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Social factors determining sustainable consumption behavior in the Querétaro metropolitan area

Factores sociales que determinan el comportamiento de consumo sustentable en la zona conurbada de Querétaro

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to identify the social factors that determine sustainable consumption behavior in Mexico. The study presents a cross-sectional empirical study that obtained results through an integrated PLS-SEM model. A questionnaire with 26 indicators was administered to a probability sample of 244 respondents. A theoretical model indicates that 50.8% of the variance in sustainable consumption behavior is explained by education and information, social pressure, market conditions, social environment influence, and demographic variables. This model offers guidance for designing strategies, programs, and interventions that support society's transition toward sustainability, since there are elements for the pertinent design of strategies, programs, solutions and any other action aimed at this end.

JEL Code: M31, Q01, Q56

Keywords: sustainable consumer behavior; sustainability; social factors; PLS-SEM

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Resumen

El objetivo de esta investigación es definir los factores sociales que son determinantes en el comportamiento del consumo sustentable de las personas en México. El estudio presenta un diseño empírico estadístico de corte transversal que obtuvo resultados a través de un modelo integrado PLS-SEM. Se aplicó un cuestionario con 26 indicadores a una muestra probabilística de 244 elementos. Se partió de un modelo teórico que concluyó que el 50.8% de la varianza de la variable comportamiento de consumo sustentable, está explicada por los factores educación e información, presión social, condiciones del mercado, influencias del entorno social y variables demográficas. Este modelo provee información para quienes quieren participar de la transición de la sociedad a la sustentabilidad, toda vez que se cuenta con elementos para el diseño pertinente de estrategias, programas, soluciones y cualquier otra acción encaminada a este fin.

Código JEL: M31, Q01, Q56

Palabras clave: comportamiento sustentable del consumidor; sustentabilidad; factores sociales; PLS-SEM

Introduction

Planet Earth is currently experiencing a generalized crisis that must be addressed. The environmental problem is manifested in the intensification of precipitation and droughts, the continuous increase in sea level, the impact on ecosystems, floods, and protracted and intense heat waves in cities (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2021). Likewise, several studies have addressed the crisis from a social and economic perspective, which is global and systemic, where growing inequalities and widespread poverty occur as a characteristic of contemporary societies and recurrent global economic crises, social, political, and gender violence, famine, lack of health care, wars, militarization of the population, forced displacement, and organized crime, among other situations are observed (Hernández, 2018; Curiazi & Cajas Guijarro, 2019; Lang, 2021).

Given this discouraging context, sustainability, understood as the way to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Brundtland, 1987), has emerged as an alternative for action to counteract this civilizational crisis. One must possess broad, deep, and holistic knowledge to understand how economic, social, and environmental systems interact (Stibbe, 2009; Roberston, 2014, cited in Heeren et al., 2016). To this end, it has become important to develop research on the subject, which is approached from a multi- and transdisciplinary perspective and addresses contents from diverse approaches, ranging from environmental to social, economic, and behavioral issues (Acuña-Moraga & Severino-González, 2018). Thus, sustainable action is recognized as a tripartite responsibility among governments, companies, and consumers that enables real changes in people's lifestyles (Franco Crespo, 2017). Considering that such collaborative participation should be

studied separately, this paper refers only to the participation of consumers in the transformative drive toward sustainability and particularly to the social factors that affect this task.

Background

The sustainable consumer has been defined from various angles, recognizing, for example, their growing demand for information on sustainable products, the origin of raw materials and their forms of distribution, concern for the environmental and social impacts generated by their consumption, and their trend to purchase ecological products and services, even at higher prices than traditional ones (Shao et al., 2016). Sustainable consumption is related to how a person thinks about their purchasing decisions, reflecting on the social and environmental impacts of such decisions and recognizing that the current production and distribution of goods and services are inadequate for a sustainable world. Therefore, this consumer also accepts that the changes in their consumption patterns transform their surroundings' social and environmental aspects (Villa Castaño et al., 2018). Engagement occurs at emotional, cognitive, and behavioral levels; greater commitment is associated with more desirable behavioral change (Piligrimiene et al., 2020).

From a more orthodox perspective, the sustainable consumer is located within the solidarity economy, respectful of the environment and local culture, which promotes situations of fair trade, cooperation, community work, and sustainable consumption, seeking forms of production that do not harm people or animals (Gadotti, 2016). This current involves collective action for constructing an alternative economic system governed by ethical principles for the development of life (Coraggio, 2016). Likewise, an almost utopian alternative is the theory of Good Living, where the consumer is open to new forms of relations of life in the community, where individualism has no place, consumption is determined solely by need, and the recovery of cultural identity and age-old heritage is privileged (Schlemer Alcántara, 2017).

