



Environmental Pollution and its Awareness among the Students Studying at Primary School Level

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ABSTRACT

The investigator has taken attempt to know the views of the primary school students on environmental awareness and environmental pollution. Descriptive survey method has been utilized to study the views from the primary school students. A sample of 100 students has been taken using random sampling method from Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. The statistical techniques such as mean and percentage have been used to analyze and interpret data from the questionnaire developed by the investigator for the present study. The findings of the study reveal that the primary school students are aware about the concept of environment such as natural and artificial environment and causes of pollution likes water, air, soil and sound pollution. These students learn about environment and causes of pollution from the teachers, parents, society, their association with the environment and other sources. These agencies are very helpful for the primary school students to know about environment.

Keywords -- Awareness, primary school, students, environment, environmental pollution.

1. Introduction

The human beings exist in the world and want to live in a peaceful way. The peaceful living depends on getting various materials like food, cloth and shelter. Everything is made available from the environment and these products are the gifts of the environment which is the vital element for all the living beings of the world. Therefore, it is the duty of everybody to conserve it. The present world is facing a critical imbalance in the environment which requires an environmental awareness. The environmental education at all levels of school education should be introduced as the part of the curriculum. It is not only the duty of the teachers to inculcate the environmental awareness through environmental education in the classroom but also through involvement of the community participation. Environmental Education is an important tool through which the goals for awareness can be achieved easily.

The great role of all the people of the world is to save the world from destruction of environment. Natural calamities have been affected for which the people face so many problems. Due to the pollution of environment many problems like imbalance of ozone layer, sensational change, health problems etc. are occurring day by day. So the environment is to be saved from this dangerous activity of the people. In the present age of Science and Technology the environmental is degraded due to the destination by the developed and developing countries of the world in the scientific competition. The world is facing a lot of environmental population which affects day to day life of the people. The investigator has collected data through the questionnaire on environmental awareness among the primary school students, causes of environmental pollution affecting the environment. The collected data were tabulated and analyzed using percentage and mean through tables.

2. Review of Literature

Some research studies are given in the present study.

Aganval (1993) found in the study that the debate, symposium, conference and competition on environment helped a lot among the students in creating awareness about the environment.

Berry (1993) studied that universities have important role to play in generating public awareness, protecting the environment and promoting suitable development,

Bhattacharya (2007) in his study stated that environmental awareness among the higher secondary school students (science) were more than the non-science students.

Blum (2022) evaluated an environmental studies in terms of student perceptions of course usefulness for achieving various goals for having a positive effect on student's perception of the usefulness of school subjects.

Das (2017) stated that environmental imbalance was due to rapid rate of exploitation of natural resources technological development and industrial expansion.

De Pree (2012) studied the merits of a newly designed environmental course in a suburban high school. Four major areas were investigated, knowledge, sources of information, concerns and solutions to ten dilemmas. Findings from this study provided convincing evidence on the positive effects of the course on the students.

Gupta (1983) the study revealed the fact that the average suspended particulate matter (SPM) emitted from various sources like industries and automobile was responsible for air pollution.

Haier and Herried (1970) constructed Ecology Text to assess instructional effects of environmental awareness.

Hughes (1979) made a comparative study of relative effectiveness in environmental science where students could change their attitude towards environment.

Khoshoo (1984) reflected in the study that the teachers are to organize, motivate and catalyse the student community to undertake ecological studies of the region in the vicinity of the schools colleges and universities.

Pareek (1998) and Patel(1999) studies on environmental awareness among secondary school students and environmental awareness of primary teachers in the Dang districts of Gujarat John Praharaj (1981) studied on environmental knowledge environmental attitude and perception regarding environment education among pre-service and in-service secondary school teachers.

Rajaput (2018) has found that differences exist in the awareness about environment among children of two different geographical areas and that the students in general lack in the application part of their knowledge of their environment.

Scaria (1984) conducted a study to identify the extent of awareness among secondary school students regarding plants of food value in general and their uses and also to analyze curricular potentials of selected local plants of food value etc. The findings revealed that majority of students are lacking practical utilization of knowledge about available local food plants.

Thakur and Kumari (1999) in their joint study concluded the opinion that environmental awareness among College students and elementary school teachers should be developed through environmental education.

3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows.

1. To study the environmental awareness among the primary school students.
2. To study the causes of environmental pollution.

4. Methodology of the Study

The methodology used for the study is stated below

Research Method: The present study is designed as descriptive survey method for collecting information about the environmental awareness among the primary school students and causes of environmental pollution.

Sample: The investigator has taken 100 students as a sample consisting of 50 boys and 50 girls for the present study using random sampling method.

Tool of the Study: The investigator developed one questionnaire for the students about the environmental awareness and causes of environmental pollution.

Delimitation of the Study: The study delimits to collect data from 2 primary schools of Baripada block of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha.

Data Collection: The investigator personally visited two primary schools of Bripada Block for administering the questionnaire over the students for collection of data.

Statistical procedure used: The statistical procedure like mean and percentage were used for analysis and interpretation.

Analysis and interpretation: The views of the primary school students about the environmental awareness and causes of environmental pollution were analyzed and interpreted by using statistical techniques like percentage and mean as follows.

