

The Reality of Practicing Environmental Citizenship Behaviors "A Study Applied to Beneficiaries from Community Associations Services in Ha'il"

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Abstract

The study aimed at investigating the reality of environmental citizenship behaviors practice among the beneficiaries from community associations in Ha'il. These behaviors are identified scientifically by national organizations to include environmental personal responsibility, environmental justice and environmental participation. The researchers utilized the sample social survey as an instrument for measuring environmental citizenship behaviors. The research population included 1030 beneficiaries. A random sample of 10%, hundred and three (103) participants, out of the total research population was drawn using the random tables method. Data was collected in the period from (23/5/2022 to 10/11/2022). Findings revealed the highest practiced behaviors as: environmental personal responsibility, environmental justice, and environmental participation with averages of 4.33, 4.23 and 4.08, respectively. Researchers recommended using training programs and providing a local database of individuals' activities that support environmental citizenship behaviors.

Key Words: Environmental citizenship behaviors, Environmental personal responsibility, Environmental justice, Environmental participation, Community associations, Ha'il city.

1. Introduction:

Environmental citizenship is one crucial societal issue at present. The concept of environmental citizenship is concerned with citizens' engagement in common problems as well as future challenges related to the ecosystem and its sustainability (Amroush, 2014, p. 20). Environmental citizenship contributes to human development, comprehensive reform and development projects. Environmental citizenship aims at instilling values, principles and ideals among all members of society, so they can participate effectively in environment preservation and development (Al-Harbi, 2016, p.6). It can, only, be realized through spreading awareness among members of society and providing them with the skills and tools for dealing with the environment, more carefully (Al-Saadi, 2014, p. 9).

Environmental citizenship is based on the values, customs, and traditional heritage of humanity related to environmental protection (Al-Wadhai, 2015). Actually, protecting the environment against dangers is a major interest of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia within its

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future plan, 2030. Challenges in the Kingdom include pollution of wells, cement factories wastes, emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, land degradation and desertification. The prominent international efforts of the kingdom in protecting the environment embrace reviewing initiatives and projects related to environmental protection, published on the Saudi National Unified Platform for Governmental Services, 2023

(<https://www.my.gov.sa/wps/portal/snp/aboutksa/environmentalProtection>)

These include: Establishing a research fund for energy and environment, Reform project after the Gulf War, The Desert Agriculture Center, for developing sustainable low-input systems that use water efficiently for the production of food and grains and are compatible with the coastal desert environment, depending on sea water and sunlight for agriculture, Saudi Green Initiative and the Green Middle East initiative, for turning the Middle East into a green era.

Saudi Press Agency (SPA) (2017) defines the national strategy for the environment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as "setting the vision and mission of environmental action that works on a prosperous and sustainable environment enjoying the highest levels of care from every citizen, and the message that is built on providing capabilities and the involvement of all parties to provide and implement comprehensive policies, strategies, systems, standards and guidelines that ensure the protection and sustainability of the environment. These strategic goals are identified to include environmental sustainability, economic sustainability, social well-being and environmental participation.

The most prominent outputs of the strategy are institutional strength and the participation of the private sector by establishing an effective and sustainable institutional framework for the environment sector that creates integration of roles as well as activating the participation of the private sector, enhancing environmental compliance and reducing the impact of development sectoral activities on the environment. Saudi community associations provide services for all levels of Saudi society, helping to improve the conditions of Saudi society socially, economically, politically and environmentally, in order to achieve the vision of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 2030.

Environmental sustainability is threatened by a number of environmental issues, many of these problems are rooted in human behavior and can therefore be managed by changing the relevant behavior to reduce their environmental impacts (Steg & Vlek, 2009, 309). Theoretical research suggests viewing environmental problems as social dilemmas (Zelenski & Others, 2015). Citizens can actively participate in the development of their societies (Hayward, 2012,3). More than just recycling or turning off the lights, eco-citizenship requires an active environmental citizen who recognizes the value of livable environments to people and nature, and who is conservative of environmental resources (Ellis & Waterton 2004).