Recently, Salgado Beltrán (2019) identified two distinct segments declared the existence of two differentiated segments in the sustainable consumption behavior of people: environmentally participatory and environmentally consistent. In the first case, a group is categorized as mainly composed of middle-income young people who, although carrying out environmentally positive activities, are not consistent due to poorly consolidated environmental values and beliefs. Conversely, the environmentally consistent group, which is smaller, is fully aware of how their actions affect the environment and act accordingly. They are economically active and of medium-high socioeconomic level. In recent decades, various studies have prior studies identify internal and external determinants of sustainable consumption behavior (SCB). To this end, it has been shown that behavior can be affected by external factors that transform or limit

behaviors derived from a change in people's values and beliefs. Therefore, it is important to consider that individual factors also include environmental variables and the context in which a person decides (Jagers et al., 2016; Piligrimiene et al., 2020). To explain SCB, as early as 1974, Kinnear, Taylor, and Ahmed determined two ecological and conscious behavior dimensions: attitudes and buying behaviors (Yarimoglu & Binboga, 2018).

In terms of what this study aims to demonstrate, the authors present different approaches to explain sustainable consumption behavior derived from factors external to the individual, in this case, social factors: the influence of the social environment was found in the literature as a trigger for more responsible consumption behaviors (Villa Castaño et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2019; Lubowiecki-Vikuk et al., 2021). Likewise, social pressure is a factor that forces consumers to act according to politically correct premises regarding their consumption decisions (Heeren et al., 2016; Yarimoglu & Binboga, 2018). On the other hand, it has also been claimed that government policies on sustainability promotion positively impact consumers (Heeren et al., 2016; Wang et al., 2019; Garcia-Machado et al., 2020; Piligrimiene et al., 2020; Lubowiecki-Vikuk et al., 2021). Likewise, market conditions such as price, for example, turn out to act as motivating or limiting factors for consumers of green, organic, fair trade, or sustainable products, so they are considered to be determinants of this behavior (Acuña-Moraga & Severino-Gonzalez, 2018; Villa Castaño et al., 2018; Yarimoglu & Binboga, 2018; Miranda-de la Lama et al. 2019; Salgado Beltrán, 2019; Piligrimiene et al., 2020; Lubowiecki-Vikuk, et al., 2021).

In addition, it has been concluded in several studies that education is a generator of habits and interests in favor of sustainability (Salgado Beltrán, 2019; Wang et al., 2019; García-Ruiz et al., 2022). In the case of demographic variables such as age, gender, and educational level, although they do not always manifest the same behavior as this depends on the context studied, it has been shown that they do influence people's sustainable behaviors (Tabernero et al., 2015; Acuña-Moraga & Severino-González, 2018; Acuña-Moraga et al., 2022).

With this theoretical foundation and to identify the social factors that determine the sustainable behavior of consumers in Mexico, this paper, which is the last in a series of three investigations conducted in Poland (García-Machado et al., 2020) and Spain (Figueroa-García et al., 2018), aims to define how these factors contribute to and promote the sustainable consumption behavior of their populations in different economic, social and cultural contexts, which will be analyzed in a fourth study that will bring together the results.

Methodology

We conducted an explanatory quantitative study in the Querétaro metropolitan area, formed by the municipalities of Querétaro, Corregidora, and El Marqués. The instrument was a 26-item questionnaire operationalizing the endogenous construct sustainable consumption behavior (SCB) and the exogenous constructs: demographic factors (DEM_VAL), environmental influence (ENV_INF), education and information (E&I), social pressure (SO_PRE), market conditions (MKT_C), and government actions (GOV_A). The study's hypotheses were built from the literature review carried out on this occasion and the two previous ones (García-Machado et al., 2020; Figueroa-García et al., 2018), also shown in Figure 1. The definition of the indicators can be found in Table 1.

Table 1

Indicators for me	ndicators for measurement model constructs					
Indicator	Definition					
variable						
	Demographic variables (DEM_VAL)					
DEMVAL_1	Age					
DEMVAL_2	Gender					
DEMVAL_3	Educational level					
	Sustainable Consumption Behavior (SCB)					
SCB_1	Carry out daily activities to care for and preserve the environment.					
SCB_2	Carry out concrete activities to promote human rights and social justice.					
SCB_3	Consume local products to support your community's economy.					
SCB_4	How motivated do you feel to make changes in your life in pursuit of more responsible consumption?					
SCB_5	How would you rate your responsible consumption behavior?					
	Social environment influence (ENV_INF)					
ENVI_1	Someone in my family or friends motivates me to follow in their footsteps in caring for the environment.					
ENVI_2	I have participated as a volunteer in social work or environmental organizations.					
ENVI_3	I take advantage of the fact that organic or ecological products are now in the supermarket to buy them.					
ENVI_4	Caring for the environment is a tradition in my family.					
ENVI_5	Where I live, it is normal to separate garbage for recycling.					
ENVI_6	My house has enough space to have a vegetable garden.					

	Education and Information (E&I)
E&I_1	I have attended a course, workshop, or lecture on environmental issues or responsible consumption.
E&I_2	A family member, friend, or acquaintance has taught me some activities to be more responsible in consuming resources (water, electricity, energy).
E&I_3	I am informed about sustainability (environmental) issues.
E&I_4	I have information about the negative effects of my products on the environment.
	Social Pressure (SO_PRE)
SOPRE_1	I have felt pressured by my friends to do something to benefit the environment.
SOPRE_2	I feel compelled to belong to the group of people who are pro-environmental.
	Market Conditions (MKT_C)
MKTC_1	Organic products give me more confidence than conventional ones.
MKTC_2	I am familiar with the advertising campaigns for organic products.
MKTC_3	I believe there are many places where environmentally friendly products can be found.
MKTC_4	I choose an organic product as an alternative to a traditional one, even if it is more expensive.
	Government actions (GOV_A)
GOVA_1	In my city, the government does enough to motivate more responsible behaviors toward equality and social justice.
GOVA_2	The government takes care of what is necessary for me to do things for the environment.

