
Contextualizing Youth Climate Activism in Brazil: knowledge, motivations, and policy actions

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Abstract: Climate change has major impacts on ecosystems and the environmental balance of the entire planet. The longer the actions to prevent and mitigate the warming of the Earth take, the greater will be the impacts of these changes on society and the economy, putting at risk the current way of life. With this understanding, the young generation of several countries has embraced the climate cause in search for a better perspective of their future and the future of future generations. Through political and social manifestations, the youth movement focused on the climate grew abruptly and embodies the history of political engagement of people of different cultures, beliefs and ages, united in a single purpose: save the remaining biomes and ecosystems of the planet and their own quality and way of life. Aware of this, the following research is carried out in order to analyze the socioeconomic, motivational and political profile of young climate activists in Brazil. We seek to answer the following question: who are the young climate activists in Brazil and how do they act politically? The methodology consisted of a qualitative approach with an exploratory and descriptive profile. Data collection was carried out through 19 semi-structured interviews, applied by means of video calls in 2020, to young people aged 16 to 29 years, living in several Brazilian states. We used the snowball and exhaustion techniques. Results were divided into three categories. The first, which characterized activists socially and economically, demonstrated that activists are mostly present in indigenous communities, have an average age of 24, engage in social and environmental issues, aiming to reduce social inequalities. They adhere to the leftist agendas and have extensive knowledge of the political-climatic scenario and are familiar with different social and political movements linked to the cause. In general, they have university-level education and speak more than one language. The second category is motivational. We find that their members have environmental awareness as the strongest influence of their activism and seek to recruit more people to enter the climate struggle. They learned about the climate movement through lectures and / or were influenced by friends and family involve themselves deeper in the topic. Their goals are to reduce polluting gases, demarcate indigenous territories, raise awareness among

populations about climate change by simplifying political discourses related to the cause and implement efficient public policies. The third category includes young activists who use advocacy, lobbying and social networks as a tool for political action. Information campaigns about climate change are carried out through informal language provided by social networks. Lobbying and advocacy tools are used in direct contact with political leaders in an attempt to influence public environmental policies that are consistent with the movement's objectives. The research contributes to a more detailed knowledge of the activists' profile and of the ways in which they act politically.

Keywords: climate changes; environmental impacts; young activists.

1. Introduction

Climate change is a global challenge that requires immediate action [1]. Climate activism represents one of the possible actions in the search to mitigate the effects of this challenge that is imposed on us [2, 3]. Started around the 1980s, with a high degree of heterogeneity, climate activism gained strength after the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP-15) organized under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2009 in the city of Copenhagen. It was in the periods following this Conference that the number of socio-environmental organizations that militated around the climate agenda increased in quantity and in their organizational and advocacy capacity [4].

Despite the large number of studies that seek to understand the logic of collective and individual action around the climate agenda, usually emphasizing its barriers and challenges [5-7] or its communication problems, the fact is that climate activism is gaining in importance by proving to be a viable possibility to assist in the mitigation of climate change [11-13].

The literature on the subject presents at least two configurations of climate activism, which are differentiated by their effects: direct and indirect in relation to the reduction of carbon emissions in the atmosphere [14]. Climate activism with direct effects concerns the actions to reduce emissions performed by the activists themselves, individually, by changing their behaviors in favor of a life with less carbon footprint. Changes in consumption habits - reducing car use and flights, substituting meat and dairy products - form the main strategies of this configuration [15, 16].

In terms of activism with indirect effects, the tactic of action presents itself in a different way since it does not aim, instantly and individually, the reduction of carbon emissions. The main intention in this case is the realization of political and economic pressure to build strategies that can impact a much larger group of actors, especially in the economic, political and legal sectors [17-19]. This indirect practice is

usually associated with: lobbying, both by the business sector [20, 21] and the third sector [; the production of litigation-related actions [26-28]; stakeholder and shareholder pressure on particular companies or sectors [29-31]; and citizen activism promoted by those outside the political system through confrontational tactics, boycotting, protests, among others [32, 33].