Environmental citizenship as a philosophy and concept of value and social dimension embodies the responsibility of belonging reinforced by individual and initiatives and represents an indicator that determines the level of individual's and society awareness of responsible and interactive contribution to the homeland (Al-Wadaei, 2015). Environmental citizenship includes the right to participate in environmental policy-making, choose sustainable personal actions, and comply with just environmental law (Bell, 2005). Al-Wadaei (2015) indicated that environmental citizenship has its goals that can be limited to developing environmental awareness and culture, deepening ethical behavior and self-

responsibility of a rational environmental behavior, benefiting from natural resources properly, enhancing the democracy of environmental decision; social participation in environmental decision-making, acknowledgment of the environmental rights of local communities and social justice and the shared responsibility of protecting the environment. Schenck et.al (2022) explained that promoting environmental citizenship can achieve the goals of sustainability and environmental protection by encouraging participation in environmental citizenship behaviors.

Alibeli and Yaghi (2018) showed that citizens' willingness to protect the environment has ethical dimensions and that citizens' environmental behavior is a complex reality where social, personal, economic, political and organizational factors influence how a person responds to environmental concerns. The researchers analyzed environmental behavior in the light of four main environmental theories: (1) the economic theory which indicates environmental behavior as a result of rational decision-making mechanisms; whereby people calculate their gains and losses before deciding how to respond to any environmental issue, (2) the behavioral theory, hypothesizing that individuals may have positive or negative feelings and values towards the environment, but their actual behavior in interacting with their surroundings may differ from what they believe to be, (3) The theory of public welfare; indicating that clean air, clean water, and other environmental necessities can be regulated by the government and (4) altruism theory, claiming that altruistic individuals may spend much money on environmental protection.

Rebecca Schild (2016), also pointed out in his critical study that environmental citizenship is a concept that credibly embodies the necessity of environmental sustainability.

In order to achieve sustainable societies, citizen education approaches are needed to deal with the complexities of environmental citizenship in an environmental context. Chan (2023) proposed a multi- approach to environmental citizenship based on a 13-month curricular case study exploration. Deeply tracking the students' five pivotal learning paths, the study revealed that individuals define their perception of pluralistic environmental citizenship in light of four elements: concept of society, concept of environment, institutional knowledge, and values.

The European Network for Environmental Citizenship (ENEC) (ENEC, 2018) showed the importance of "environmental citizenship" as the way to solve environmental problems. D'Arco and Marino (2022) showed a positive, significant relationship between awareness of results, attribution of responsibility, personal habits and environmental citizenship behavior in both the private and public sectors. Sustainability applications are being used by governments, policy makers, and organizations to engage citizens and motivate environmental citizenship behaviors.

Dobson (2007) indicated the importance of considering environmental citizenship in a more comprehensive and broader view to include environmental practices that go beyond traditional social and political components, such as individual or societal behaviors motivated by commitment to the values of justice and equality. Dobson (2007) therefore stresses the need to target behaviors that promote environmental citizenship.

Tracing the same previous points, the current research tackled the problem of the reality of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors that include environmental personal responsibility, environmental justice and environmental participation, which could seriously

impede the paths of forming environmental citizenship. It raised a basic question about the reality of individuals', families' and groups' practice of environmental citizenship behaviors.

The current research is consistent with the strategic objectives of the Kingdom's Vision 2030: Reducing pollution of air, sound, water and soil, protecting and preparing natural areas such as beaches, islands and natural reserves, improving the urban landscape in Saudi cities and protecting the environment from natural dangers such as desertification. Results of the current research will enable stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions about contributing behaviors that can improve environmental citizenship.

Results of the current research can be utilized in planning preventive and development programs for community associations to enhance environmental citizenship behaviors among the beneficiaries of individuals and groups.

The current research aimed at achieving:

Determining the level of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors related to (environmental personal responsibility- environmental justice - environmental participation) among beneficiaries of community associations services.