Source: created by the authors

For the application of the instrument, simple random probability sampling was used to determine a sample of 244 respondents. The sample distribution was 66% female and 34% male; the age range of the respondents was 18 to 69 years, with a mean of 37 years and a mode of 19. 25% had a high school or technical education, 43% had a university degree, and 30% had a postgraduate degree. Two percent reported another level of education. The survey was carried out by 6 interviewers who conducted the questionnaire in public squares, universities, parks, and homes.

Theoretical model estimation

As mentioned above, the starting point is a theoretical model based on the existing literature, with references in Figure 1.

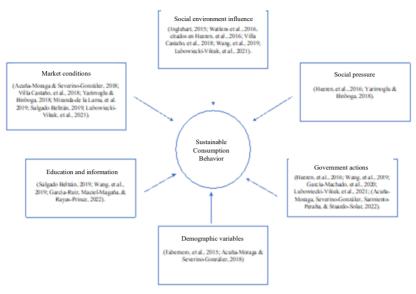


Figure 1. References of the theoretical model proposal Source: created by the authors

Based on the authors referred to in Figure 1, who explain sustainable consumption behavior based on social factors, a theoretical model is proposed that presents the exogenous latent variables mentioned as causal constructs of the endogenous construct of sustainable consumption behavior (SCB), forming the PLS pathway model explained in Figure 2.

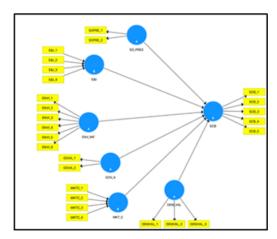


Figure 2. Initial theoretical model Source: created by the authors with SmartPLS

In this context, Table 2 shows the hypotheses on the possible social determinants of a person's sustainable consumption behavior, according to the model in Figure 2.

Table 2 Initial hypotheses

H₁: Demographic variables affect SCB.

 $H_1: DEM VAL \rightarrow SCB.$

H₂: Education and information on sustainability are decisive for SCB.

 $H_2: E\&I \rightarrow SCB$

H₃: The influence of the social environment is decisive in the development of SCB.

H₃: ENV INF \rightarrow SCB

H₄: Market conditions have a direct relation with SCB.

H₄: MKT $C \rightarrow SCB$

H₅: Social pressure has a positive and relevant relation with SCB.

H₅: SO PRE \rightarrow SCB

H₆: Government actions are determinant in the development of SCB.

 $H_6: GOV A \rightarrow SCB$

Source: created by the authors

PLS analysis

The partial least squares (PLS) technique was used to evaluate this model using the SmartPLS v. 3.3.3 software (Ringle et al., 2015). This technique is a structural equation modeling (SEM) approach suitable for complex models that handle many variables, indicators, and relationships. Furthermore, both the structural model (relationships between constructs) and the measurement models (relationships between indicators and their corresponding constructs) can be tested simultaneously (Barclay et al., 1995). Moreover, in the SEM context, two types of measurement models are proposed: common factor models (reflective measurement - Mode A), where the indicators are a reflection of the variable, and causal indicator models (formative measurement - Mode B), where they are presented as a cause of the variable (Sarstedt, M., 2016).

The database used to perform the PLS-SEM empirical analysis consisted of 244 observations. Three relevant theoretical references were reviewed to verify whether this sample size meets the criteria required in PLS-SEM for a probability sample representative of the population size. In the first instance, Cohen (1992) recommends for OLS multiple regression analysis, 106 or 130 observations, to detect R² values around 0.10, assuming significance levels of 10% or 5%, respectively, with a statistical power of 80%. According to Nitzl (2016), to detect a mean effect size of 0.15 with the same significance levels and statistical power, 98 or 135 observations are necessary, respectively. Furthermore, Green (1991)

recommends 97 observations for the same level of analysis, with a significance level of 5%. Therefore, the sample meets all three recommendations for minimum sample size in PLS-SEM.

Results

For the presentation of the results, once the PLS path model is determined, the evaluation of the measurement models begins. Figure 3 shows the loadings and external weights of the indicators for the measurement models in Mode A and Mode B, the path or regression coefficients for the relationships of the structural model, and the R² values for the endogenous latent variable. Preliminary estimates suggest that ENV_INF (0.410) has the strongest effect on SCB, followed by E&I (0.216) and MKT_C (0.210). On the other hand, 52% of the variance of the dependent variable is explained by the 6 exogenous constructs. It will be necessary to determine whether the connection between the constructs is statistically significant, for which it is important to consider the path coefficient's size. Notwithstanding these first observations, evaluating the measurement and structural models is necessary to make definitive statements about the coefficients' meanings and the overall model's goodness of fit.