Regardless of the results, which are sometimes presented as positive [34, 35] and sometimes as negative [36, 37], citizen activism outside the political system appears to be a fertile field of research [38] especially in developing countries [39], in international politics [40-42] and, in the last five years, in studies on the youth movement acting in defense of climate causes [43-45].

In this sense, the research seeks to characterize the youth movement in defense of climate causes in Brazil. Bringing the profile of these young people, their motivations and the political instruments they use as a pressure strategy. We seek to answer what is the socioeconomic profile of the young activists who militate for the climate cause in Brazil? And how are they organized and what are their social and political motivations? The research is important, since this movement is in its early stages, not only in Brazil, but worldwide. Recognizing such agents of change helps in understanding the movement, its ability to guide public sector decision making and its potentiality in the climate agenda over time.

2. Youth Climate Activism in the World

Regarding youth climate activism, the object of this study, its beginning is dated by the actions carried out in 2018 by activist Greta Thunberg. Distressed by the lack of action by world leaders in the face of an extremely urgent situation, the young Swedish girl sat in front of the Riksdagsuset, Sweden's parliament, with a sign written "*Skolstrejk för klimatet*" (school strike for climate) during her school hours. The young woman's action lasted from August 20 to September 19, 2018, the period leading up to the Swedish parliamentary elections [46].

After the Swedish elections were over, Greta returned to her normal school term, with the exception of Fridays. During this day of the week, the young woman kept up the strike in front of the parliament as a way to show off her future, her initial goal was to decrease carbon emissions in Sweden by 15% per year and to bring education and knowledge of the real world climate situation to the poorest communities that will possibly be the hardest hit by the consequences of a planetary warming [47].

Watched by a large part of the world, the movement started by Greta takes on unimaginable proportions, children and teenagers from various countries raise the flag of climate activism for the sake of their own future. The movement has become world famous as *Fridays for Future* [47, 48]. It aims to put pressure on public policy makers and implementers to take strong measures to limit global warming through science-delimited actions. The movement demands are: to keep the temperature below 1.5 C

when compared to pre-industrial levels, to guarantee climate justice and equality, to comply with the Paris Agreement, and to guarantee the sovereignty of science in climate debates [49].

The year 2019 marks the movement positively. In March young people organize the Global Climate Strike for Future, a demonstration that was attended by more than 1 million students spread across all regions of the globe having more than 24 hours of duration. The activists used strong speeches again highlighting the urgency of the situation and the failure to understand the inaction and negligence of the state and actors capable of intervening [50]. In May 2019 another gathering of the Global Climate Strike for Future was attended by more than 1,400 cities across 110 countries with an estimated total of 1.4 million protesters [51]. In September of the same year activists organize Global Week for Future, recognized as the world's largest climate strike [52]. With paintings on their bodies, holding placards, emitting slogans through megaphones, walking along pre-established routes, young people seek peacefully to sensitize politicians, parliamentarians and world leaders on behalf of the climate emergency and the risk they are imposing on future generations.

At the same time, the movement strengthened and became institutionalized by gaining the support of 350 Dutch scientists who signed an open letter endorsing the school strikes in Holland. In England, in the same period, another 244 academics showed their support to the cause [53, 54]. The United Nations officialized its contribution to the movement by creating a specific platform for young world leaders - UN Youth Climate Summit - in order to facilitate and strengthen the movement and build space for debate, exchange of information, and recognition of the actions of activists. Some of these young people managed to speak at the Climate Summits and became UN consultants [55].