Determining the most practiced behaviors among beneficiaries.

Determining the differences between the responses of the study sample on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to demographic variables (gender - employment status - age).

2. Questions of the Research:

The current research aimed at answering a main question: What is the reality of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors?

This main question could be answered through a set of sub-questions, as follows:

1- What is the level of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors related to (environmental personal responsibility- environmental justice - environmental participation) among beneficiaries of community associations services?

2- What is the order of the most practiced behaviors among beneficiaries?

3- Are there statistically significant differences between the mean score of the study sample responses about the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to some demographic variables: gender, employment status and age?

3. Concepts of the Research:

3.1 Environmental Citizenship Behaviors:

The concept of citizenship is defined as the quality of a citizen that defines his/ her national rights and duties. Citizenship is characterized by a special kind of loyalty of the citizen to homeland and of cooperation with other citizens through institutional and individual, official and voluntary work (Badawi, 1982, 60).

The Encyclopedia Britannica defined citizenship as a relationship between an individual and a state, a relationship of mutual duties and rights. It is an emotional attachment to the homeland (Basarda, 2015, 15).

Citizenship depends on the principle of equality in rights and duties among all citizens, male and female. Equality as a main component of citizenship necessitates no room for discrimination among citizens (Amin, 2010, 53).

Citizenship may differ from one country to another, depending on the cultural, social and religious beliefs. Identity affects negatively or positively the way citizenship is represented by citizens and the degree of citizens' awareness of their rights and duties.

Eco-citizenship is defined as the responsible pro-environmental behavior of citizens (ENEC 2018).

The concept of environmental citizenship behaviors is a set of human values, customs, traditions, customs, principles, which enhances the reality of environmental rights for human groups in different regions of the world, and supports the presence of ethical behavior and self-responsibility of the individual and society towards the environment. (Alwadaei, 2015).

In the current research, environmental citizenship behaviors, environmental personal responsibility, environmental justice and environmental participation were measured procedurally with the score that the respondent obtained on the instrument of measuring environmental citizenship behaviors and its sub-dimensions among the sample of the current study.

3.2 The Concept of Community Associations:

The system of associations and civil institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

This system aims to organize, develop and protect civil work, in addition to contributing to national development, enhancing the citizen's involvement in the management and development of society, activating the culture of voluntary work among members of society, and achieving social solidarity. A community association is defined as "every group with a continuous organization for a specific or indefinite period, consisting of persons of natural or legal capacity, or both, and is essentially non-profit (the system of civil associations and institutions issued by Royal Decree No. (M/8, 2016)

Abdel-Latif (2010, 2) defines them as the units established by the residents of the local community. It is a non-profit organization that seeks to develop resources, improve society, and empower individuals and groups.

Conditions for the establishment of community associations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia: (The system of associations and civil institutions issued by Royal Decree (2015)

1- The application for the establishment of the association - accompanied by a copy of the basic regulations, submitted by a number of not less than ten Saudis of persona or legal capacity, and it is required for the persona to have no final judgment issued on a convicted crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty, unless innocence has been proven.

2- It is not permissible to approve the establishment of an association if its bylaws include provisions that contradict the provisions of Islamic Sharia, or contravene public order, contradict public morals, prejudice national unity, or conflict with the provisions of the system, bylaws, or regulations.

3- The Ministry must respond to the request to establish the association within (60) days from the date of completion of the justifications for the request stipulated in this

system and the procedures specified by the regulations, and failure to respond during this period is tantamount to approval of its establishment.

4- The association shall have a legal personality after the Ministry's approval of its establishment, and its basic regulations shall be published in the media specified by the regulations. No association may engage in any of its activities except after the completion of its incorporation procedures in accordance with the provisions of the system and the regulations.

The scope of the Community associations social activities and its beneficiaries:

1- Each association has a geographical scope that it adheres to, and it is not permissible to exceed it.

2- The association may not engage in activities that are not included in its bylaws.

