

A Systematic Review of Knowledge, Attitudes and Behaviors Regarding Sustainability among Higher Education Students

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Abstract: The world is facing pressing environmental and social challenges, and university students are central to building a sustainable future. Yet we know surprisingly little about their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors (KAB). This systematic review of 164 peer-reviewed articles (2000–2025) offers the first comprehensive integration of the full KAB framework in higher education sustainability research. Through bibliometric and thematic analysis, we identify six intellectual domains and eleven clusters, exposing a persistent knowledge-action gap and limited regional diversity. While sustainability is entering curricula, institutional barriers block real behavior change, positioning students as agents of transformative change in advancing the SDGs.

Keywords: Knowledge-Attitudes-Behaviors (KAB), Higher Education, Student Engagement, Sustainability, Systematic Literature Review

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