

# Global Environmental Imbalance: Gen Z Behavior and Social Responsibilities

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## Abstract

The research paper explores the intricate relationship between global environmental imbalances and the behavioral tendencies of Generation Z, focusing specifically on their social obligation. As the first generation to come of age in a world dominated by digital technology and heightened awareness of climate change, Gen Z displays distinct characteristics and viewpoints on environmental issues. The objective of this research is to comprehend how these young individuals perceive and react to the ecological crises that pose a threat to global stability. We aim to pinpoint the driving forces behind their dedication to sustainability and environmental justice by analyzing their attitudes, activism, and consumption patterns. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, incorporating surveys, interviews, and case studies to capture Gen Z's involvement with environmental concerns comprehensively. The findings indicate that Gen Z's conduct is significantly shaped by their digital connectivity, educational background, and socio-political environment, collectively influencing their proactive approach to environmental stewardship. This paper underscores the potential of Gen Z to lead innovative solutions and cultivate a culture of ecological responsibility, underscoring the necessity for supportive policies and educational frameworks to harness their potential effectively. By understanding the motivations and actions of Gen Z, we can better tackle global environmental challenges and promote sustainable practices for future generations.

*Keywords:* Culture, Environmental Imbalance, Gen Z, Mix-method, Potentials, Solution.

## 1. Introduction

The global environment is experiencing unprecedented shifts due to climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. These disruptions pose significant risks to the long-term practicability of ecosystems and human communities. Among the different age

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groups witnessing these changes, Generation Z (Gen Z), born approximately between 1997 and 2012, stands out for their distinct behaviors and strong social duty.

Growing up in a time marked by rapid technological progress and easy access to information, Gen Z is uniquely positioned to tackle environmental challenges. Their familiarity with digital tools enables them to engage in widespread activism and nurtures a profound understanding of global issues. Unlike previous generations, Gen Z has been brought up amidst discussions of environmental crises, making sustainability a core part of their beliefs.

This generation has grown up in an era of ubiquitous digital technology and information readily accessible. Unlike previous generations, Gen Z has been exposed to the realities of environmental degradation from a young age, often through social media and digital platforms that bring global issues into their immediate awareness. This constant exposure has fostered a generation aware of environmental problems and increasingly motivated to address them.

The research paper aims to probe into the complex connection between global environmental disruptions and the actions of Gen Z, focusing specifically on their social obligations. By analyzing their views on environmental problems, activism trends, and lifestyle choices, we aim to uncover the motivations driving their dedication to sustainability. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data from surveys with qualitative insights from interviews and case studies.

The significance of this study lies in its potential to shed light on how Gen Z's involvement in environmental matters can influence and inspire broader societal transformations. By understanding the factors that shape their ecological behaviors, policymakers, educators, and stakeholders can devise targeted strategies to bolster and amplify Gen Z's endeavors in advancing sustainability.

One of the defining characteristics of Gen Z is their digital nativity. Growing up with the internet and social media has changed their communication habits and approach to activism and social responsibility. Platforms like Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok have become arenas for environmental advocacy, enabling Gen Z to mobilize quickly, spread awareness, and pressure corporations and governments to adopt sustainable practices. Digital activism is complemented by offline actions, such as participating in climate strikes, supporting eco-friendly brands, and advocating for policy changes.

Educational experiences also play a key role in raising Gen Z's environmental awareness, with schools and universities increasingly incorporating sustainability into their curricula and exposing them to environmental issues' scientific, social, and economic dimensions. The training equips Gen Z with the knowledge and skills to evaluate environmental problems and develop innovative solutions critically. Moreover, the socio-political context in which Gen Z grows up, characterized by increased political polarization and an increased emphasis on social justice, influences their attitudes towards environmental protection. For many Gen Z's,

ecological justice is closely linked to equality and human rights, leading to a holistic perspective on sustainability.

Ultimately, the research paper aims to enrich the conversation on environmental accountability by emphasizing the crucial role of Gen Z in shaping a sustainable future. Gen Z can create a more environmentally conscious society through innovative ideas and actions.

## **2. Literature Survey**

Gen Z behavior is increasingly being considered in the global environment. Gen Z environmental imbalances and behavioral patterns have attracted significant attention in academic circles. As the first generation to grow up in a world severely affected by the environmental crisis, Gen Z's attitudes and behaviors are fascinating.

