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## Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice: Connecting Students to Global Issues

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# **Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice: Connecting Students to Global Issues**

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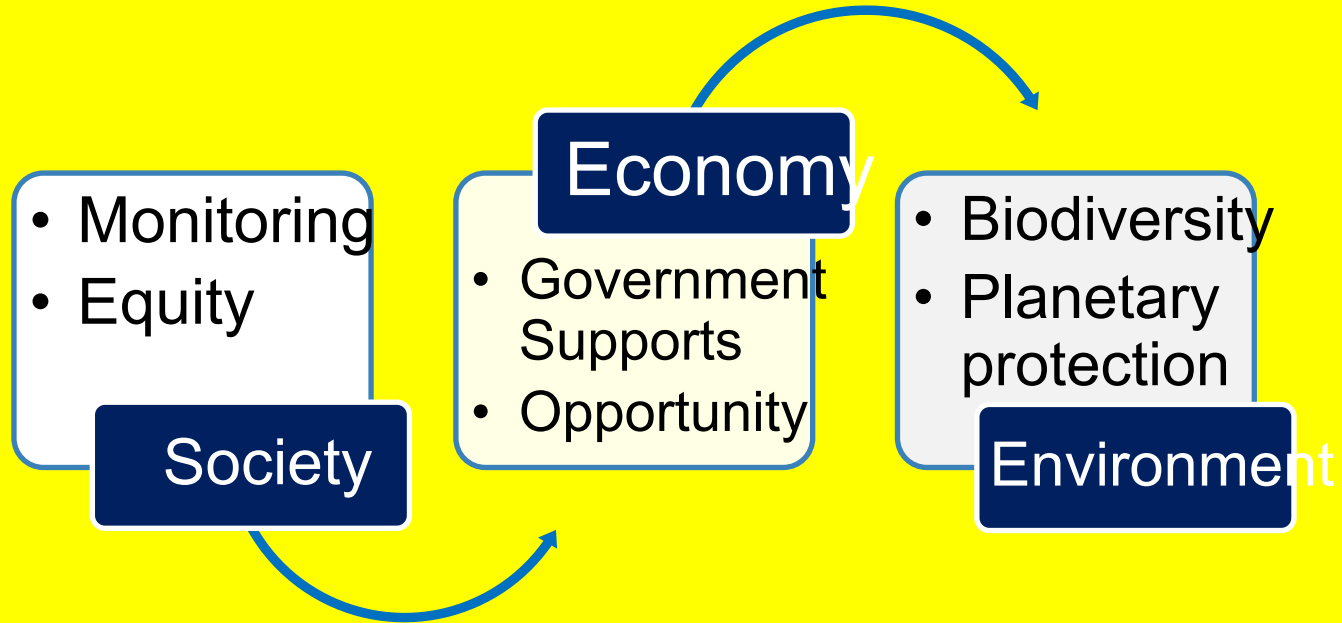
**1**

# **Sustainability**

**Definitions and  
goals**



# Sustainability as a Concept





# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



# Overall Targets

Eradicating  
poverty

Protecting  
the Earth

Ensuring  
the  
prosperity  
of all



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# Literature

Background on  
study abroad and  
world issues



## Background

- ❖ Benefits of study abroad focuses on structure of programs (Chieffo and Griffiths, 2004), culture (Berger and Paul, 2017), and academics (Ingraham and Peterson, 2004) (Engle and Engle, 2004)
- ❖ Need for more quantitative data on study abroad and student attitudes (Cotten and Thompson, 2017)
- ❖ Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI, LLC)
- ❖ Need for focus on student attitudes on global issues and sustainability (Bell and Gibson, 2016)





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# Research

What the data says



## Research Question

1. Does study or travel abroad impact the political consciousness of South Carolina S
2. Will the responses of students vary demographic
3. Will the responses of students vary across
4. How do students feel about sustaina