3. Youth Climate Activism in Brazil

In Brazil, the youth climate activists have organized themselves primarily around the agenda and orientations brought by the global movement Fridays for Future. Without knowing each other and in the absence of any previously institutionalized organization that would support some kind of movement or strike, the Brazilian youth activists started their actions in the country under the influence and in the week of the Global Climate Strike for Future, in March 2019, on the eve of the first global climate strike, when there was the creation of a profile on the social platform Instagram with the name Fridays for Future Brazil. This profile was composed of a link that directed interested parties to a WhatsApp group. This was the beginning of the movement, which quickly and organically mobilized 24 Brazilian cities [56].

Friday for Future Brazil, takes shape by encouraging young students to strike on Fridays throughout Brazil. Its initial function was to stimulate such actions, organize them in digital platform groups, guide the activists' actions on the mobilization days, build awareness around the movement, connect the global

actions with the national ones, and publicize the actions of young people at the time they occurred or in later periods [57]. The movement was essential, in addition, for there to be a large mobilization of young Brazilians around *Global Week for Future* in September 2019 (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Organization of Municipalities by Country Region for the September 2019 General Climate Strike
Source: Author (2021), based on the FFF Brazil's Instagram

Friday for Future Brazil, although adhering to the global movement of the same name, seeks to strengthen itself by bringing local agendas to the climate debate. Its guidelines for making posters on strike days, for example, demonstrate well this local characteristic of the Brazilian movement. The suggested phrases were, among others: climate action above all, planet earth above all; sorry for the inconvenience, we are changing the world. These are phrases that are commonly used in mobilization activities, protests and political rallies in the country. The first one is a pun with the campaign slogan of the current president of the republic [57, 58].

Remembrance and mobilization on local commemorative dates are also part of the portfolio of actions promoted by the Brazilian group. For example, Atlantic Forest Day, Environment Day, Earth Overload Day, Day of the Indian, Environment Week, Fridays without Meat, July without Plastic, Black Lives Matter, Save the Cerrado, No Life Less, Save the Murdered Activists, among others. There are, in addition, actions that aim to criticize the actions of the federal government in the country's socio-environmental agenda, such as explicit criticism of the government of Jair Bolsonaro and his Environment Minister Ricardo Salles - through #ForaBolsonaro, #ForaSalles and #SallesExterminadorDoFuturo -, alert to the population about the burning and deforestation in the Pantanal, the Amazon and the Cerrado - #AmazôniaEmChamas, #SOSAmazônia, #SalveCerrado -,

criticism of international agreements - #PareUEandMercosul -, and criticism of the dismissals of specialists in the area of environment and monitoring of deforestation in Brazil, through the following phrase in defense of science: "when science cannot speak, environmental agencies are blindfolded and the government refuses to listen there is only climate for disorder and regress." Finally, the Brazilian movement campaigns for local actions as in the burning in the state of Paraná, deforestation in the state of Rio de Janeiro and the state of Pará, protection of specific indigenous peoples in the Amazon and the Cerrado [58].

4. Materials and Methods

The research was developed from qualitative method [59, 60] and case study approach [61, 62]. The data were obtained from in-depth interviews with a semi-structured questionnaire [63, 64]. Nineteen interviews were conducted, with young people between 16 and 29 years old who participate and coordinate Friday for Future Brazil. The interviews were conducted in the second half of 2020 and first half of 2021, virtually by the Zoom platform. They lasted 45 min on average and were recorded and later transcribed (Table 1).

INTERVIEWEE	AGE	CITY-STATE	STUDENT OF
1	26	Cruz das Almas - Bahia	Energy and Sustainability
2	27	São Paulo - São Paulo	Law
3	25	Natal - Rio Grande do Norte	Environmental Psychology
4	25	Brasília - Federal District	Psychology
5	26	Recife - Pernambuco	Environmental Engineering
6	22	Duque de Caxias - Rio de Janeiro	Biology
7	28	Brasília - Federal District	Law and Social Sciences
8	22	Feira de Santana - Bahia - Brazil	Energy Engineering
9	23	Fortaleza - Ceará	Biology
10	20	São Paulo - São Paulo	Law
11	16	Feira de Santana - Bahia - Brazil	High School Student
12	23	Cruz das Almas - Bahia	Veterinary Medicine
13	23	Porto Velho - Rondônia	Law
14	26	Fortaleza - Ceará	Biological Sciences
15	27	Brasília - Federal District	Journalist
16	27	Brasília - Federal District	Anthropology
17	21	Sobradinho - Federal District	Engineering
18	23	Santarém - Pará	Public Management
19	29	Brasília - Federal District	Environmental Sciences