3- When the association determines its beneficiaries, it is not permissible for it to amend the basic regulations to expand the circle of beneficiaries after the approval of the general assembly.

4- Standards must be set for the beneficiaries of the association to ensure equal opportunities among them.

5- Among the tasks that can be added to the legal advisor: legal monitoring of the activities of the association to ensure that it does not deviate from the permit granted to it. (Ahmed& Al-Gharib, 2016, 51:52)

In the current study, community associations are defined as social institutions that have a structure and a function and express the needs of the community's population and aim at satisfying those needs in a way that contributes to the development of their environments.

4. Methodology:

4.1 Design:

The current research was a descriptive one which used the social sample survey, The researchers measured the environmental citizenship behaviors of the beneficiaries and data were collected in the period from (5/23/2022 to 11/10/2022).

Sample: The study population was represented by the beneficiaries in: Ha'il Association for Human Development, Environment Association in Hail and Association for Voluntary Work and Community Service in Ha'il, numbered (1030) beneficiaries. A random sample of 10%, 103 participants who were withdrawn using the random tabulation method. Statistical Packages for Social Sciences (SPSS-V26), was utilized (see Table, 1):

Table 1. Description of the demographic characteristics of the beneficiaries of Community Associations Services, "study sample"

	Variables	Frequency	%
Gender	male	96	93.2
	Female	7	6.8
Nationality	Saudi	80	77.7
	Non-Saudi	23	22.3
Age	From 25 to less than 35 years old	9	8.7
	From 35 to less than 45 years old	55	53.4

	45 and over	39	37.9
Professional status	Does not work	17	16.5
	works	86	83.5
	Bachelor's	96	93.2
Educational level	Secondary	3	2.9
	Postgraduate	4	3.9
	Hail Association for Human development	15	14.6
Civil Association is the service provider	Hail Environmental Society	38	36.9
	Association of Voluntary Work and Community Service	50	48.6
Number of years Benefiting from the services of the NGO	Less than a year	1	1.0
	From one year to less than three years	95	92.2
	Three years or more	7	6.8
Satisfaction of beneficiaries with NGO services	Not satisfied	13	12.6
	Satisfied	90	87.4
Total		103	100

It is clear from the previous table that: The demographic characteristics of the beneficiaries of community associations services were as follows: according to the gender variable males 93.2%, females 6.8%, according to the nationality variable 77.7% Saudi, non-Saudis 22.3%, according to the age variable the largest percentage of the age group 35 to less than 45 years 53.4% compared to other age groups, 45 and over 37.9%, from 25 to less than 35 years 8.7%. According to the employment status 83.5% of those who work, 16.5% who do not work, according to the educational level 93.2% bachelor's degree, 3.9% postgraduate studies, 2.9% secondary school, according to the service provider 48.6% of volunteer work and community association, 36.9% of the environment association, Human Development Association 14.6%, according to the number of years of benefiting from the services of the service provider from one year to less than three years 92.2%, three years or more 6.8%, less than a year 1.0%, and according to the level of satisfaction of the beneficiary with the services of community associations 87.4% satisfied, 12.5% dissatisfied.

4.2 Validity and Reliability of the Study Instruments:

Survey for measuring the reality of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors of community associations services beneficiaries in Ha'il: The instrument consisted of 3 sub-dimensions: the first dimension was environmental personal responsibility, the second dimension was environmental justice, and the third dimension was environmental participation. Each sub-dimension included a number 11 phrases.

Validity: The researchers verified the validity of the survey through the following procedures: content validity and internal consistency. With regard to the content validity, the researchers relied on the views of 2 experts in the field of community associations and 3 experts of university professors in the field of environment.

With regard to the validity of the internal consistency, the instrument was applied to a sample of 30 respondents other than the basic research sample, who had the same characteristics other basic research sample. The table below shows the test results.

