



A Study of Attitude towards Environmental Awareness among Senior Secondary School Students

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Abstract

The present world is witnessing a number of environmental crises, which are the result of unmindful and thoughtless exploitation of resources by human beings. There is an urgent need to create environmental awareness among all human beings so as to conserve, protect and nurture our environmental resources. Consequently environmental education is being included in school curriculum right from the very beginning. The present study was conducted to study the environmental awareness among senior secondary school students. In this study the investigator conducted the studies on class twelfth students of various schools of Delhi city and a sample of 200 students was taken. The author found that there is no significant level of awareness among senior secondary school students, but they could be made aware if proper guidance and counselling is given to them about environment and environment related awareness programmes.

Key Words- *Attitude, Environmental Awareness, Gender, Secondary Schools.*

Introduction

World educators and environmental specialists have repeatedly pointed out that a solution to environmental crises will require an environmental awareness which should be deeply rooted in the education system at all levels of school education. Today environmental awareness is a very important topic for discussion and lots of conferences and seminars are being held at various levels. The environment and energy related problems can not be solved unless students are aware of them, because the students are the future citizens of our country. It is an essential need for each individual to develop an awareness of protection and preservation of the environment.

In the modern era of technology and development and with the progress of industrialization, urbanization and adoption of modern technologies in agriculture, environmental problems have become a concerning issue for human society. By considering the importance of environmental conservation, most developed countries also have included the issue of environmental protection in their political agenda. It has been widely accepted that to conscientious the human society about the environmental issues and to make perspective plans for mitigation of environmental problems, Environmental Education is an important tool through which the goals for awareness can be achieved easily. Environmental Education is aimed at producing a citizenry that is knowledgeable concerning the biophysical environment and its associated problems, to aware of how to help solve these problems, and to motivate to work towards their solution.

National Policy on Education (1986) emphasizing the role of Environmental Education says that, "There is a paramount need to create a consciousness of the environment. It must permeate all ages and all sections of the society, beginning with the child. Environmental consciousness should be inculcated into teaching in schools and colleges". Environmental Education is a key to the success of any overall Environmental strategy, determined to help in the setting up of a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Education, to play the vital role of setting the pace and agenda for Environmental Education in the country In India,

The Supreme Court issued notice to some of the country key educational bodies and State Governments for negligence in the implementation process of environment a compulsory subject. The Supreme Court, directed the NCERT to take appropriate steps to prescribe a course on environment and to consider the feasibility of making environment a compulsory subject at the school level. In pursuance of this, the NCERT framed the syllabus and incorporated Environment Education as compulsory subject from IXth to XIIth standards. Considering the work load for teaching this compulsory subject of Environment Education, prescribed qualifications for the teacher to teach the Environmental Education in school, two lectures per week for this subject and no need of a separate qualified teacher from the principle subject were adopted.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives set for the present study undertaken are as following:

- 1- To find out the significant difference in the environmental awareness of Boys and Girls of Senior Secondary Classes of Delhi.

- 2- To find out the significant difference in the environmental awareness of Government and private Senior Secondary School students.
- 3- To find out any significant difference in the environmental awareness between Senior Secondary School students residing in their own houses and those residing in the rental houses.

Hypotheses

The Hypotheses formulated for the present study are as following:

1. There is no significant difference between the means scores of standard XII boys and girls on environmental awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between the mean scores of Senior Secondary School students studying in government and private schools on environmental awareness
3. There is no significant difference between the mean scores of Senior Secondary School students studying residing in their own houses and those residing in rental houses.

Methodology of Study

The method used for the study was survey and the type of sampling followed was Random purposive sampling. Data were collected from 200 students studying at senior secondary school level from six senior secondary schools of Delhi. The investigator has taken three background variables for the present study.

Tools used in the Study

The investigator himself prepared a set of questionnaire containing questions form various dimensions of environment. A total of one hundred and fifty objective type questions were prepared, but after the standardization of the tool, finally, a set of eighty four questions pertaining to various dimensions of environment and its related problems were selected in the form of a set of questionnaire. The tool was then named as Environmental Awareness.