Table 1: List of Interviewees

Source: Author (2021)

The interviews were analyzed using the content technique [59, 65]. Four categories of analysis were elaborated: general characterization of the interviewees; political profile of the activists; motivations and pretensions in activism; and modes of action.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1 General Profile

The general characterization of climate activists in Brazil has at least three important elements.

The first element is that the activists have an average age of 24 and are in higher education. This information becomes relevant when compared to the profile of the international Fridays for Future activists. Outside of Brazil, the activists are younger, not reaching the age of 20. In addition, they are in high school and not in college as in the Brazilian case. This more mature profile of Brazilian activists has implications for their experience with socio-environmental militancy and activism of various shades, including participation in associations and academic centers at the university. It tends to make the movement more dynamic, with a greater repertoire of action in terms of strategies to pressure parliament and the agents involved.

The second important element of characterization of Brazilian youth climate activism is its polyglot profile and extensive international experience. Most of the activists surveyed master more than one language, usually English or Spanish, and know other countries from experience brought by their own activism or even from individual experiences.

The third point related to the general profile of Brazilian activists is the ethnic-racial one. Most of those interviewed called themselves brown, black or indigenous, with the number of indigenous people standing out. It is important, in this sense, to point out that there is a tendency of the youth movement for the climate to be made up, at least for this surveyed group that represents the most relevant members of the movement, of young black and indigenous people. In comparison with the international movement, the black and indigenous participation in Brazil points to a different profile for youth activists, especially when emphasizing the presence of indigenous people since they form a very particular group for being the most threatened by climate change. When the Fridays for Future movement highlights the importance of climate justice to reduce inequalities in the distribution of socio-environmental risks around the world, it points precisely to the vulnerability of indigenous people. In the case of Brazil, indigenous youth are part of the movement that calls for climate justice for their own people, something not found in the European youth movement. In Brazil, therefore, the voice calling for climate justice is that of the people who are on the frontlines of vulnerability.

3.2 Politics Profile

The political profile of the young activists runs through three important points, which fit them into a center-left political spectrum.

The first concerns its cooperation and collaboration character. Most of those interviewed believe that there is an urgent need for cooperation and collaboration between the various actors in society on the climate agenda. Solving climate problems is not an easy or individual task, according to young people. Working together needs to be improved and conducted so that there is a reduction of conflicts between actors and the construction of a propositional agenda for the climate problems, which are becoming more and more urgent. Also according to the interviewees it is important that cooperation and collaboration arise from the understanding that everyone is responsible and co-responsible for climate problems. As noted:

"These actions are based on a joint effort between all sectors. Not only companies and the government need to act, but also civil society and citizens. According to the Federal Constitution, the environment is a collective good, therefore all sectors and players must take responsibility. The only way to mitigate the effects of climate change is together" (Interviewee 7).

The cooperation and collaboration proposed by the youth activists, bypasses discussions about responsibilities in generating climate problems between sectors and between countries. Young people showed no concern around the phrase "common but differentiated responsibility"[66]. Rather, they pointed to everyone taking identical responsibilities and commitments, with equal degrees of effort. They therefore call for universal participation to solve climate problems[67].

The second point concerns the social concerns that the activists demonstrated. They brought arguments around the social agenda, showing concern about inequalities of opportunity and income, and making links about inequalities in the distribution of climate problems over the population, in a line very close to climate justice theory.

