



REVIEW OF YOUTH ACTIVISM IN CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

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BACKGROUND

- For decades, activists have demanded local and global environmental actions in programs and policy changes to mitigate climate change.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Goal 13 on Climate Action calls on taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impact.
- Today, children and youth have taken to the streets, conferences and their representatives to demand justice for the planet, people, and their own future.



Global Target: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

Global Target: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

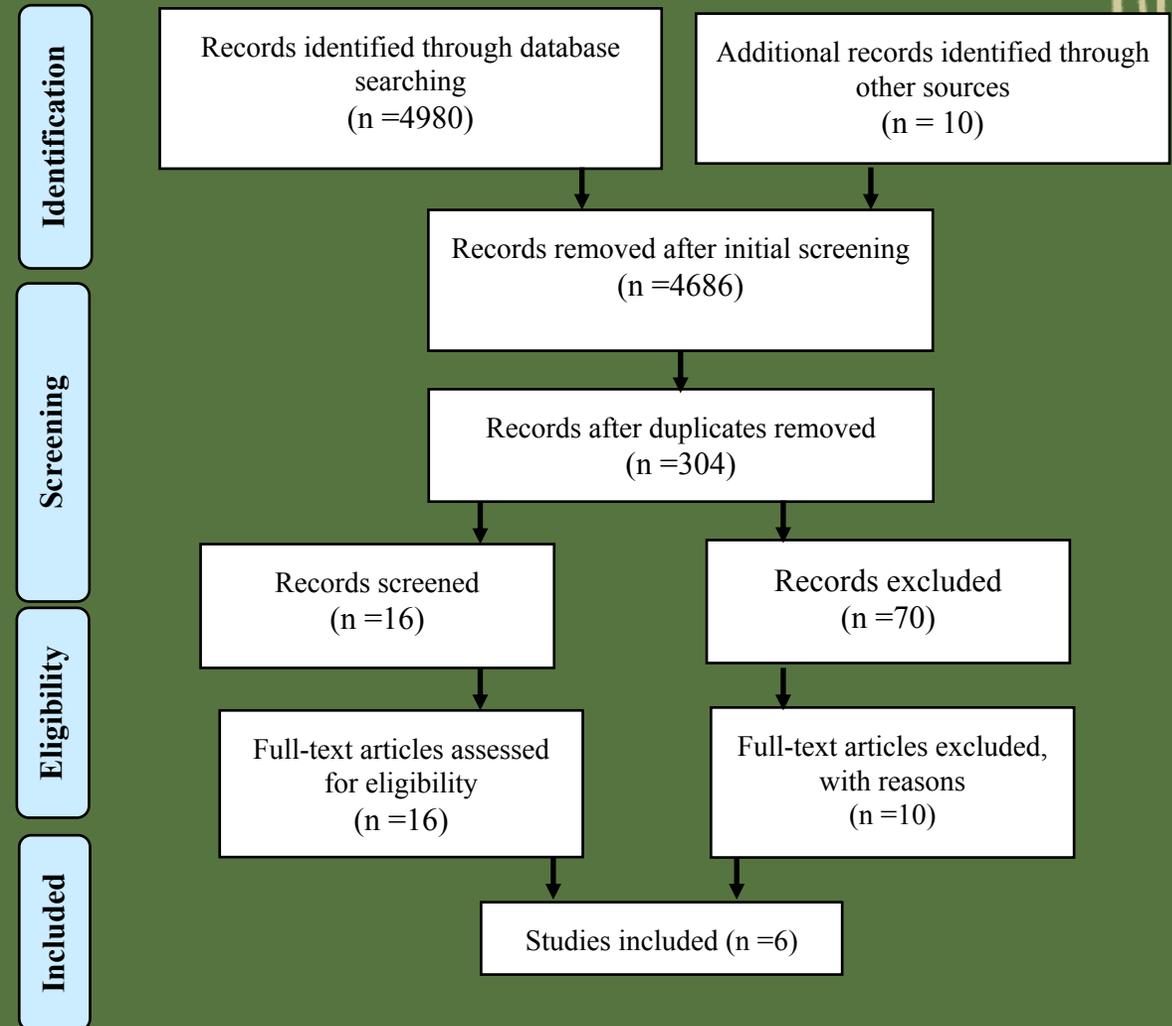
PURPOSE

- Growing national and international youth activism on climate change calls on reviewing the evidence-based knowledge on youth activism in effecting environmental policy changes.
- The purpose of this study is to examine evidence-based research on youths' knowledge and activism in climate justice.



METHODOLOGY

- Using the PRISMA model, this review focused on peer-reviewed studies from 1999 to 2019.
- Reviewed literature from A to Z databases including ERIC, PsychExtra, Academic Search Complete, Social Work Abstracts, PsychInfo, and Google Scholar databases.
- Keywords used “ climate change”, “climate activism”, “environmental justice”, “climate justice”, “youth activism”, “advocacy”, “young, climate strike, qualitative and quantitative” for inclusion criteria.
- Exclusion Criteria: Media reports, literature analyzing adult advocacy data, dissertations, grey media, non-English and conceptual papers.



RESULTS



- In general, youth perceive environmental and climate injustices based upon their own generational perceived future risks, while claim solidarity on injustices experienced by other groups in the present.

- Most of the studies were conducted from the developed nations' perspectives, except for one from Uganda.

- Overall, youth have improved self-efficacy to effect change and youth view of themselves as role models for younger members.

- Children and youth enjoy actively participating in family action plans, community action projects, tree planting campaign and community gardens (Trott, 2019).

- They are willing to include environmentally supportive activities within regular youth movement activities. In relevance to political generations, age groups interests varied in interests of environmental change activities (Bertuzzi, 2019).

- Youth have partial knowledge of environmental issues and have general understanding of biodegradable material and global warming; however, hold less knowledge about sustainable development and ecological footprints (Goldman, Pe'er, Yavetz, 2019).

- Findings suggest that youth awareness and action differed in each country reflective of their lived experiences, knowledge, values, and contexts of their communities (Mugagga, Metternich, Schweizer-Ries, Asiimwe, & Riemer, 2018).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- As future leaders in sustainable development, understanding youth knowledge and attitude towards collective action for environmental and climate justice in effecting policy change is important.
- Youth in general require education about factors contributing to environmental changes, environmental injustices, and pathways to effecting solidarity for policy changes.
- We recommend going beyond colonial models of youth activism to include youth and children from the indigenous, minority communities and global south in environmental justice voice research and practice.



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