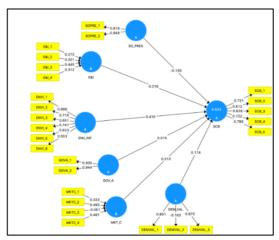


Figure 3. PLS-SEM first results
Source: created by the authors using SmartPLS (Ringle et al., 2015)

Evaluation of A-mode measurement models

The evaluation of reflective measurement models is performed by testing the reliability and validity of each construct, which is necessary to confirm its inclusion in the model (Hair et al., 2019). The indicators

observed in this assessment are indicator reliability, composite reliability, convergent validity (average variance extracted, AVE), and discriminant validity. For a construct indicator to be reliable, external loadings above 0.708 are sought; nevertheless, keeping indicators with loadings below this figure is subject to consideration since if their permanence implies an increase in composite reliability and AVE remains above the suggested threshold value, it is advisable to keep them (Hair et al., 2019). To improve the initial pathway model shown in Figure 3, and after several tests and adjustments, 7 of the 26 indicators originally proposed were eliminated since they did not reach an acceptable level of reliability (Figure 4). Therefore, from the initial hypotheses, H_3 :GOV_ASCB was eliminated since its only two indicators had undesirable composite reliability values, constituting an invalid measure of the construct as they are redundant (Hair et al., 2019). Likewise, new links were created between the constructs, generating new hypotheses that will be tested: H_2 :E&I \rightarrow ENV_INF, H_3 :E&I \rightarrow MKT_C, H_6 :MKT_C \rightarrow ENV_INF, and H_8 :SO_PRE \rightarrow MKT_C

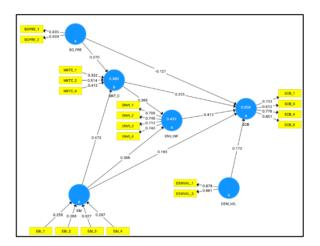


Figure 4. PLS-SEM Enhanced model Source: created by the authors using SmartPLS (Ringle et al., 2015)

Regarding the reliability and validity results obtained through the evaluation of the reflective measurement models, Table 3 shows that almost all the external loadings of the reflective constructs are above the threshold value of 0.708. On the other hand, the reliability indicators reveal what part of the variance of an indicator is explained by the construct and considering that, as a general rule, a latent variable should explain at least 50% of the variance of each indicator (Hair et al., 2021), it can be said that, except for ENVI_1 and SCB_3 whose reliability value is below this threshold, all the results of the analysis meet this criterion. In order to determine convergent validity at the construct level, the average

variance extracted (AVE) was used, equivalent to a construct's commonality (Hair et al., 2021). The requested threshold value is 0.50; in the proposed model, the results are above that value in all constructs, i.e., more than half of the variance of their indicators is explained: DEM_VAL (0.757), ENV_INF (0.527), SO_PRES (0.789) and SCB (0.540), which means that the measures for the four constructs have high levels of convergent validity.

Table 3
Summary of results for reflective measurement models

		Convergent validity			Internal co	onsistency	
	Indicators	Loads	Reliability indicator	AVE	Composite reliability	Cronbach's alpha	
DEM VAL	DEMVAL_1	0.879	0.773	0.757	0.862	0.679	
DEWI_VAL	DEMVAL_3	0.861	0.741	0.757	0.002	0.075	
	ENVI_1	0.706	0.498				
ENV INF	ENVI_2	0.746	0.557	0.527	0.817	0.702	
THY _IIM	ENVI_3	0.713	0.508				
	ENVI_4	0.740	0.548				
SO PRES	SOPRES_1	0.835	0.697	0.789	0.882	0.745	
SO_PRES	SOPRES 2	0.939	0.901	0.789	0.882	0.743	
	SCB_1	0.733	0.537				
SCB	SCB_3	0.612	0.375	0.540	0.823	0.713	
SCB	SCB_4	0.778	0.605	0.340	0.823	0./13	
	SCB_5	0.801	0.642				

Source: created by the authors

In addition to using Cronbach's alpha, composite reliability was used to evaluate internal consistency, which assumes that the indicators have different weights (Chin, 1998). For reflective constructs, Cronbach's alpha was ≥ 0.70 in almost all cases, which is the recommended value (Cronbach, 1951). Reliability values between 0.70 and 0.90 can be qualified as satisfactory (Nunally & Bernstein, 1994, cited in Hair et al., 2014; Frías-Navarro, 2022). As seen in Table 3, the reliability values of all reflective measurement model constructs show values above the suggested lower limit. This means all indicators for the three latent variables are above the minimum level required for external loads and composite reliability. Regarding the variable DEM_VAL that shows a Cronbach's alpha coefficient below the threshold value, it was decided to keep it in the model since it has been shown that Cronbach's alpha underestimates the magnitude of reliability when there are items with less than five indicators as is the case of this variable (Zumbo et al., 2007, cited in Contreras & Novoa-Muñoz, 2018). It is not always effective when used exclusively (Cervantes, 2005), so, supported by the value obtained by the composite reliability indicator, it was decided to retain it (Contreras & Novoa-Muñoz, 2018).

