

Agent-based Model: Environmental Awareness and Circular Economy in Developing Countries

Jesus D. Galarcio-Noguera, Pablo A. Maya, Gloria Lucía Ramírez-Córdoba, and Yony Fernando Ceballos

Industrial Engineering Department
Universidad de Antioquia
Medellín, Colombia

jdavid.galarcio@gmail.com, pablo.maya@udea.edu.co, glorial.ramirez@udea.edu.co,
yony.cebillos@udea.edu.co

Abstract

Since 1971, the impact of population growth on the environment has been a topic of interest. This growth has been a degrading factor of environmental quality: as the pressure on the assimilative capacity of the environment increases, air and water pollution, along with the amount of solid waste generated also increases. The circular economy is considered as a potential solution, oriented to protect the environment without becoming an obstacle to economic growth.

To make an effective transition towards a circular economy, we must have the responsibility and active participation of all the stakeholders involved, including customers. In this work, we seek to develop an agent-based model to describe and analyze an environmental awareness system in a population, whose behavior is based on an indicator that can change by agent's interaction and modify its consumption habits.

After the model validation process, its results are analyzed to understand how the environmental awareness level, consumption habits, and social skills of each individual, can influence the average environmental awareness level of a heterogeneous population, which makes simple the identification of emerging behaviors and the forecasting of the potentially recyclable waste according to the quality in the separation at source.

Keywords

Agent Based Modeling (ABM); environmental awareness; social influence; sustainable behavior; extended producer responsibility (EPR).

Biographies

Jesus D. Galarcio-Noguera is an Industrial Engineer at the Universidad de Córdoba (CO). He is a student of the master's degree in engineering at the Universidad de Antioquia in Colombia. His research interests include optimization, agent-based modeling (ABM), circular economy, metaheuristics, artificial intelligence, and supply chain management.

Pablo A. Maya is a Professor of the Industrial Engineering Department at the Antioquia University in Colombia. He holds a Master and a Ph.D. in Operations research. His research interests are mainly on the field of applied OR techniques, particularly to problems with potential social impact such as circular economy, sustainable transport, health services and humanitarian and non-profit logistics.

Gloria Lucía Ramírez-Córdoba is a Professor of the Industrial Engineering Department at the Antioquia University in Colombia. She holds a Master and a Ph.D. in Accounting and Finance. Her research interests are related to finance in supply chain management, economic indicators, and circular economy.

Yony Fernando Ceballos is a Professor of the Industrial Engineering Department at the Antioquia University in Colombia. He holds a Master and a Ph.D. in System Engineering. His research interests are agent-based simulation, discrete simulation, and system dynamics.