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University Health Sciences Students' Understandings, Practices and Ideas about Environmental Education and Carbon Footprint in Turkey

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As environmental issues are growing in the world, there is an urgency for environmental education. Health care itself has been shown to contribute to climate change. In particular, hospitals are highly energy intensive, consume large amounts of resources, and produce a large amount of waste. Personal health benefits arise from more frequent exercise, reduced obesity, the consumption of more plant-based foods. Such personal benefits cause reduced car use, fewer methane-producing ruminants, and fewer hospital admissions from chronic ill health. The purpose of this study is to explore KTO Karatay University health sciences students' understandings, practices and ideas about environmental education and carbon footprint in Turkey. Using an embedded mixed methods instrumental case study design, this study will include 300 undergraduate students. Data collection sources will include a questionnaire. Results of the study will indicate students' values, beliefs and knowledge on environmental education and carbon footprint. Discussion and implications of the study will focus on what overarching findings have been gained from the founding literature base and research findings. Suggestions for future research will be outlined based on these overarching findings. Finally, limitations of the study to the research base will also be presented.

Keywords: Environmental Education, Carbon Footprint, University Students