Sample for the Present Study

A sample of 200 students was taken for the present study. These 200 students were taken from the six senior secondary schools available from within the city limits. Three senior secondary schools taken were private and the rest three were government senior secondary schools.

Statistical Techniques used in the Present Study

The investigator himself constructed a well standardized tool for measuring the attitude

of senior secondary school students towards environmental awareness. Mean, Standard deviation and 't' test were the statistical techniques used for carrying out the analysis and interpretation of the data collected.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Regarding the first null hypothesis, it was found after analysis of the data (Table-1) there is no significant difference between the mean scores on of senior secondary school boys and girls on environmental awareness. It was found that gender does not significantly contribute towards the environmental awareness of senior secondary school students.

Table-1

Environmental Awareness (EA) of Senior Secondary School students and Gender

Variable	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Level of Confidence
Boys	91	14.61	3.47	1.34*	* Not significant
Girls	109	16.71	3.94		

*Not Significant at 0.05 level.

From, table-1 it can be seen that the calculated' value of 1.34 at 0.05 level is less than the table **value 1.96**. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Regarding the second null hypothesis, it was found after analysis of the data there is significant difference between the mean scores of senior secondary school students studying in private and those studying in government senior secondary schools on environmental awareness.

Table-2

Environmental Awareness (EA) of Senior Secondary School students and types of schools

Variable	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Level of Confidence
Government	90	19.83	5.73	3.85*	* significant
Private	110	21.46	5.95		

*Significant at 0.01 level.

From, table-2 it could be observed that the calculated't' value of 3.85 at 0.01 level is more than the table value 1.96. So, the null hypothesis is rejected.

Regarding the third null hypothesis, it was found after analysis of the data (Table-3) there is no significant difference between the mean scores on environmental awareness of senior secondary school students residing in their own houses and those residing in the rental houses.

Table-3
EA of Senior Secondary School students and Type of Residence

Variable	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Level of Confidence
Own House	132	2.49	3.47	1.68*	* Not significant
Rental House	68	17.8	1.58		

*Not Significant at 0.05 level.

From, table-3 it can be seen that the calculated 't' value of 1.68 at 0.05 level is less than the table value 1.96. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Findings of the Study

From the table-1 it could be observed, that there is no significant difference between the mean scores of the boys and girls studying in twelfth standard on the environmental awareness of Delhi. Further analysis of the data revealed that (table-2), that there is significant difference in the environmental awareness of the students studying in private and government senior secondary schools of the same city. Similarly, from the analysis of the table-3, it could be seen that there is no significant difference on environmental awareness of senior secondary school students residing in their own houses in comparison to those residing in rental houses.

Conclusions of the Study

On the basis of the findings of this study, it could be seen that in total there is an influence of type of school on the level of student s environmental awareness. From the above findings, it could be further be revealed that senior secondary school students of private schools have more environmental awareness than government aided senior secondary school students. The reason for higher environmental awareness among students of private senior secondary schools may be the family background and educational qualifications of parents. Parents of students studying in private senior secondary schools are graduates and are economically well of. Such parents are mainly concerned with inculcating environmental awareness to their children as they are aware of the dangers and consequences of environmental degradation at global level. On the other hand, senior secondary school students studying in government aided senior secondary schools come from poor families and have less educated or illiterate parents, whose main priority is to

fulfill the needs of their family members. They are not aware of environmental issues, so they can't pass on these awareness measures to their children. Results of the findings also revealed that there is no significant difference on the environmental awareness between boys and girls. Further analysis of the results of the study revealed that there is no significant difference on the environmental awareness of those senior secondary school students living in their own houses in comparison to those living in rented residential houses. Thus, type of residence does not play any significant role in the environmental awareness of senior secondary school students. All these findings suggest to us and to the government as well to make necessary efforts to provide proper classrooms, library facilities, environment related books in local language and necessary infrastructure in the form of computers and internet facilities not only for the students who are studying in senior secondary schools but also for the students who are studying in secondary and upper primary schools, especially in rural schools. These findings also indicate that if the senior secondary school students of government schools are given enough facilities and financial funds and grants, they can too become aware of the environment and its related issues and problems and can come at par with their counterparts in private senior secondary schools.

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