Table 2. Correlation Coefficient between the Scores of Each of the Dimensions Included in the Scale and the Overall Score of the Scale

Dimensions	Value of Pearson Coefficient
First Dimension: Environmental Personal Responsibility	0.91
Second Dimension: Environmental Justice	0.85
Third Dimension: Environmental Participation	0.94

The table above shows that all correlation coefficients were statistically significant at (0.01), indicating the validity of the scale and its suitability for using in experimentation. Reliability: Reliability was measured using: Cronbach Alpha (α) method, where the alpha coefficient reached 0.92, a high coefficient, and the Split-half method using the Spearman-Brown Coefficient (0.9). This indicates the appropriateness of the scale for application.

5. Results & Discussion:

In order to answer the first sub-question, stating: “What is the level of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors associated with environmental personal responsibility among the beneficiaries of community associations services?”, the researcher conducted the descriptive statistical treatment represented in calculating the mean score, standard deviations, and order, as shown in the following table:

Table 3. Citizenship behaviors associated with environmental personal responsibility

S	Sentences	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
1	Warning my family members of any behavior that could affect the environment	4.48	.624	3
2	Making sure to save water.	4.56	.605	1
3	Encouraging my family to rationalize electricity consumption.	4.20	.867	9
4	Follow the instructions and guidelines for e-waste disposal.	4.36	.739	6
5	Use multi-purpose cloth bags instead of plastic bags to reduce waste.	4.36	.778	7
6	Putting the rubbish in its designated places.	3.91	.991	11
7	I communicate with the competent authorities to report if there is any behavior contrary to environmental protection.	4.40	.719	4
8	Accepting to give up part of my income if it contributes to protecting the environment.	4.51	.592	2
9	I know very well what are the environmental problems in the city of Hail.	4.33	.706	8
10	I care about my family's participation in environmental activities in my community.	4.14	.805	10
11	I make sure to follow my family's behavior related to protecting the environment.	4.38	.729	5
	Total	4.33	.741	High

Table (3) indicates that: The level of citizenship behaviors associated with personal environmental responsibility was high, with mean score of (4.33), and the practices were ordered as follows: Saving water use, accepting to waive part of the income to contribute to environmental protection, educating the family regarding behaviors that affect the environment, communicating with the competent authorities to report if any behavior endangers environmental protection, monitoring the behavior of the family to protect the environment.

In order to answer the second sub-question, stating: “What is the level of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors related to environmental justice among the beneficiaries of community association services?”, the researcher conducted the descriptive statistical treatment represented in calculating the mean score, standard deviations, and order, as shown in the following table:

Table 4. Citizenship behaviors associated with environmental justice

S	Sentences	Mean	Standard Deviation	Rank
1	Future generations have the right to sustainable development.	4.04	.939	10
2	Environmental practices in one community should not affect the nature of healthy living in another.	3.61	1.059	11
3	I prefer that all social services be available in my community.	4.17	.781	9
4	The validity of any environmental behavior is required to include all beneficiaries.	4.25	.737	8
5	Acceptance of compromise solutions to some environmental problems contributes to preserving it.	4.31	.686	5
6	Every individual in society offers a role in solving problems related to the environment according to his/ her capabilities and abilities.	4.5	.670	1
7	The local community should participate in environmental protection programs.	4.30	.815	7
8	Education must be developed in a way that supports resolving environmental issues.	4.32	.757	4
9	Our society should adhere to all environmental safety requirements.	4.31	.767	6
10	Everyone should be given the chance to contribute to reducing environmental problems.	4.35	.750	3
11	It is necessary that the educational curricula contain topics concerned with the environment.	4.45	.638	2
	Total	4.23	.781	High

Table (4) reveals that: The level of citizenship behaviors related to environmental justice was high, with a mean score of (4.23), and the highest practices were as follows: Every individual in society plays a role in solving problems, developing education to contribute to solve environmental problems, providing educational curricula concerned with the environment, the role of each citizen in reducing environmental problems, Flexibility in dealing with environmental problems.

