

Youth against climate change in developing countries: Knowledge is power

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Fighting to avoid a future dominated by heatwaves, storms, and floods, [youth worldwide is pushing for a climate change prevention agenda](#) [1]. It is even more crucial for the youth in developing countries, as they are those most worried about climate change, and their countries are most vulnerable to climate change [2-4].

Replacing fossil fuel with renewable energy is a crucial jigsaw to accomplish the net zero emission target and slow down climate change. To ensure their futures, the youth in developing countries need to thrive on fostering the social and policymakers to adopt energy transition initiatives and policies. They need the power to do so.

Scientia est potential [Knowledge is power].

Understanding the vital role of the youth in fighting against climate change and the strength of knowledge, Dr. Quy Khuc Van (VNU University of Economics and Business, Vietnam National University) and his teammates have conducted a study investigating the factors contributing to the youth's willingness to improve their energy literacy [5]. The Bayesian MindSponge Framework was employed on a dataset of 1454 students from 48 Vietnamese universities [6].

The study finds that Vietnamese young adults are highly concerned about the environment and have a high demand to improve their energy literacy. Students' concerns over climate change, gender, age, income, and living environment influence their intentions to undertake energy-related training and courses. These findings offer authorities and education institutions valuable insights into the design of energy-related courses in the

curricula and segments of the population willing to acquire energy-related knowledge.



Figure: For a more habitable Earth. The image was drawn by the openAI DALL•E-2, nudged by ©2023 QH Vuong.

By enhancing the intention to accumulate energy-related knowledge, we can help the youth equip one of the most potent weapons to fight against climate change. Although such knowledge might not directly and immediately lead to social or policy changes, it aids the youth in formulating their thinking and determining their subsequent actions that favor replacing fossil fuel with renewable energy [7]. This, in turn, create an eco-surplus infosphere (or culture) that will influence other people in the society, gradually shift their mindsets, and lead to policy changes [8,9].

References

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