings 181, 1-9
4. F Vatavali, Z Gareiou, F Kehagia, E Zervas (2020), *Impact of COVID-19 on urban everyday life in Greece. Perceptions, experiences and practices of the active population*, Sustainability 12 (22), 9410
5. E Drimili, R Herrero-Martin, J Suar Diaz-Muro, E Zervas (2020), *Public views and attitudes about municipal waste management: Empirical evidence from Athens, Greece*, Waste Management & Research 38 (6), 614-625
6. D Papoulis, D Kaika, C Bampatsou, E Zervas (2015), *Public perception of climate change in a period of economic crisis*, Climate 3 (3), 715-726
7. Z Gareiou, E Drimili, E Zervas (2021), *Public acceptance of renewable energy sources*, Low carbon energy technologies in sustainable energy systems, 309-327
8. E Drimili, Z Gareiou, A Vrana, S Pouloupoulos, E Zervas (2019), *An integrated approach to public's perception of urban water use and ownership of water companies during a period of economic crisis. Case study in Athens, Greece*, Urban Water Journal 16 (5), 334-342
9. D Kaika, E Zervas (2011), *Searching for an Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC)-pattern for CO2 emissions*, Recent Researches in Energy, Environment and Landscape Architecture, 19-24
10. E Zervas, L Vatikiotis, Z Gareiou, S Manika, R Herrero-Martin (2021), *Assessment of the Greek national plan of energy and climate change—Critical remarks*, Sustainability 13 (23), 13143
11. E Drimili, Z Gareiou, E Zervas (2020), *Public perceptions of the concept of green growth: application in Athens, Greece, during a period of economic crisis*, Environment, Development and Sustainability 22 (7), 6053-6076
12. E Drimili, E Zervas (2018), *Public knowledge, attitudes and perception of ecological debt*, Journal of Political Ecology 25 (1), 470-487