Young people's perceptions and behaviors are also influenced by celebrities and social media influencers who support environmental issues (Jin & Phua, 2014). A successful self-development plan should start with acquiring practical time management skills.

Despite limited resources and limited participation in decision-making processes, global environmental issues may hinder their efforts (Sanson et al., 2019). The perceptions and actions of young people are also influenced by celebrities and social media influencers who promote environmental causes (Jin & Phua, 2014).

The research article explores Gen Z's behavior regarding environmental issues and their social responsibility.

## **3. Methodologies**

The study aims to examine the connection between the behavioral patterns of Generation Z (Gen Z) and global environmental imbalances, particularly emphasizing Gen Z's engagement with sustainability and social obligations. A mixed-methods strategy was used, integrating quantitative and qualitative research techniques to provide a thorough understanding. This methodology guarantees a comprehensive examination of Gen Z's environmental attitudes, behaviors, and the Determinants impacting their decisions. The research methodology for this study on "Global Environmental Imbalance: Gen Z Behavior and Social Responsibilities" is designed to systematically investigate the behaviors, perceptions, and social responsibilities of Generation Z (Gen Z) in the context of global environmental challenges. The study employs a mixed-methods approach to understand comprehensively.

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#### 4. Case Studies

American Gulf culture- Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida comprise the American Gulf Coast. It is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, varied biodiversity, and booming industries, including fishing, tourism, and oil extraction. Despite its many advantages, the area is quite vulnerable to environmental problems, including hurricanes, coastal erosion, and pollution from industrial activity. In light of these difficulties and the sociocultural factors that impact their behavior, this study explores the attitudes and behaviors of Generation Z (Gen Z) in this domain. It also looks at how Gen Z interacts with sustainability.

Gen Z residents of the American Gulf Coast demonstrate a strong commitment to solving environmental challenges, driven by their in-depth knowledge of the relevant topics and firsthand experiences. They use social media, civic engagement, and political advocacy in the interest of sustainability. However, they face budgetary constraints, political resistance, and psychological barriers. Acknowledging and appreciating these intricacies is crucial to formulating focused strategies to support and enable Generation Z to pursue environmental sustainability in the Gulf Coast region. This study provides insightful information for more general discussions on social responsibility and ecological behavior by highlighting the unique contributions and challenges that Generation Z in the American Gulf Coast faces in criminal behavior.

Beyond just causing ecological degradation, global environmental imbalances significantly impact social and economic institutions. The impact on criminal behavior is one of the key topics. This case study investigates the relationship between ecological imbalances and criminal behavior in Generation Z (Gen Z). It focuses on the types of crimes common in ecologically stressed areas, how environmental stressors influence criminal activity, and the social responsibilities of Gen Z in resolving these issues.

Environmental imbalances can destroy local economies, especially where agriculture, fishing, and tourism are the primary industries. People who are in financial need may turn to criminal activities, including poaching, illegal logging, and the trafficking of endangered animals. Vulnerable communities turn to organized crime as a means of surviving when their traditional lives collapse (UNODC, 2016). Linking global environmental imbalances and criminal activity represents a complex challenge that requires a multifaceted approach. With a strong ecological consciousness and social responsibility, Gen Z plays a key role in solving these problems.

They can contribute to sustainable solutions that curb environmental degradation and its associated criminal activity through awareness, activism, and education. However, to realize their full potential, they must overcome the economic, social, political, and psychological barriers they face. This case study highlights the importance of empowering young people to pave the way towards a more sustainable and just world. University case study- College campuses provide a unique lens for studying Gen Z behaviors, attitudes, and social responsibility because they are a

microcosm of broader societal trends. This case study explores the environmental and social behaviors of Gen Z college students, focusing on their commitment to sustainability, activism, and community initiatives. College campuses like the University of Example provide valuable insight into Gen Z environmental behavior and social responsibility.

Gen Z students are deeply committed to sustainability through activism, sustainable practices, and community involvement. Despite challenges such as resource limitations and institutional resistance, their efforts contribute significantly to addressing global environmental imbalances. Driven by Gen Z's passion and innovation, this case study highlights the potential for college campuses to act as incubators of sustainable practices and social responsibility. Misuse of time- The term "Time abuse" includes a range of behaviors and activities that do not contribute to productive, educational, or socially beneficial outcomes. For Generation Z (Gen Z), born between 1997 and 2012, time abuse can manifest in a variety of ways due to their unique sociocultural environment and the pervasive influence of technology.