The notion of sustainability brought in their speeches is imbricated in a strong concept of the term in which the separation between the social and the environmental would not be possible or even desirable. More than that, the achievement of an environmental, or climate quality, would only be conquered, in their words, by means of better social indicators in Brazil and in the world.

The third and last point that delimits the political profile of the activists is related to their criticism of economic growth and its relations with social inequality. For young activists, it is not ideal that society continues to prioritize economic growth, since it has characteristics that maintain or worsen inequality. As observed: "in the scenario in which we live today, economic growth means an increase in the capital of those who already have it, and with this, an increase in inequality" (Interviewee 1). Although not directly citing the theory, there is a close relationship between the profile of young activists and the

degrowth theory, in which it is assumed that there is no infinite growth with finite natural resources. Therefore, the advance in the quality of life of the population should be related to another paradigm than that of economic growth.

3.3 Motivations and Intentions in Activism

When asked about the reasons that lead them to militate in the climate cause, some points draw attention.

The first point is related to the profile of the activists themselves. As most of them have indigenous roots, their motivations are intrinsically linked to the struggle for justice and for the maintenance of the culture and way of life of traditional populations in Brazil. And the beginning of this struggle starts from the first years of life. Indigenous children, according to the interviewees, are already born activists for the climate, with teachings about respect for the planet, nature, and the way of life. Officially, the entry of young indigenous people into Fridays For Future occurred only in adolescence and early adulthood, but environmental militancy and motivation in activism is something that arises from birth, as an element of resistance and survival of themselves and their culture.

For young people who are not indigenous, the motivation comes from the understanding of the need to build a better, more just and sustainable world. Normally, the university plays a fundamental role in sensitizing these young people and in building an environment conducive to critical reflections around agendas such as climate change. These young people get motivated when they come into contact with other young people and with associations and guilds they get to know inside the university. The climate issue also gains relevance within the academic environment with lectures, courses, undergraduate courses and even university research and extension projects. Their motivations, in this sense, are the result of thinking and reflecting on the need and possibility of building a world that is socially and environmentally better than the one they have today, a utopia that gains strength in the university environment.

The second important point is related to their claims as climate activists. The interviews clearly demarcated the aspirations of these young people within activism. Most of them are directly related to the objectives of Fridays For Future Brazil:

- Raise awareness about climate change and how much humanity is putting its own future at risk, seeking to change behavior;

- Visibilize Friday For Future, trying to sensitize young people to join the movement;
- To act on the small modifications, those that involve changing people's day-to-day behavior;
- Building a more sustainable world, which is understood as:

"that uses clean energy; that has more empathy between people; more social equality; where we will return to have more contact with nature; where we are aware that our resources are finite; where the economic system is not based on exploitation; consumption for need and not for surplus; understanding human diversity and realizing that there is no way to propose solutions that already exist for unique problems; stop thinking that money is the most important thing in the world; building urban forests; reconnecting with each other; quality of life; breathing clean air; people more politicized and aware of their impact; improvement in environmental education" (Together the perception of a sustainable world according to all the interviewees).

In general, the interviews showed that young people have a very strong adherence to the international movement Fridays For Future, especially with regard to their personal aims in climate activism. However, the motivations of the Brazilian young activists gain importance as they are encouraged either by the indigenous origin of the activists or by the presence of these young people in a university environment.

3.5 Ways of Actions

The tactics used by the youth activists are divided into three axes:

The first is the sensitization tactic. Awareness-raising brings in its scope some important subdivisions:

- a) The first one seeks to make the population more aware of its relations with the environment, presenting responsible practices and success stories;
- b) The second, seeks to inform about relevant topics through short videos, short courses, and sharing of scientific research and/or primers;
- c) The third is to raise funds to help with some issue related to the movement;
- d) The fourth is to publicize global, regional, and local actions for the environment, and specifically for the climate.