## Methodology (2018)

- ❖ 47-item-survey with questions divided into four parts
  - Study abroad
  - Global issues
  - Sustainable development
  - Demographics
- ❖ Questions were sorted into areas based on the three overall targets of the SDGS
- ❖ Distributed via social media, email announcements, and study abroad directors from 11 SC colleges/universities



## Results (2018)

- ❖ 57 participants, 39 surveys completed
- ❖ Students studying Business or the Social Sciences were more likely to have studied abroad
- ❖ Positive correlation between travel experience and the importance of gender inequality ( $p < .05$ )
- ❖ Negative correlation between age and the impact of poverty ( $p < .05$ ) and racism ( $p < .01$ )

Gender	Target	Average
Male	Eradication of Poverty	3.55
	Protection of the Earth	4.21
	Prosperity for All	3.95
Female	Eradication of Poverty	4.03
	Protection of the Earth	4.21
	Prosperity for All	4.40



## Methodology (2019)

- ❖ 53-item-survey with questions divided into four parts
  - Study abroad
  - Global issues
  - Sustainable development
  - Demographics
- ❖ Questions were sorted into areas based on the three overall targets of the SDGS and an additional “sustainability” area
- ❖ Distributed via social media and deans of colleges within a small liberal arts university



## Results (2019)

- ❖ 48 respondents, 41 completed in full
- ❖ Sample size makes certain significance tests less justifiable
- ❖ Statistic analysis centered on average responses to SDG targets



# Gender

Gender	Target	Average
Male <i>n=9</i>	Eradication of Poverty	3.48
	Protection of the Environment	4
	Prosperity for All	3.62
	Sustainability	3.58
Female <i>n=30</i>	Eradication of Poverty	4
	Protection of the Environment	4
	Prosperity for All	4.35
	Sustainability	3.5





## Age

Age	Target	Average
18-24 <i>n=21</i>	Eradication of Pove	3.89
	Protection of the Earth	4.23
	Prosperity for All	3.96
	Sustainability	3.69
25-35 <i>n=12</i>	Eradication of Pove	3.75
	Protection of the Earth	4.26
	Prosperity for All	3.89
	Sustainability	3.55



## AgeCont.

Age	Target	Average
35-45 <i>n=4</i>	Eradication of Povei	3.66
	Protection of the Ea	4.55
	Prosperity for All	4.23
	Sustainability	3.37
45-55 <i>n=4</i>	Eradication of Povei	4.42
	Protection of the Ea	4.65
	Prosperity for All	4.38
	Sustainability	4.45



## Race/Ethnicity

Race	Target	Average
White <i>n=28</i>	Eradication of Poverty	3.92
	Protection of the Earth	4.25
	Prosperity for All	3.93
	Sustainability	3.77
Person of Color <i>n=13</i>	Eradication of Poverty	3.79
	Protection of the Earth	4.46
	Prosperity for All	4.11
	Sustainability	3.52



# Major

Major	Target	Average
Business <i>n=17</i>	Eradication of Poverty	3.73
	Protection of the Earth	4.33
	Prosperity for All	3.84
	Sustainability	3.64
Social Sciences <i>n=15</i>	Eradication of Poverty	4.17
	Protection of the Earth	4.36
	Prosperity for All	4.23
	Sustainability	3.64
Others <i>n=9</i>	Eradication of Poverty	3.62
	Protection of the Earth	4.22
	Prosperity for All	3.93
	Sustainability	3.83

**4**

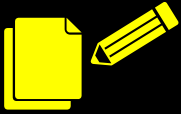
# **Implications for the Future**

**What makes this  
important?**



## Future Research

- ❖ Some data was trending towards certain patterns, but small size is a limitation
- ❖ Relevant for increasingly globalized academic and professional circles
- ❖ Important for people in the social sciences
- ❖ Enhance and increase sustainable literacy for students and faculty



## Selected References

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# Thank You!

Any questions?

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