Understanding how Gen Z spends their time is essential for educators, employers, and policymakers to develop strategies to maximize their potential and guide them toward more constructive habits. Gen Z spends much time on social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, and Twitter. While these platforms offer opportunities for socialization and self-expression, they also lead to significant time wastage. Prolonged social media use can decrease productivity, lower academic performance, and less time for meaningful face-to-face interactions. It can also lead to mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.

Online gaming and video streaming are popular pastimes among Gen Z.

Platforms such as Twitch and YouTube, as well as various gaming services, are frequented by this demographic. Gaming and streaming provide entertainment and relaxation, but if overdone, they can lead to abandonment of responsibilities, reduced physical activity, and interrupted sleep. Time wastage is a significant issue for Gen Z, affected by digital distractions, poor time management, and passive consumption habits. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-pronged approach that promotes digital literacy, teaches practical time management skills, and encourages active participation in meaningful activities. Understanding and addressing the factors contributing to time wastage can help Gen Z reach their full potential and lead more balanced, fulfilling lives.

Drug culture- Generation Z (Gen Z) was born between 1997 and 2012, shaped by an era of rapid technological advancements, widespread social media, and evolving social norms. These factors significantly influence their attitudes and behaviors toward drug and substance use. Understanding Gen Z drug culture through case studies of college students, high school students, and young adults provides insight into their motivations, risks, and broader societal influences.

Gen Z college students' drug culture is influenced by digital exposure, mental health issues, and evolving social norms. Understanding these factors through in-depth case studies can help develop targeted prevention and intervention strategies.

By addressing the root causes of drug use, providing comprehensive education, and promoting mental health, universities and communities can help Gen Z make healthier choices and reduce the prevalence of substance abuse.

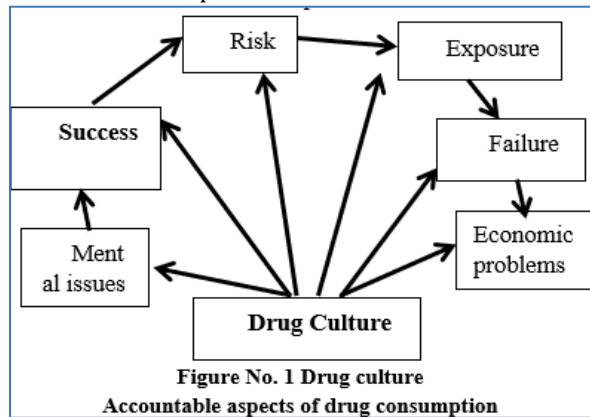


Fig. 1. Drug Culture Accountable aspects of drug consumption.

**Broken families-** One of the significant social factors affecting this generation is the prevalence of family breakdown, including divorce, separation, and single-parent households. Family structure significantly impacts Gen Z's behavior and well-being, affecting their mental health, academic achievement, social relationships, and overall development. Children from broken families often suffer from higher levels of stress, anxiety, and depression. The instability and conflict that accompanies parental separation can lead to emotional and psychological stress. These mental health issues can affect many aspects of their lives, including academic performance, social interactions, and overall well-being. Children may develop coping mechanisms such as withdrawal, aggression, and substance use.

The stress and turmoil caused by family breakdown can negatively affect a child's academic performance. Frequent changes in living situations, schools, and emotional turmoil can affect concentration and motivation. Children from broken families may have difficulty forming and maintaining relationships. Instability within the home can lead to trust issues and problems with social interaction. The impacts of family breakdown on Gen Z behavior are manifold, affecting their mental health, academic achievement, social relationships, and economic stability. Understanding these effects is essential to develop effective support strategies. Educational institutions can mitigate the adverse effects of family breakdown and promote the well-being and success of Gen Z students by providing comprehensive mental health services, academic support, social networks, and financial assistance.

**Find out -** A proactive and collective approach characterizes Gen Z's behavior toward global environmental imbalance. With a strong sense of social responsibility, young people drive positive change and challenge the status quo. As we look to the future, harnessing the potential of Gen Z in addressing environmental challenges will be pivotal in creating a sustainable and thriving planet for generations to come. In offering their insights, Gen Z can significantly contribute to research and provide

valuable information to understand their role in addressing global environmental imbalances and fulfilling their social responsibilities.

