

Attitudes of University Students Towards Economic and Sustainable Development, in Istanbul

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Sustainability is of high economic significance to national economies, has important effects in satisfying the basic needs, and improving the quality of life of individuals. On the other hand, the attitudes and behaviors of people have a direct influence on the sustainability process. The importance of the sustainable development in reducing the impact of the social, economic and environmental burdens by efficient use of natural resources, reducing energy consumption, reducing emissions, minimizing waste, more efficient land use and creating better employment conditions has long been recognized in developed countries. In spite of this, in the developing countries the importance, benefits and advantages, and the positive impact, not only on the individuals but also on the communities, have not been widely understood. Commitments from the government and the industry are important factors in sustainable development strategies, but cannot ensure rapidly improving sustainable environment without the support, engagement and the involvement of public. The aim of this research is to emphasize the importance of attitudes in the economic growth and sustainable development, and to explore the thoughts, feelings and behaviors of University students in Turkey. The results of this study will help policy makers, researchers and industry in evolving new, effective and implementable strategies in changing attitudes towards sustainable development.

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