The tactic of raising awareness occurs both through digital platforms and through face-to-face practices on the street. Usually, in the latter situation, activists seek to raise awareness of citizens based on everyday issues that occur frequently in the lives of ordinary people. Part of the street tactics is the attempt to change behavior in the separation of garbage, in food consumption habits, and even in the purchase or not of certain products or in stores that are presented with some kind of socio-environmental

complaint. Young people spend their time trying to talk to people and make them change their minds, if not at the very moment of the approach, then afterwards.

This tactic is closely related to the activists' claim to make small changes in citizens' behavioral patterns, as seen above. Most of them believe that the resolution of climate problems involves changing individual behaviors. It is in individual and punctual examples that major modifications occur, according to young people. In this sense, they expressed the following ideas:

"There is a taboo that to generate significant impacts on the environment we need big actions, which is not true. This, because small actions, if done by several people, generate a gigantic impact on the world." (Interviewee 14).

"Consuming products from eco-friendly companies already changes the market in a way and harms the big companies that are polluting the world. In this way they will be forced to change their production methods in order to sell more. Meat consumption also greatly influences the green world. So, to stop eating meat in one meal of the day already generates a gigantic impact". (Interviewee 8).

The sensitization tactic gains strength within the movement because it is supported by a good penetration of young people in social networks, as already pointed out by other works [72, 73]. Although the sensitization foresees actions in the streets, it is the social media that leverage the engagement of citizens and allow the movement's agendas to gain national repercussion, so as to contact, influence, and inform people from all over Brazil. Besides the more than 24 thousand followers that Fridays For Future Brazil has on the social networks, it seems important to point out the quality of the followers. Some of them are famous artists, renowned journalists, and characters with extensive performance in the socio-environmental movement in the country. This profile of followers helps the engagement of the themes proposed by the movement, but, above all, it collaborates with its institutionalization in the country, giving it the necessary legitimacy.

The second axis is directly related to advocacy or lobbying practices, which aim at pressuring decision makers and political leaders through varied strategies of action with a direct impact on the legislative and judiciary branches. The advocacy or lobbying strategies conducted by young people are:

- a) The denunciation of actions harmful to the environment that are produced by public or private entities;
- b) The construction of platforms that seek digital signatures from the population in favor of some socio-environmental issue;
- c) The production of public civil action, triggering the judiciary as a barrier or instance capable of reversing actions that deteriorate the environment;

d) The occupation of public spaces, especially in the national congress, by means of public hearings, the construction of policies together with legislators, and even participation in benches dealing with socio-environmental issues.

There were two successful advocacy strategies carried out by young people. The first is related to the denunciations of actions that are harmful to the environment, in which young people used good humor to call attention to themselves. Some of their actions that were humorous, ironic, and embarrassing to the winners, usually politicians, gained fame. The young people gave the trophy "cara de pau" to the State Minister of Education and a trophy "exterminator of the future" to the State Minister of the Environment Ricardo Salles [74]. According to the interviewees' reports, people find it funny, and the movement gets visibility. Moreover, with this tactic, young people seek to translate, in a more playful and simplified language, more complex results and situations that occur in the political environment. In this way they bring citizens and politics closer together.

The most recent success story of the youth climate movement in Brazil, a second example of advocacy strategy, was the so-called "popular action of youth on the environmental agenda". The action, signed by six activists, was petitioned in federal court for the annulment of the goals set by the Brazilian commitment under the Paris Agreement, which had been modified in 2020 to less ambitious values than before, what they called "climate pedalada" [75]. The activists' justification is that this reduction maneuver, orchestrated by Brazil's Minister of State of Environment, would violate the principle of progression of the targets stipulated in the Paris Agreement itself. The lawsuit is still under review, but is accompanied by support from eight former State Ministers of the Environment [76] and much national repercussion [77].