Table 1- Meaning of Environment.

Sl. No	Various meanings	No. of Respondents	%
A	Surrounding containing non-living beings only	-	-
B	Surrounding containing living beings only	-	-
C	Surrounding containing both living beings non-living being only	95	95.00
D	None of the above	-	-

In this table it is found that 95.00% of students responded on the meaning of environment as surrounding containing both living beings and non-living beings.

Table 2- Various Kinds of Natural Resources.

Sl. No	Natural Resources	No. of Respondents	%
A	Forest	100	100
B	wild life	100	100
C	fish	100	100
D	minerals	100	100
E	air, water, land, river, mountain and ocean etc.	100	100

In this table it is found from all the students that forest, wild life, fish, minerals, air, water, land, river, mountain and ocean etc. are the natural sources. It indicates that the students are aware about types of natural resources.

Table 3-Causes of Air Pollution.

Sl. No	Various Causes	No. of Respondents	%
A	Biological decomposition and volcanic eruption	100	100
B	Acid rain	100	100
C	Emission of burnt gases from industry, vehicles, kitchen and rotten things	100	100
D	Tobacco smoke	100	100

In this table it is found from all the students that biological decomposition and volcanic eruption, acid rain, emission of burnt gases from industry, vehicles, kitchen and rotten things and tobacco smoke as the causes of air pollution.

Table 4- Causes of Water Pollution.

Sl. No	Various Causes	No. of Respondents	%
A	Presence of mineralogical compounds	100	100
B	Presence of chemicals in water	100	100
C	Drainages of waste products of the industry to the river	100	100
D	Throwing dead animals in to water	100	100
E	Bathing animals in the river & ponds	100	100

In this table it is found from all the students that presence of mineralogical compounds, presence of chemicals in water, drainage of waste products of the industry to the river, throwing dead animals and bathing animals in river and ponds are the causes of water pollution.

Table 5- Causes of Soil Pollution.

Sl. No	Various Causes	No. of Respondents	%
A	Non-judicious use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides in agriculture.	45	45
B	Soil erosion	10	10.00
C	Quitting a large amount of solid rubbish to the soil	20	20.00
D	Industrial waste	25	25.00
E	Construction of dams, mining, roads	-	-

It is found that 45% of students tell that non-judicious use of chemical fertilizers pesticides in agriculture is the cause of soil pollution. 25.00% students responded on industry industrial waste as the cause of soil pollution, 20.00% of students responded on quitting a large amount of solid rubbish to the soil, and (10.00%) students responded on soil erosion are the causes of soil pollution.

Table 6-Causes of Sound Pollution.

Sl. No	Various Causes	No. of Respondents	%
A	High sound of loud speaker	100	100
B	High horn sound of the vehicles	100	100
C	Volcanoes	100	100
D	Use of explosives in functions and festivals	100	100

In this table it is found from all the students that high sound of loud speaker, high horn sound of the vehicles, volcanoes and use of explosive in function and festivals are the causes of the sound pollution.

5. Major Findings of the Study

- 1) 95.00% of students responded on the meaning of environment as surrounding containing both living beings and non-living beings.
- 2). All the students responded that forest, wild life, fish, minerals, air, water, land, river, mountain and ocean etc. are the natural sources. It indicates that the students are aware about types of natural resources.
- 3). All the students have responded that biological decomposition and volcanic eruption, acid rain, emission of burnt gases from industry, vehicles, kitchen and rotten things and tobacco smoke as the causes of air pollution.
- 4). All the students tell that the presence of mineralogical compounds, presence of chemicals in water, drainage of waste products of the industry to the river, throwing dead animals and bathing animals in river and ponds are the causes of water pollution.
- 5). 45% of students tell that non-judicious use of chemical fertilizers pesticides in agriculture is the cause of soil pollution.
- 6). 25.00% of students responded on industry industrial waste as the cause of soil pollution, 20.00% of students responded on quitting a large amount of solid rubbish to the soil, and (10.00%) students responded on soil erosion are the causes of soil pollution.
- 7). All the students have given their responses that high sound of loud speaker, high horn sound of the vehicles, volcanoes and use of explosive in function and festivals are the causes of the sound pollution.

6. Suggestions for Further Study

The investigator has suggested a number of studies to be researched as follows.

- a) A study can be taken up to analyse the causes of water pollution and its effects on environment.
- b). A study can be taken up on various aspects on air pollution and its effects on environment.
- c). A study is needed to investigate the causes of sound pollution.
- d). A study can be taken up on various aspects on soil pollution and its effects on environment.

7. Educational Implication.

On the basis of the findings of this study, it could be seen that the students of Baripada Block are aware about the concept of environment as well as environmental awareness and causes of environmental pollution affecting the environment. They know different processes of controlling and saving the environment and also it has been found that they are educating their parents in saving the environment and creating consciousness in saving the environment.

8. Conclusion

On the basis of the findings of this study, it could be seen that the students of Baripada Block are aware about the concept of environment as well as environmental awareness and causes of environmental pollution affecting the environment. They know different processes of controlling and saving the environment and also it has been found that they are educating their parents in saving the environment and creating consciousness in saving the environment.

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