Table 4
Discriminant Validity (HTMT Criterion)

) ()			
	DEM VAL	ENV INF	SCB	SO PRE
DEM_VAL		•		
ENV_INF	0.210			
SCB	0.358	0.884		
SO PRE	0.131	0.456	0.220	

Source: created by the authors

In order to confirm the validity of the measures of a construct, the criteria of convergent validity and discriminant validity are used. In the first case, a high correlation is sought between measures of the same construct, while for the second, this correlation must be higher than that existing between measures of a different construct (Campbell & Fiske, 1959, cited in Martínez-García & Martínez-Caro, 2009). In the evaluation of the measurement models in Mode A, the discriminant validity will be reviewed, for which the Heterotrait-Monotrait correlations ratio (HTMT) is used, whose threshold value, according to Henseler et al. (2015), is 0.90. As can be seen in Table 4, the discriminant validity criterion is satisfied in all the constructs, being presented below the threshold value.

Evaluation of B-mode measurement models

In this case, it was not possible to assess the convergent validity analysis in evaluating the formative measurement models because the necessary data for a reflective measurement of the two formative constructs are unavailable. Nevertheless, the two formative constructs (E&I and MKT_C) have the expected signs in the structural model, meeting the weakest criterion for convergent validity assessment (Avkiran, 2018). The variance inflation factor (VIF) provides an index that measures how much the variance of an estimated regression coefficient increases due to collinearity. As can be seen in Table 5, all VIF values of the formative and reflective constructs are below the threshold (<3), with a range between 1.20 and 2.05, meaning that this criterion is fully met (Hair et al., 2019).

Table 5
Diagnosis of collinearity. VIF tolerance values for the measurement model

·	Predictors	VIF		Predictors	VIF
DEM VAI	DEMVAL_1	1.359		MKTC_1	1.575
	DEMVAL_3	1.359	MKT_C	MKTC_2	1.228
	E&I_1	1.874		MKTC_4	1.585
E&I	E&I_2	1.598		SCB_1	1.322
EXI	E&I_3	2.051	SCB	SCB_3	1.200
	E&I_4	1.518	ЗСБ	SCB_4	1.455
ENV_INF	ENVI_1	1.323		SCB_5	1.557

ENVI_2	1.393		SOPRE_1	1.546
ENVI_3	1.260	SO_PRE	SOPRE_2	1.546
ENVI 4	1.382			

Source: created by the authors

Tables 6 and 7 show the results of the bootstrap analysis of the measurement model for the formative constructs, which enables the determination of the significance of the estimated path coefficients by evaluating the relevance of the magnitude of the regression weights (external weights) and the relation weights (external loadings). It is required that both indicators be significantly different from zero and that the external loadings exceed the threshold value of 0.5.

Table 6 Significance and relevance of path coefficients (external weights)

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Bias	Lower limit	Upper limit
E&I_1 → E&I	0.258	0.258	0.000	0.059	0.449
$E\&I_2 \rightarrow E\&I$	0.369	0.365	0.004	0.182	0.550
$E\&I_3 \rightarrow E\&I$	0.327	0.324	0.003	0.075	0.552
$E\&I_4 \rightarrow E\&I$	0.297	0.293	0.004	0.097	0.520
$\begin{array}{c} MKTC_1 \rightarrow \\ MKT_C \end{array}$	0.332	0.328	0.004	0.152	0.522
$\begin{array}{c} MKTC_2 \rightarrow \\ MKT_C \end{array}$	0.514	0.509	0.005	0.352	0.674
$\begin{array}{c} MKTC_4 \rightarrow \\ MKT_C \end{array}$	0.415	0.416	0.001	0.210	0.596

Note: Bootstrapping results were obtained using accelerated bias-corrected bootstrap approach (BCa), 10 000 subsamples, no sign changes, bilateral test, 95% confidence interval.

Source: created by the authors

Table 7
Significance and relevance of the path coefficients (external loadings)

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	bias	Lower limit	Upper limit
$E\&I_1 \rightarrow E\&I$	0.804	0.796	0.008	0.699	0.893
$E\&I_2 \rightarrow E\&I$	0.798	0.789	0.009	0.682	0.890
$E\&I_3 \rightarrow E\&I$	0.852	0.843	0.009	0.751	0.931
$E\&I_4 \rightarrow E\&I$	0.737	0.730	0.007	0.595	0.854
$\begin{array}{c} MKTC_1 \rightarrow \\ MKT_C \end{array}$	0.768	0.762	0.006	0.650	0.864

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$\begin{array}{c} MKTC_2 \rightarrow \\ MKT_C \end{array}$	0.800	0.794	0.006	0.685	0.894
$\begin{array}{c} MKTC_4 \rightarrow \\ MKT C \end{array}$	0.806	0.802	0.004	0.669	0.897

Note: Bootstrapping results were obtained using accelerated bias-corrected bootstrap approach (BCa), 10 000 subsamples, no sign changes, bilateral test, 95% confidence interval.

Source: created by the authors

For this test, a 95% bootstrap analysis was run (10 000 subsamples, two-tailed test, and BCa method), which shows that all external loadings of the formative constructs of the model are relevant with a 95% confidence interval. Furthermore, all external loadings are greater than 0.5 and statistically relevant.

Evaluation of the structural model

In order to begin the structural model analysis, the algorithm has to be run in PLS-SEM, and the VIF tolerance values arising from the collinearity diagnosis have to be defined. The evaluation was performed on the three dependent constructs with their predictors. According to Table 8, all VIF values are below 3, so the structural model does not present collinearity problems (Hair et al., 2019).