In order to answer the third sub-question, stating, “What is the level of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors related to environmental participation among the beneficiaries of community associations services?”, the researcher conducted the descriptive statistical treatment represented in calculating the mean score, standard deviations, and order, as shown in the following table:

Table 5. Citizenship behaviors associated with environmental participation

	Statements	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
1	I participate in seminars on raising awareness of environmental problems.	4.21	.723	4
2	I dedicate part of my time to volunteer with environmental associations.	4.16	.860	5
3	I participate in environmental cleaning campaigns to which I belong.	3.71	1.117	11
4	I use social media to raise awareness of environmental issues.	3.74	1.075	10
5	I donate some of my money to carry out local environmental protection activities.	4.31	.741	2
6	I invite others to participate in local environmental protection activities.	4.24	.773	3
7	I am keen on participating in environmental decision-making in the local community.	4.11	.851	7
8	I participate in the official pages of the social networking sites of the authorities concerned with the field of environmental protection.	4.12	.867	6
9	I participate in the process of planting trees in the local community.	4.00	.897	8
10	I participate in the World Environment Day ceremony.	3.99	.975	9
11	I am keen on participating in environmental improvement activities	4.38	.729	1
	Total	4.08	.873	High

Table(5) showed that: the level of citizenship behaviors associated with environmental participation was high, with an a mean score of (4.08), and the highest practices were as follows: participation in environmental improvement activities, donating money to implement local environmental protection activities, inviting persons to participate in local environment protection activities, participating in seminars to raise awareness of environmental problems, volunteering in environmental associations.

In order to answer the fourth sub-question, stating, “What is the order of environmental citizenship behaviors that are most practiced by the beneficiaries of community associations services?”, the researcher conducted the descriptive statistical treatment represented in calculating the arithmetic average, standard deviations, and the order, as shown in the following table:

Table 6. Arrangement of the highest practiced environmental citizenship behaviors among beneficiaries of community associations services

S	Dimensions	Mean	Std. Deviation	Rank
1	Environmental Personal Responsibility	4.33	.741	First
2	Environmental Justice	4.23	.781	Second
3	Environmental Participation	4.08	.873	Third

Table (6) indicates that: the arrangement of the environmental citizenship behaviors most practiced by the beneficiaries of community associations services were: environmental personal responsibility, environmental justice, environmental participation, where the arithmetic average was, respectively, 4.33, 4.23, 4.08.

In order to answer the fifth sub-question, stating: “Are there any statistically significant differences between the mean score of the study sample’s responses regarding the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to some demographic variables, gender, employment status, age?”, the researcher conducted the inferential statistical treatment, as shown in the following tables:

Table 7. Statistical differences between the mean score of the study sample responses on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to gender

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	t	Sig. (2-tailed)
Male	96	138.71	15.93	101	-1.099	.274
Female	7	145.71	20.57			

Results of the previous table (7) showed no statistically significant differences between the mean score of the study sample’s responses on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to the difference in the gender variable, as the calculated “t” value was (-1.099) at degrees of freedom (101), a statistically insignificant value.

Table 8. Statistical differences between the mean score of the study sample responses on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to the employment status (working - not working)

Employment Status	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	t	Sig. (2-tailed)
Working	86	138.69	16.58	101	-.695	.489
Not Working	17	141.70	14.75			

Results of the previous table (8) showed no statistically significant differences between the mean score of the study sample responses on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to the difference in the employment status variable, as the calculated "t" value was (-0.695) at degrees of freedom (101), a statistically insignificant value.

Table 9. One-Way ANOVA: the differences between the responses of the study sample on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to age:

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	75.041	2	37.521	.139	.870
Within Groups	26921.075	100	269.211		
Total	26996.117	102			

The data of the previous table (9) showed no statistically significant differences between the responses of the study sample on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to age, as the F value was (.139), a statistically insignificant value.

Table 10. One-way ANOVA analysis of the differences between the responses of the study sample on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to the educational level

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Between Groups	1100.742	2	550.371	2.125	.125
Within Groups	25895.375	100	258.954		
Total	26996.117	102			

Data of the previous table (10) showed no statistically significant differences between the responses of the study sample on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to the educational level, as the F value was (2.125), a statistically insignificant value.