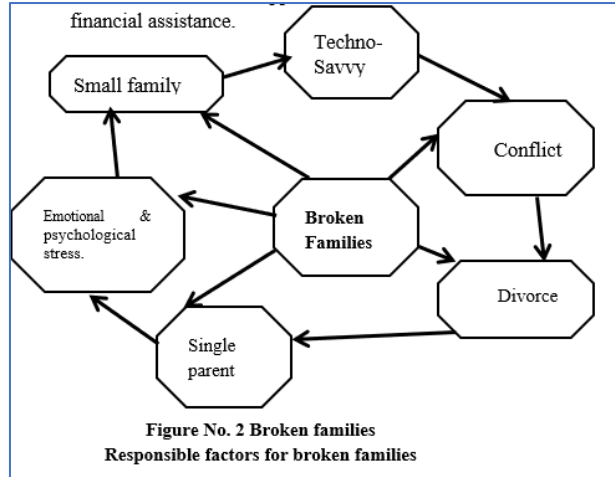


Fig. 2. Responsible factors for Broken families.

#### 4.1. Suggestions:

- **Stay Informed:** Regularly read and share articles, reports, and documentaries on environmental issues to stay current and inform those around you. Spend quality time on mobile.
- **Online Courses and Webinars:** Enroll in online courses and attend sustainability and environmental science webinars. Engage in Sustainable Practices Social Media: Use social media to raise awareness of environmental issues, promote sustainable products, and share tips for reducing your ecological footprint.
- **Join or Create an Environmental Group:** Join or form a local or online environmental group to organize cleanups, tree planting, and recycling campaigns.
- **Reduce your digital footprint. Conscious device use:** Reduce screen time and limit the use of multiple devices to reduce energy consumption.
- **Optimize device settings:** Use power-saving modes on your devices and unplug your charger when not in use to conserve power.
- **Support sustainable brands and Eco-friendly products:** Buy products from brands committed to sustainability, ethical sourcing, and minimizing their environmental impact. Shop second-hand: Buy used clothing, electronics, and other goods to reduce waste and promote a circular economy.
- **Get involved in political and community activities—vote and petition:** Vote in elections and support candidates with strong environmental policies. Sign petitions and support legislative efforts to protect the environment.

- **Community projects:** Get involved in local community projects focused on sustainability, such as B. Urban gardening, renewable energy systems, and environmental conservation efforts.
- **Promote Sustainable Transportation. Use Public Transportation:** To reduce your carbon footprint, choose public transportation, biking, or walking instead of driving. Carpool and Rideshare: Carpool with friends and use rideshare services to reduce the number of vehicles on the road.
- **Adopt a Sustainable Lifestyle. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle:** Practice the 3 Rs daily by minimizing waste, reusing items, and adequately recycling materials. Eat sustainably: Reduce meat consumption and choose local, organic foods to reduce the carbon footprint associated with food production.

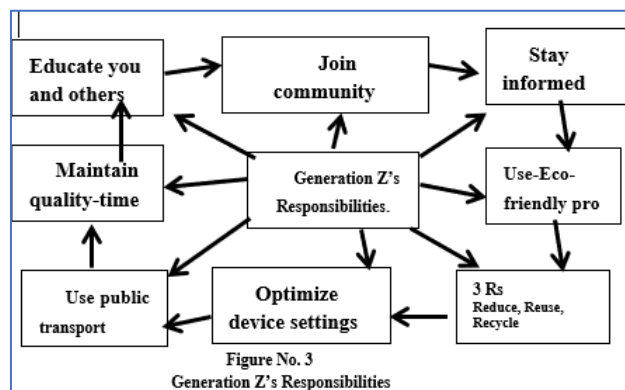


Fig. 3. Generation Z's Responsibilities.

## 5. Conclusion

Global ecological imbalance is one of the most pressing issues of our time, and the younger generation, the so-called Gen Z, is increasingly being called upon to rise to this challenge. As members of this generation, those born between the mid-1990s and early 2010s have a unique role in shaping the planet's future. Gen Z is often characterized as tech-savvy, diverse, and socially conscious, and they have an increasing interest in environmental protection and sustainability. With access to vast information and a strong online presence, Gen Z is well-informed about the planet's environmental issues. From climate change to biodiversity loss, young people are increasingly aware of the impact of human activities on the environment. This awareness is reflected in various behaviors, from advocating for sustainable practices to actively participating in environmental activism.

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