

THE CONTEXT OF URBAN FUTURES AND THE ASSOCIATED FOCUS ON SOCIALLY, ENVIRONMENTALLY, AND HEALTHY RESPONSIBLE CITY.

Rey-Vizoso Francisco, García-Mira Ricardo
University of A Coruña

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Introduction

The urban environment significantly affects the health and well-being of residents (Barton and Grant, 2006.) Currently, more than 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, this figure is expected to increase by 70% in 2050 (UNDESA, 2014.) (WWAP, 2012.). For this reason, some authors have proposed the need to design new spaces (Garcia Mira, R.; Dumitru, A. & Goluboff, M., 2009.) that have some link with nature and sustainable urban development. One solution that has been proposed by some authors is to implement nature-based solutions (NBS) (Krasny et al., 2014.; Luyet et al., 2012.), improving the quality of life (psychological health and well-being) of their citizens (Anderson et al., 2015)

Methods

To develop the research, a systematic review of scientific articles has been carried out consulting impact journals in social psychology, environmental psychology, urban sociology, etc. It was decided that the best method to adopt for this research was a mixed method. Analysis techniques include a multidisciplinary approach that combines qualitative and quantitative data. Interviews will be undertaken along with scale designs in a questionnaire format focused on Likert scales of self-reporting of health and well-being.

Theoretical Background

Previous work on environmental psychology has studied the impact of the provisions of ecosystem services through NBS in relation to psychological health (Soga, M; Gauton, K.J., 2016.), and overall well-being of urban residents (Keniger et al., 2013.) The impact of these types of urban infrastructures (NBS) in cities, respond to the challenges (climate change, health, disaster risk, and loneliness) that face urban society. The aim of this paper is to assess the impact of NBS, specifically the self-reported perception of well-being and health standards which people associate with certain NBS to determine the influence that green infrastructure (NBS) has on an urban setting, such as the facilitation of social networks and social inclusion. Previous studies prove a line of a study correlating social contact in urban spaces as causation to social cohesion and the improvement of citizen's health (de Vries et al., 2016.), (Ward Thompson et al., 2016.)

Conclusions

Preliminary results will inform the influence of NBS on social cohesion and the barriers that hinder this cohesion, with a specific focus on the correlation between NBS (with and without social interactions) and the self-perception of health and well-being of the inhabitants of superblocks in an urban space.

References

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