



Climate Change Perceptions of Young People – Recent Evidence from China and Western Countries

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The Critical Role of Youth in Shaping a Sustainable Future

- **Intergenerational Responsibility** - young people bear the long-term impacts of current climate policies.
- **Mobilizing for Change** - global movements such as 'Fridays for Future' and social media campaigns driving awareness and action.
- **Demand for Inclusion** - urgent need for youth voices in decision-making for effective, future-focused policies.

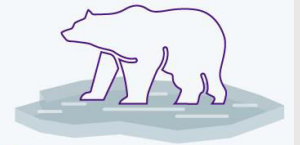


Global Youth Engagement in Climate Change: Understanding the Diversity

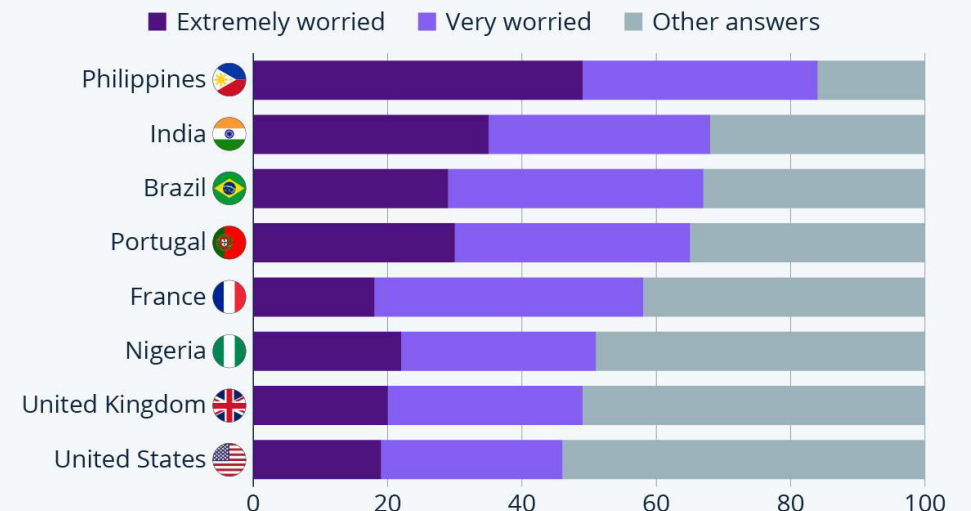
- **Widespread Concern** - nearly 70% of youth worldwide are extremely or very worried about climate change.
- **Greater Concern in Developing Countries** - Higher levels of concern in the global South, where the harshest impacts are expected.
- **No One-Size-Fits-All Solution** - need for tailored approaches to effectively channel

Understanding the varied perspectives of global youth is key to harnessing their energy for pragmatic climate action.

The Extent of the Youth's Climate Fear



Feelings about climate change among those aged 16-25 in selected countries in 2021 (in %)



10,000 respondents (16-25 y/o) in ten countries surveyed May 18 to June 7, 2021
Source: The Lancet





Chinese Youth: Engaging with Climate Change

- **High Awareness and Concern** - majority of Chinese youth are aware of climate change's magnitude, nearly half view it as the most serious global issue.
- **Government Influence** - China's prioritization of climate change and public campaigns have significantly raised youth awareness.
- **Air Pollution** - air quality issues in China provide a tangible experience of environmental problems, shaping youth perspectives differently from other

Comparative Climate Activism



New Zealand Youth Engagement

Kiwi youth's connection to nature leads to conservation-focused activism; participation in beach clean-ups and tree-planting evolves into involvement in movements like School Strike 4 Climate.

The distinct socio-political landscapes in New Zealand and China shape different paths of activism among youth.



Chinese Youth Engagement

In China's urban and academic settings, youth activism is less about public rallies and more focused on adopting sustainable lifestyles and engaging in educational forums.



European Youth: Engaging with Climate Change

- **Engagement Through Education** - educational reforms like Italy's integration of climate studies into their curriculum.
- **Media Influence and Public Discourse** - keeps climate change at the forefront, fueling debates and awareness.
- **Global Politics and Shared Responsibility** - gives European youth a broad perspective on climate issues, promoting international cooperation.



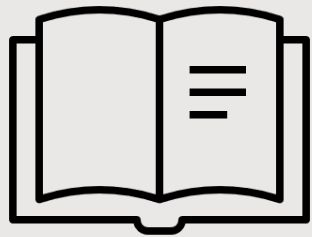
Challenges & Opportunities



Youth Engagement in City Planning

Young people, as future inheritors of urban spaces, are often sidelined in decision-making processes, despite having innovative ideas for sustainable urban development.

A need for mechanisms that actively include young voices in urban planning and environmental policy-making.



Education Gap in Climate Action

An educational gap hinders youth from effectively engaging with the complexities of energy geopolitics and economics, despite their eagerness to participate in climate action.

A need for more robust educational programs that provide detailed knowledge and practical skills relevant to policy and implementation.

Recommendations

1

Expanding Youth Participation Platforms

Creating and enhancing platforms like youth advisory panels, city planning forums, and innovation labs to actively engage youth in decision-making.

2

Bridging the Educational Gap

Integrating comprehensive environmental education into school curricula and supporting sustainability-focused extracurricular programs.

3

Fostering Practical Partnerships

Encouraging collaborations between educational institutions and urban development projects for hands-on learning experiences.



**Thank
you!**



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