Table 8
Collinearity diagnosis. VIF tolerance values for the structural model

	Endogenous latent variables							
Predictors	E&I	ENV INF	MKT C	SCB				
DEM VAL				1.018				
E&I		1.413	1.069	1.675				
ENV INF				1.804				
$MK\overline{T}$ C		1.413		1.750				
$\overline{\text{SCB}}$								
SO PRE			1.069	1.213				

Source: created by the authors

To analyze the relationships that arise between the latent variables and that are expressed in the hypotheses of the research model, the R² values of the endogenous latent variables were reviewed, which were used to evaluate the predictive accuracy of the model, verifying what part of the variance of the endogenous constructs is explained by all the exogenous constructs (Hair et al., 2014). This value should be greater than 0.1, but high R² values are sought, considering that PLS-SEM maximizes these values of the endogenous latent variables in the path model (Falk & Miller, 1992).

The PLS-SEM algorithm showed moderate values for the three endogenous latent variables (Hair et al., 2019), explaining 43.2% of the variance of the variable environmental influences (ENV_INF),

36% of the variable market conditions (MKT_C), and 50.8% of the variable sustainable consumption behavior (SCB). These values also meet the criteria of Falk and Miller (1992), described above (Table 9).

Table 9
Explained variance

Endogenous latent variables		\mathbb{R}^2	
ENV INF	0.432		
MKT_C	0.360		
SCB	0.508		

Source: created by the authors

A bootstrap analysis was performed with 10 000 samples to test whether the path coefficients of the structural model are statistically significant. The bootstrap procedure was performed for a two-tailed test with a 95% confidence interval. In this analysis, the coefficient estimates form an initial distribution approximating the sampling distribution (Hair et al., 2019).

Table 10 Significance test results for the path coefficients of the structural model

Paths	Path	t	Significance	p-	Standard	Bias-c	orrected
	coefficients	Value	levels	value	error	confi	idence
						inte	rvals
						Lower	Upper
						limit	limit
$DEM_VAL \rightarrow SCB$	0.172	3.745	***	0.000	0.046	0.078	0.258
$E\&I \rightarrow ENV_INF$	0.385	6.200	***	0.000	0.062	0.255	0.497
$E\&I \rightarrow MKT_C$	0.472	9.016	***	0.000	0.052	0.355	0.562
$E\&I \rightarrow SCB$	0.193	3.095	***	0.002	0.062	0.068	0.312
$ENV_INF \rightarrow SCB$	0.413	6.925	***	0.000	0.060	0.295	0.530
$\begin{array}{c} MKT_C \rightarrow \\ ENV_INF \end{array}$	0.365	5.842	***	0.000	0.062	0.234	0.479
$MKT_C \rightarrow SCB$	0.225	3.631	***	0.000	0.062	0.103	0.348
$\begin{array}{c} SO_PRE \rightarrow \\ MKT_C \end{array}$	0.270	5.477	***	0.000	0.049	0.173	0.366
SO PRE \rightarrow SCB	-0.121	2.945	***	0.003	0.041	-0.199	-0.040

Note: \overline{NR} = Not significant. ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01; (based on t₍₅₅₎, two-tailed test). Bootstrap confidence intervals for 5% probability of error (α = 0.05)

Source: created by the authors

According to the results obtained in the p-value analysis (Table 10), all the path coefficients proposed in the model shown in Figure 4 were significant, with all the causal relationships being significant at a 99% confidence level.

Evaluation of the hypotheses

In order to evaluate the hypotheses, the empirical t-value (Student's t) was compared with the critical value, considering that if the former is greater than the latter, it can be concluded that the coefficient is statistically significant under a certain level of significance (Hair et al., 2019). Considering how the hypotheses are stated, the null hypothesis is rejected when zero does not fall in the confidence interval, accepting the alternative hypothesis. The analysis of those hypotheses that had been originally established (except for the hypothesis that was eliminated in the model fit) and those that were generated in constructing new links between the variables in the adjusted model are presented, so the original numbering changed. The results are presented in Table 11.

Table 11 Hypothesis testing

Trypounesis testing						_
Hypothesis	Suggested	Path	t-Value	Confidence intervals		Н
	effect	coefficient	(Bootstrap)			Is it
				Lower	Upper	accepted?
				limit	limit	
$H_1:DEM_VAL \rightarrow SCB$	(+)	0.172	3.745	0.078	0.258	Yes***
$H_2:E\&I \rightarrow ENV_INF$	(+)	0.385	6.200	0.255	0.497	Yes ***
$H_3:E\&I \rightarrow MKT_C$	(+)	0.472	9.016	0.355	0.562	Yes ***
$H_4:E\&I \rightarrow SCB$	(+)	0.193	3.095	0.068	0.312	Yes ***
H_5 :ENV_INF \rightarrow SCB	(+)	0.413	6.925	0.295	0.530	Yes ***
$H_6:MKT_C \rightarrow ENV_INF$	(+)	0.365	5.842	0.234	0.479	Yes ***
$H_7:MKT_C \to SCB$	(+)	0.225	3.631	0.103	0.348	Yes ***
$H_8:SO_PRE \rightarrow MKT_C$	(+)	0.270	5.477	0.173	0.366	Yes ***
$H_9:SO_PRE \rightarrow SCB.$	(-)	-0.121	2.945	-0.199	-0.040	Yes***

