|  |
| --- |
| **Environmental Health Literacy as a health promotion tool: a concept analysis** |
| **Background/Objectives**Today, 60% of the earth’s vital ecosystems are degraded or being subjected to anthropogenic unsustainable pressures(1).This, along with the increased global burden of disease related to environmental factors(2) mandate us to acknowledge that ‘people’s health can no longer be separated from the health of our planet’(3). More than 25 years have passed since ‘human beings were put at the centre of concerns for sustainable development’(4). Nevertheless, patterns of overconsumption, social inequality and political inertia prevail ubiquitously within the predominant paradigm. Simultaneously, growing awareness of the importance of global action to break this paradigm, and to establish salutogenesis as the cornerstone of development, is engaging us to action, as expressed in the 2030 Agenda(5). In this presentation, Planetary Health will be set as a foundation approach towards the realisation of the ‘highest attainable level of health and wellbeing’ for all humans while preserving the planetary and human supporting systems(6). This global transition starts at the personal and community level, with local actions embedded in the spirit of ‘act local, think global’. Environmental health literacy (EHL), a new perspective that ‘integrates concepts from both environmental literacy and health literacy to develop the wide range of skills and competencies that people need in order to seek out, comprehend, evaluate, and use environmental health information to make informed choices, reduce health risks, improve quality of life and protect the environment’(7), can be a valuable resource in this quest. Our objective is to establish an EHL concept analysis, analyse its concept map and explore its potential use as a tool for community-based health promotion interventions.**Methods**To support the EHL concept analysis, a literature review was conducted on the Web of Science, Pubmed and Google Scholar’s databases. Special emphasis was given to the concept ‘environmental health literacy’ and its relation to ‘health promotion’ and ‘health literacy’.**Results**EHL concept is still subjected to great discussion on its definitions, scope and applications(7) but is a useful resource for environmental health sciences research.**Discussion**More discussion between disciplines, empirical action plans and research is needed to establish EHL as a useful tool for health promotion interventions.**Keywords**‘environmental health literacy’, ‘planetary health’, ‘environmental education’ |