

A STUDY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF STUDENTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS

DHRUPADKUVARBA J. PARIHAR

ABSTRACT: *The surroundings in which we live, is generally termed as our environment. We are knowingly or unknowingly polluting our environment. This pollution not only affected human being but it has scratched a question mark on its very existence. The day is not so far, when we struggle for our survival. So this is the high time, when we should do our best to save our environment from the pollution. But the question is how much population is conscious towards environment. For this purpose investigators have tried to study the environmental consciousness among students of secondary level students.*

Introduction

The surroundings in which we live, is generally termed as our environment. The International Stockholm Conference proclaimed, "to defend and improve the environment for present and future generations has become an imperative goal of mankind. It shows that environmental education and awareness should be disseminated among masses. Education for the environment aims to promote a willingness and ability to adopt life styles that are compatible with the wise use of environmental resources. The globe is a beautiful living place for mankind. India, since ancient times, known for its scenic beauty was a matter of pride but now unfortunately the scene is entirely changed. Environment of the whole world has been made polluted by human being to quench its greed for luxurious life.

With the development of human civilization, the pollution of earth increased and the human activities over the years have indeed changed the environment. We are knowingly or unknowingly polluting our environment. Pollution of various kinds is threatening our life. This pollution not only affected human being but it has scratched a question mark on its very existence. It is human nature to collect all luxuries for life. In collecting these luxuries man has exploited the nature bitterly. The consequence which we are facing in the forms of various problems like energy crisis, ozone layer depletion, green house effect, global warming, melting of glaciers etc. the industrial flood, population explosion etc., lack of environmental consciousness may be counted as the prime cause for such environmental pollution. Industries are emitting the harmful gases in the atmosphere. These gases are also polluting the environment. The masses all over the world are aware of the fact that atmospheric pollution is one of the most serious hazards of the civilized society. This pollution is so dangerous that the species of bird 'sparrow' is vanishing day by day from the environment. In another words we can say that by depleting various species of flora and fauna, the equilibrium of biodiversity is going to be disturbed. The problem of environmental pollution has thus emerged as a growing threat to mankind. The day is not so far, when we will struggle for our survival. So this is the high time, when we should do our best to save our surroundings from the pollution. But the question is how much population is conscious towards environment. For this purpose investigators have tried to study the environmental awareness of the secondary level students. Generally the students, who are studying at secondary level, are in adolescent stage. It is a well-known fact that adolescent stage is the stage of stress and storm. Therefore, we must focus on secondary level students so that they may work to save the environment. That's why this study may be a stepping-stone in this direction.

Objectives:

The present study is based on the following objectives:

- To inquire the level of environmental awareness among senior secondary students in respect to their sex
- To find out the level of environmental awareness among senior secondary students in respect to their locality.

Hypotheses:

The present venture is based on the following hypotheses:

- There is no significant difference between the level of environmental awareness of male and female senior secondary students.
- No significant difference exists between the level of environmental awareness of rural and urban senior secondary students.

Methodology:

Population:

The present study was conducted in Vadodara district of Gujarat. All students studying at secondary level of secondary schools of Vadodara district were constituted the population for the present investigation.

Sample and Sampling Technique :

To draw the sample *for* present study, the purposive random sampling technique was used. The sample consisted of 164 students of senior secondary schools of Vadodara district .

On the basis of sex (88 male and 76 female) and locality (60 rural students and 104 urban students) total 164 students were selected as sample.

Instrument used:

For the purpose of data collection, the awareness about Pollution and Environmental Protection Scale (Gihar, 2002) was used. The scale has been divided in two sections and consist of 130 yes/ no and multiple choice type items. Analysis of Data : The collected data was analyzed with the help of mean, SD and ‘t’ test.

Table – 1. Consciousness Level of Male and Female Students on Environmental Pollution and Protection Scale

SEX	N	Mean	SD	‘t’ value (df. - 162)
Male	88	101.80	16.34	0.80
Female	76	103.43	9.14	

It is evident from table-1, that no significant difference was found between they level of male and female senior secondary students towards pollution and environmental protection.

Table-2. Awareness Level of Rural and Urban Students on Environmental Pollution and Proection Scale

Locality	N	Mean	SD	‘t’ value (df.-162)
Rural	60	99.37	1.67	5.63*
Urban	104	104.28	9.27	

*Significant at 0.01 level of Significance

A perusal of table - 2, concludes that urban students have scored higher mean value than their rural counterpart in respect to their consciousness level about environmental pollution and protection. Probably, it may be because of that due to the industrialization and urbanization process, urban population is more affected by environmental hazards.

The first null hypodiosis of no significant difference between the different groups of the students formed on the basis of their sex (male & female) in respect to their level of awareness towards environment was fully accepted. But the female have scored higher mean value on awareness about pollution and environmental protection scale. The females play a pivotal role in Indian families, so they are more concerned with their environment Therefore they are more concerned with environmental pollution and its various aspects.

The second null hypothesis of no significant difference between the different groups of the students formed on the basis of their locality (rural & urban) in respect to their level of awareness towards environment was fiilly rejected. It may be because of that the urban population is more effected by environmental crises. Therefore, they are better placed to gain awareness about environment.

Conclusion

For sustainable environment, as a teacher, we should sow the seeds of environmental ' ethics in systematic manner in our students. We can achieve this goal by giving environmental education at various level of education. Not only formal method of education, we can impart consciousness about environment among people through non formal way. If we could do all these things, the hormonal relationship may be developed between man and environment Not only the teachers, the NGOs and media should also come forward to synergies the society.

REFERENCES

- Biswas, M.R. & Biswas, A.K. (1982). "Major Requirements for Environmental Education" in Baudhes, D. & Ramnathan, N.L. (Ed.) Education for Environmental Planning & Conservation, India Environmental Society, New Delhi, 57-68.
- Gihar, S. (2002). "Effect of Intervention on Developing Consciousness about Pollution and Environmental Protection, Promoting Favourable Attitude & Sense of Responsibility among Students" Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, MJP Rohilkhand University, Bareilly.

- Khan, M.S. (1993). "Environmental awareness among students & their attitude towards Environmental Education", Naya Shikshak, A quarterly Journal of the Directorate of Primary & Secondary Education.
- Khanna, Purnima. "Constitutional Provisions for Environmental Protection in India", University News, Vol. 48, No. 24, pp. 146 -153.
- Partiya, M. (1988). "Awareness related to environmental pollution among students at higher secondary level" M.Ed. Dissertation of Sukhadia University, Udaipur,
- Saojini, K. "Level of Environmental Awareness: The Case of Prospective Teachers", EDUTRACKS, Vol. 9, No. pp. 40 - 43.
- Shah, Kaberi(2004). "Environmental Pollution & Health Hazards", Prachi Journal of Psycho-Cultural Dimensions, Vol. 20(2), pp. 93 - 97.
- Shahnawaj (1990). "A study of the environmental awareness & attitude of secondary school teachers & students", Ph.D. Education, University of Rajasthan.
- Sharma, Ganshyam (1991). Analytical study of Attitude & aspirations towards environmental education, M.Ed. dissertation, Ajmer, University, Ajmer.