Are Environmental Concerns an Outcome of Post-Materialist Values? An Exploration and Alternate Perspectives

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ABSTRACT

Concern for the environment has become a topic for discussion and action on a global basis. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reports have raised global awareness of anthropogenic climate change. Concurrently, many grassroots movements, environmental nongovernmental organizations, books, documentaries, and news stories keep the focus on the wide range of environmental issues facing citizens around the world. In the environmentalism literature, one strong research stream is the discussion on the attitudes toward environment issues and how they differ between citizens of the Global North and those of Global South. The notion that environmentalism is a post-materialism developed society phenomenon is questioned and evidence and rationale is provided to posit that in fact environmentalism is a global concern irrespective of affluence or post-material values.

Keywords: Post-Materialist Values, Environmental Concerns, Attitudes.