

Identifying internal and external factors affecting environmental behavior of students based on thematic analysis

Introduction: This study aims to identify the internal and external factors influencing the environmental behavior of students through a thematic analysis approach.

Material and Methods: Conducted with a qualitative methodology, the research employs the Atride-Sterling method to analyze themes derived from semi-structured interviews with 11 experts in the fields of education, environment, and health. The participants were selected using purposeful snowball sampling until theoretical saturation was achieved. The study adheres to four criteria for data trustworthiness: transferability, validity, dependability, and confirmability.

Results and Discussion: The results reveal 15 organizing themes that impact students' environmental behavior, categorized into internal and external factors. It highlights the need for emotional connections with the environment, effective environmental management, and the role of parents and educators in shaping students' environmental ethics. Additionally, the research emphasizes the significance of motivational programs, role models, and dynamic educational strategies in promoting environmental awareness and behavior. The thematic analysis also identifies overarching themes of internal and external factors, providing a comprehensive framework for understanding the multifaceted influences on students' environmental behavior. The internal factors focus on school-based initiatives, while the external factors address broader societal and policy-level influences.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the study advocates for a holistic approach to enhancing students' environmental behavior, involving not only schools but also the collaboration of various stakeholders, including families, communities, and policymakers. The findings suggest that fostering a culture of environmental responsibility, improving educational strategies, and aligning policies with environmental goals are crucial for promoting sustainable behaviors among students. The research contributes to the growing body of literature on environmental education by offering a detailed analysis of the factors that shape students' environmental attitudes and actions, providing valuable insights for educators, policymakers, and researchers aiming to promote environmental sustainability.

Keywords: Environmental behavior, students, thematic analysis, factors inside and outside the school.