

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION AMONG RURAL AND URBAN FINNS

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Abstract

The history of outdoor recreation is a part of the history when rural society moving towards post industrial and information society during the 20th century. Outdoor recreation became essential part of people's life when the urban everyday life and work did not provide exercise and fresh air. Today it is interesting to look at if any differences still exist among urban and rural populations and how these population groups participate in outdoor recreation. Differences assumingly are due to different way of life and cultural background, and recreation opportunities. Here the theoretical approach of generations was chosen to illustrate the possible trend of change. Generations referred are the generation of transformation (born 1940- 1950) and the media generation (1970-1983).

The aim of this study was to examine participation in outdoor recreation among rural and urban populations. The study is based on national population survey (LVVI) collected by Metla in 1997-2000. The "urban people" come from cities with more than 100 000 inhabitants. "Rural people" live in sparsely populated countryside. The data was divided into two generations both in the city and in the countryside. Outdoor recreation patterns in these groups were analysed with cross tabulation, analysis of variances and discriminate analysis, and correspondence analysis.

The results of the study confirm differences: rural people focus more on traditional, consumptive recreation activities, for example picking berries, fishing and hunting, while activities for urban dwellers are for pleasure only, such as spending time at summer cottage, sunbathing, picnicking and golf. These activities particularly distinguish the urban dwellers from the rural ones. The behaviour patterns of outdoor recreation change along new generations. Especially outdoor recreation behaviour of the rural media generation has become more urbanized compared to the transformation generation. Based on this generational analysis, in the future, people emphasise less on consumptive recreation and stress more on the pleasure of being outdoors.

Key Words

outdoor recreation, urban-rural differences, outdoor activities, countryside, city, media generation, generation of transformation

Key References

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