This advocacy tactic is important because it shows that young people are aware of the national political processes, and of their capacities and possibilities of intervention in the construction and modification of laws. In this sense, they clearly manifest that the political process is not restricted to the actions of legislators, interest groups, and the executive - widely known as the iron triangle [78] -, but is open to other participations and interests that are emerging from society, in an orientation toward pluralist models [79]. They therefore present a modern and sophisticated vision of public policy and the legislative process.

The third axis manifests itself with the presence of young activists in the streets, protesting, with tactics typical of social movements [80].

The protests, mostly with low membership, occur following two patterns. The first pattern is protests against the backdrop of a global climate agenda. Such protests occur in parallel with international events or on internationally pre-scheduled dates, such as Fridays. In this type of protest, young Brazilian

activists have little power to include themes that are distinct from those dealt with internationally. In this sense, posters, banners, and slogans appear in the protests with more universal meanings, serving broad, global interests.

A second pattern of protests are those related to regional or local agendas. Such demonstrations usually reflect some kind of injustice, socio-environmental or political ills that they believe are present in the country. The posters on strike days, for example, demonstrate well this local characteristic of the Brazilian movement. The phrases raised on them were, among others: climate action above all, planet earth above all; sorry for the inconvenience, we are changing the world. These phrases are commonly used in mobilization activities, protests and political rallies in the country. The first one is a pun with the campaign slogan of the current president of the republic [58, 81].

Mobilization on local commemorative dates is also part of the portfolio of actions promoted by the Brazilian group. For example, Atlantic Forest Day, Environment Day, Earth Overload Day, Day of the Indian, Environment Week, Fridays without Meat, July without Plastic, Black Lives Matter, Save the Cerrado, No Life Less, Save the Murdered Activists, among others. There are, in addition, actions that aim to criticize the actions of the federal government in the country's socio-environmental agenda, such as explicit criticism of the government of President Jair Bolsonaro and his Minister of Environment Ricardo Salles - through #ForaBolsonaro, #ForaSalles and #SallesExterminadorDoFuturo -, alert to the population about the burning and deforestation in the Pantanal in the Amazon and Cerrado - #AmazôniaEmChamas, #SOSAmazônia, #SalveCerrado -, criticism of international agreements - #PareUEandMercosul -, and criticism of the dismissals of specialists in the area of environment and monitoring of deforestation in Brazil, through the following phrase in defense of science: "when science cannot speak, environmental agencies are blindfolded and the government refuses to listen there is only climate for disorder and regress." Finally, the Brazilian movement campaigns for local actions as in the burning in the state of Paraná, deforestation in the state of Rio de Janeiro and the state of Pará, protection of specific indigenous peoples in the Amazon and the Cerrado [81].

In general, street protests are characterized by the absence of violence, by being dynamic, and by causing as little disturbance as possible to those who pass through the protest, being only a visual and auditory form of communication, which the literature points out as dutiful protests [66].

5. Conclusions

Although youth-driven climate activism is not unanimous among scientists and researchers [82], it presents itself as a contemporary strategy, recent and with few studies on the general characteristics and even efficiency of the actions of these young people in producing substantial changes in the climate agenda.

This work sought to contribute to the knowledge of young Brazilians in terms of their socioeconomic and political profile, their motivations and pretensions as activists, besides shedding light on the ways in which these young people seek to influence public policies.

As a continuation of this exploratory and descriptive work, we point out here some paths that may be fruitful for researchers to take in other opportunities. The suggestions are related to the results achieved by this research and/or bring reflections around the implications that such results may generate in the short and medium term future. Thinking about the large indigenous participation in youth activism and how this participation influences the construction of political strategies and even motivation seems to be an important point of deepening. Reflections about the university and more mature profile of Brazilian activists also present themselves as a field to be researched, especially through methodological strategies of comparative nature. In what concerns the performance of young people with political incidence and their strategies, two paths are open: one to think about the tactics used and their efficiency in what concerns the penetration in the decision making process in public policies and a second path about the comparative study of these strategies in relation to other young activists, be they European, Asian or even Latin American and North American.

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