Note: *** $t_{(0.01)} = 2.57$; ** $t_{(0.05)} = 1.96$; * $t_{(0.10)} = 1.65$; (+) = Positive ratio

Source: created by the authors

Considering that the t-values of all the contrasted hypotheses were higher than the critical value of 2.57, all the proposed alternative hypotheses were accepted with a confidence level of 99% (Ritchey, 2008). A significant finding is that the hypothesis SO_PRE → SCB was negative, a situation that will be discussed later. To assess the relevance of these significant relationships in the model, PLS-SEM identifies meaningful and significant effects on the coefficients by assessing the indirect effects generated by the mediating constructs, which is done by aggregating the direct and indirect effects to measure the total effect (Hair et al., 2014).

Table 12
Results of the significance test for total effects

Path	Total	t	Sig.	p-	Standard	Confidence intervals	
	effects	Value	level	value	error	Lower	Upper
						limit	limit
$H_1:DEM_VAL\ SCB \rightarrow$	0.172	3.745	***	0.000	0.046	0.078	0.258
$H_2:E\&I \rightarrow ENV_INF$	0.557	11.780	***	0.000	0.047	0.450	0.638
$H_3:E\&I \rightarrow MKT_C$	0.472	9.016	***	0.000	0.052	0.355	0.562
$H_4:E\&I \rightarrow SCB$	0.529	10.126	***	0.000	0.052	0.410	0.620
H_5 :ENV_INF \rightarrow SCB	0.413	6.925	***	0.000	0.060	0.295	0.530
$H_6:MKT_C \rightarrow ENV_INF$	0.365	5.842	***	0.000	0.062	0.234	0.479
H ₇ :MKT_C SCB→	0.376	5.925	***	0.000	0.063	0.248	0.497
$H_8:SO_PRE_MKT_C \rightarrow$	0.270	5.477	***	0.000	0.049	0.173	0.366
$H_9:SO_PRE \rightarrow SCB$	-0.019	0.431	NR	0.667	0.045	-0.104	0.069

Note: NR = not significant. ** p < 0.05, *** p < 0.01; (based on $t_{(55)}$, two-tailed test). Bootstrap confidence intervals for 5% probability of error ($\alpha = 0.05$)

Table 12 shows that the total effect of SO_PRE on SCB was not significant (p = 0.667). The rest of the total effects are significant at 99%.

Evaluation of model goodness of fit

To quantify the discrepancy between the empirical correlation and the correlation matrices implicit in the model, seeking to normalize the difference between the observed and predicted correlations, the goodness of fit analysis for the model was performed using the SRMR (Standardized Root Mean Square Residual) absolute fit measure, obtained by running the PLS bootstrap. The smaller the SRMR, the better the theoretical model fit (Henseler et al., 2009). A zero value means a perfect fit, and a value below 0.08 is considered a good fit (Hu & Bentler, 1999). Other authors accept values below 0.10 for this criterion (Hair et al., 2019). Table 13 shows the results of this analysis, where, SRMR values for both saturated (0.071) and estimated (0.073) models are below the 0.08 threshold, indicating acceptable fit (Hair et al., 2019).

Table 13 Model goodness of fit analysis

	Original sample (O)	95%	99%	
SRMR				
Saturated model	0.071	0.054	0.057	
Estimated model	0.073	0.057	0.060	

Source: created by the authors

Discussion

The study concluded that the demographic variables education and information, social pressure, social environment influence, and market conditions explain 50.8% of the endogenous latent variable SCB variance. Likewise, new hypotheses were accepted that establish other relationships: on the one hand, 43.2% of the variance of the ENV_INF variable is explained by the E&I and MKT_C constructs. On the other hand, the E&I and SO_PRE variables explain 36% of the variance of the MKT_C variable. According to the results reviewed, all the hypotheses tested were accepted with a confidence level of 99%. The model demonstrates that the variables posed in the corrected model are positively and significantly related to people's sustainable consumption behavior. In the case of education and information, it was possible to affirm that this social factor does determine SCB (hypotheses E&I→ENV_INF; E&I→MKT_C and E&I→SCB). Although it has been concluded that, by itself, educating on sustainability issues does not necessarily imply an increase in pro-environmental behaviors, it has also been stated that the lack of knowledge on the subject is one of the main causes of unsustainable behaviors since people do not know how such behaviors affect society (Heeren et al., 2016).

Moreover, it is considered an opportunity for environmental education to be the means to raise people's awareness, especially of the effects of their consumption on environmental deterioration (Salgado Beltrán, 2019). On the other hand, as a measure to respond to the planet's environmental problems, the generation of knowledge must be guaranteed, integrating the issue of sustainability into educational and research programs (Geng et al., 2013). Consumers can modify their consumption behaviors if the awareness of sustainability is developed in them through educational programs (Wang et al., 2019).

