



How media influences the perception and knowledge about climate change among students

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The population perceives the climatic reality through the media, especially television. Even the youngest people admit that the press is the main channel through which they receive information about global warming and that the last person who spoke to them about the causes and effects of the global temperature increase was a journalist. The media's treatment of information determines young people's awareness on global warming. We present here the results of a survey about perception and knowledge related to climate change made to some 900 students of secondary school and the three universities in Galicia (Spain), from both art and science degrees. The survey reveals very interesting information. For example, a very high percentage of these young people, the most educated in history, with all modern technology and information at reach, have a negative view of the natural greenhouse effect in general and think of it as man-made, confusing it with its enhancement by anthropogenic emissions; or that the climate crisis represents a greater threat to the Earth itself than to living creatures. In addition, almost sixty percent pessimistically acknowledge that the environmental problem has probably no solution. The survey shows that a high percentage of young people are somewhat or very concerned about global warming and recognize that human activity is responsible for the increase in the average temperature of the planet. Science students understand climate change science better than art students but both have problems grasping the meaning of a one degree average temperature increase.