6. Conclusion

The study aimed at determining the reality of practicing environmental citizenship behaviors: environmental personal responsibility, environmental justice, environmental participation, and the highest practiced behaviors of beneficiaries of community associations services. The current research concluded that the level of these behaviors was high among the beneficiaries of individuals, families and groups. In terms of the order of the highest practiced behaviors, environmental personal responsibility was first with a mean score of 4.33, while environmental justice came as the second order with a mean score of 4.23, and the third and final order was environmental participation with a mean score of 4.08. There were, also, no statistically significant differences between the mean score of the study sample responses on the practice of environmental citizenship behaviors according to some demographic variables: gender, employment status, age, indicating that environmental citizenship behaviors did not differ according to these demographic variables that the current research focused on. This agrees with the proposed idea of the current research of universal environmental citizenship and transcending place boundaries. The results of the current research are consistent with theoretical literature on environmental citizenship stating that the importance of environmental citizenship lies in the individual's willingness to face environmental problems and make decisions related to the environment (AL Mohsen & Nassar,2013, Nam,2012, Mead,2013). Results of the current research were consistent with the most practiced concepts model, (see Figure 2), the "behavioral model of environmental citizenship" with its actions that express feeling and understanding and Full awareness of the role of the individual and his/her ability to influence the environment positively and negatively, which is environmental participation. This can be classified as follows: individual and collective participation, participation with information, effort and time, money, formal and voluntary participation, that is informal, participation, environmental justice of rights, duties, equality available to all citizens, and preserving the rights of future generations to reach environmental citizenship as interaction with the environment away from self-interest (Barnett et.al, 2005, Cincera & Krajhanzl,2013, Mi Et.al (2021), Arriagada & Others, 2022, Moilanen & Alasoini, 2023).

Promoting environmental citizenship behaviors can contribute to achieve the goals of sustainability and environmental protection by encouraging participation. This is consistent with what was indicated by Schenck *et.al* (2022), in addition to what was stipulated in the vision and mission of the National Environment Strategy in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Sometimes citizens consider environmental citizenship with all its dimensions, components, practices and duties as the responsibility of the state. In such a case there is a burden on states, excessive dependence on the part of people, and an abandonment of their personal responsibility (Alibeli, Yaghi, 2018, Meerah & Others, 2010). The current findings about environmental citizenship will enable stakeholders and decision makers to make evidence-based decisions about practices that can contribute to improving environmental citizenship (Meerah *et.al*, 2010). Integrating health and safety issues into environmental management systems can bring many benefits. Honkasalo (2000) and Chen *et.al* (2002) emphasized on the mediating role of environmental knowledge through the use of technology and techniques in promoting environmental citizenship behaviors (Farrukh *et.al*, 2022, Corbett & Elldrissi, 2022, Hao & Others, 2022, Latif, & Others, 2022, Lopez *et.al*, 2023) In addition, results indicated the importance of encouraging citizens in environmentally responsible behaviors (Corbett & Elldrissi, 2022, Song *et. al*, 2019), and non-governmental programs promotion of knowledge and supporting environmental citizenship behaviors (Ho & Seow, 2023).

Enhancing participation in environmental citizenship through creating local models and projects commensurate with the nature of the geographical location in the city of Ha'il. Developing training programs concerned with updating environmental citizenship behaviors in a non-traditional manner, benefitting from technological development and digital transformation.

Conducting more studies and research to identify the types of environmental activities and initiatives that the residents of the city of Ha'il wish to undertake.

Preparing a database of local information about individuals and the activities in which they can help and their experiences to enhance environmental citizenship behaviors in the city of Ha'il.

Studying the attitudes of the residents of the city of Ha'il towards digital environmental citizenship in line with the aims of the digital government in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Utilizing multiple digital communication channels suitable for use by beneficiaries in order to raise the level of satisfaction with the services of community associations, and to reach high levels of environmental citizenship behavior.

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