It is also confirmed that the influence of the social environment is a determinant of SCB (ENV_INF→SCB hypothesis). On the subject, Villa Castaño et al. (2018) also presented evidence of the influence of socioeconomic and cultural environments on responsible consumer behavior. Likewise, the authors report that sustainable consumption is possible, from which cultural values, which focus on satisfying basic needs, are transformed into values that seek the common welfare. Similarly, it is recognized that the political factor can influence the degree of responsibility of a consumer (Lubowiecki-Vikuk, et al., 2021). On the other hand, there are negative environmental factors, such as corruption, inequality, and poverty, which limit sustainable consumption and, in this context, economics, politics, and cultural diversity are also elements that intervene in the definition of sustainable consumption patterns in countries (Wang et al., 2019). Undoubtedly, it can be stated that the social environment strongly influences consumer awareness regarding their responsibility to create a more sustainable society.

Likewise, it is demonstrated that market conditions greatly influence consumers to be more responsible and aware, recognizing that there is a direct and meaningful cause-and-effect relation

(hypotheses: MKT_C→ENV_INF and MKT_C→SCB). Thus, the strategies used by marketing to educate and inform consumers about responsible consumption are essential to achieve the purchase of products that correspond to their values. Likewise, evidence has been found that such consumers encounter limitations deriving from poorly made marketing decisions, such as high prices, incorrect labeling, and certification not known or not supported by the government (Miranda-de la Lama et al., 2019). Given this reality, markets are challenged to create less harmful products and services, which are communicated to consumers so that they change their consumption habits in favor of a sustainable lifestyle (Acuña-Moraga & Severino-González, 2018). It has also been recognized that marketing factors reinforce sustainable lifestyles (Lubowiecki-Vikuk et al., 2021).

In another aspect, social pressure is a predictor of sustainable consumption behavior. Through social norms, this variable has been recognized as a determinant of sustainable behavior in several areas (consumption behavior, waste management, and environmental risks) (Heeren et al., 2016). Also, social pressure, from the perception of subjective norms, is part of the indicators used to measure behavioral intention (Yarimoglu & Binboga, 2018). Given this situation, social pressure was expected to influence sustainable behavior positively (SO_PRE→SCB hypothesis); nevertheless, this model produced a negative value, considered an important finding. As social beings, individuals respond to contextual norms, so they tend to act consistently with the norms of the groups to which they belong, so the pressure can be positive or negative, as the case may be (Tabernero et al., 2015). In this regard, Alonso and Ildefonso (2012) state that if the consumer does not belong to a group with values and symbols compatible with their own, the pressure this group exerts on them may be contrary or non-existent.

Regarding demographic variables (DEM_VAL→SCB hypothesis), it has been shown that gender or age plays a role in responsible consumer behavior, causing meaningful differences in the measured dimensions in certain contexts (Acuña-Moraga & Severino-González, 2018). Nevertheless, some contradictions indicate that these variables are unrelated to such behavior (Tabernero et al., 2015). The present study concluded that age and educational level have a positive and significant relation with SCB, but gender does not exhibit a significant association with SCB in this sample.

On the other hand, it has been recommended that governments, at all levels, should be involved in promoting responsible behaviors in consumers based on information through incentives for purchasing sustainable products (Lubowiecki-Vikuk et al., 2021). Likewise, it has been concluded that, both in developed and developing economies, governments, through their policies, strategies, and programs, should actively participate in achieving sustainable consumption and production systems (Wang et al., 2019). Notwithstanding the above, this study could not prove that government actions determine sustainable consumption behavior in Mexico since there was redundancy in its indicators, and the

construct had to be eliminated. Nevertheless, studies in other countries, such as Poland, conclude that government actions explain sustainable consumption behavior (García-Machado et al., 2020).

Conclusions

This research was based on a theoretical model that proposed that 6 social factors are determinants of people's sustainable consumption behavior. This research concludes that these factors are crucial in determining sustainable consumption behavior. The influence of these social factors on how people purchase and use products and resources cannot be underestimated. As society continues toward greater environmental and social awareness, it is essential to recognize and encourage these factors as key drivers to promote more responsible and sustainable consumption. Collaboration between individuals, communities, and governments plays a key role in creating an enabling environment for more ethical and equitable consumption behavior.

On the other hand, sustainable consumption behavior is an increasingly important trend in today's society. As environmental and social concerns continue to grow, people are taking a more conscious and responsible approach toward what they buy and how they use it. This approach benefits the environment by reducing waste and ecological footprint and promotes a more balanced and ethical lifestyle. The widespread adoption of sustainable consumption habits is essential to address global challenges and ensure a healthier and more sustainable future for future generations. The model resulting from this research enables the motivators of sustainable consumption behavior to be identified, which provides elements to encourage this behavior in people through the formulation of programs, strategies, guidelines, and any other relevant action for this purpose. This way, governments, companies, educational institutions, associations, and citizens can become managers and actors in society's transition toward sustainability and the common good.

Limitations

The limitations of this study are mainly related to the geographic area analyzed since, by focusing this research on the Querétaro metropolitan area, the results and conclusions may be limited to similar contexts. Likewise, as a future line of research, stratified sampling is suggested to compare results based on differentiated demographic criteria through a multigroup analysis.

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