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Sustainability Consumption through a disability studies lens

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Introduction

- Sustainable consumption has received recent attention in light of the recent publication of the United Nations' framework for the post 2015 development goals[1]
- Era of "patient driven healthcare" and the healthcare consumer is rapidly emerging[2]
- How sustainable consumption is discussed impacts people with disabilities and other socially disadvantaged groups

Research Question

- Which social groups are mentioned and which topics are discussed in academic literature of sustainable consumption

Methods

- Articles containing the phrase "sustainable healthcare" were downloaded from Science Direct, Scopus and EBSCOAll. A total of 153 articles were collected
- Atlas.ti data analysis software was used to deductively, inductively and iteratively code for themes in the literature

Results

As to targets for "sustainable consumption of", we found the following targets for sustainable-consumption using Google Scholar: natural Resources (n=109); Food (n=108); Environment (n=72); Water (n=66); Products for households and people (n=48); Energy (n=46); Economics/Income (n=15); Shrimp, Living Sea Resources and forests (n=11); Tourism, Electronics/Technology and Employees (n=10). Two targets were mentioned (n=8); one target (n=6) and one target (n=5); six targets were mentioned (n=4) and six (n=3). N=14 targets were mentioned (n=2) and n=29 were mentioned (n=1).

Table 1: Social Groups mentioned in Sustainable Consumption academic literature

Social Group	(n=)
business	275
community	975
government	166
industry	95
corporate	69
society	200
companies	72
consumers	975
farmers	35
public	169
family	25
women	24
human	51
managers	14
households	295
researchers	26
workers	10
child/children	11
academics	17
vulnerable	2
citizen	71
elderly	9
indigenous people	3
youth	8
disabled people	0
poorest	0
Africa	0
rural	0
earth	0
cities	0
NGO	0

References

1. The United Nations. A New Global Partnership: Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development: *The United Nations* [Online], 2013, p.1-84
2. Wolbring, G., V. Leopatra, and S. Yumakulov, *Information Flow and Health Policy Literacy: The Role of the Media*. Information, 2012. 3(4): p. 391-402.

The results are taken from [http://www.mdpi.com/2071-](http://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/5/10/4152/pdf)

1050/5/10/4152/pdf

Table 2: Goals and items for action evident in SD discourses

Goals, themes and items for action	Sustainable Consumption (n=)
indicators	145
frameworks	15
standards	69
global	251
national	149
international	243
world	142
local	163
urban/rural	128/38
economic/ economics/ economy/ bioeconomics/socioeconomic environment/environmental	473/208/0/21/0
research	428
policy	614
water (various forms)	205
energy/bioenergy	459/4
food	484
resources	231
agriculture	39
forest	28
growth	203
housing	51
governance	86
education	133
health	101
services	146
trade	163
transport	110
science	31
technology	110

Conclusion

- Socially disadvantaged groups were vastly underrepresented indication a limited social angle within sustainable consumption discourse although the term community was used a lot
- Many of the topics covered impact socially disadvantaged groups and as such they should be covered
- In general the Sustainable consumption academic discourse seems to be product related not social structure related which is a problem for socially disadvantaged groups and should be rectified.