



A Study on Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students

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ABSTRACT

The present study has been designed to study the Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students. Various Indian and foreign studies were reviewed. Descriptive Survey method has been used in this study. The sample consists of 200 students studying in secondary schools. The investigator used stratified random sampling technique for selecting the sample. Questionnaire was constructed for the Students to find out the opinions on the Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students. The data were analyzed using various statistical methods like mean, SD, 't' test and F-test were the statistical techniques used. The score obtained by different groups are compared across the variables like gender, class, management, and locality. The results are discussed in light of previous research studied; suggestions and Recommendations for further research were also suggested.

Key Words: Awareness of Environmental Protection.

Introduction:

Environmental awareness means creating awareness on the impact of environmental elements like pollution, population, atmosphere and natural resources on the environment. Better environmental awareness among the public in general and students in particular will help to create clear environment. Environmental awareness can be made in the schools through environmental education. Environmental education means the generation of widespread awareness of environmental problems. According to Kindfar (1983) environmental education plays an important role for the development of environment. The national policy of Education (1986) has emphasized the importance of creating environmental awareness among the school students. By creating awareness of the bad effects of pollution in the necessities of life, the schools, can strike a balance between the ideals of social service and the individual development, school can educate the students in creating mental awareness about the environment by 1) Imparting desirable knowledge in certain concepts of environmental education 2) Introducing certain content matter in environmental education of the curriculums of schools. Providing suitable opportunities, for including necessary skills and desirable experience. Keeping in mind, that children should be told as little as possible and made to discover as much as possible, so that they have the joy of discovery. When the world commission on environment and development was established in 1983, the challenge was to address vital global issues and to propose a strategy for dealing efficiency with them. The United Nations general Assembly provided the mandate to formulate a global agenda for change.

Role of the Students:

Education is a life long process. Our present system of education is student centered. Since the secondary school course is a turning point the present educational system in our country. It needs a special attention. The policy makers have incorporated environmental aspect in the school curriculum. But the incorporation is not an end one. It is necessary to participate the students voluntarily in environmental activities like planting the trees clean and green and participate in the environmental programmes etc., Students are become the future social engineers, doctors, architects, and the teachers etc., So it is necessary to know about the environment and inculcate the environmental awareness among the surrounding peoples of the students. So it is the student duty. When the students are aware about environment, they are not participating in the anti environmental activities like, deforestation, increasing pollutants, population explosion etc., students are the pillars of the nation. So when the students are aware on environment, automatically our country environment is also protected.

Need and significance of the study:

Human being have to tackle their environment everyday for their survival and prosperity. It is very necessary to know about several features of natural environment, which affect human beings food supply, health and recreation. Environment is a source of happiness to human beings and their happiness

will be lifter if he learns to love and appreciate nature. Since human beings is a social animal there is a need to understand the social environment also. Industrial revolution, urbanization and modernization urge the human to destiny his/her surrounding. If the situation prolongs definitely it is not possible to get even a drop of unpolluted water, a pinch of unpolluted sand and a few volume of unpolluted air. Therefore a proper understanding of the environment in which the human beings live is inevitable. Since the secondary school course is a turning point of the present educational system in our country, it needs a special attention. The policy makers have incorporated environmental aspect in the school curriculum. But the, incorporation so not an end one. It is a continuous process. Developing strategies, which can improve the existing knowledge of the environment, is need of the present luxurious life. This needs what the students know, what their knowledge about the environment, so that the nation can achieve the goals of environmental education in a cost effective manner so the above discussion we can conclude that the student must be aware of the environment, because environment show a master role on the development of the student. It motivates the investigator to take up this topic as a part of his research under par-ii of M.Ed. second semester course. In title of the topic is “A Study on Awareness of Environmental Protection among secondary school students”.

Objectives of the study:

1. To study the Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students.
2. To study the significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their demographic variables i.e., gender, class, management, and locality towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students.

Hypotheses of the present study

1. There is no significant difference between the perceptions of male and female category students towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students.
2. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their class towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students.
3. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their school management towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students.
4. There is no significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their locality towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students.

Review of Related Literature:

Rashmi Mishra (2022) studied on “A Study On Environmental Awareness In Secondary School Students Of Chhattisgarh Based On Culture, Type Of School And Gender”. Results show that culture, gender and type of school contributed significantly to environmental awareness in secondary school students of Chhattisgarh. The R2 for the final regression model shows that the culture, gender and type of school have created a 72% variance (R^2 change = .720) in environmental awareness in secondary school students of Chhattisgarh. Culture followed by gender and type of school were the dominant variable in predicting environmental awareness in secondary school students. Based on the results, it can be concluded that the contribution of culture, gender and type of school together in predicting environmental awareness in secondary school students was 72% and hence should be considered when promoting environmental awareness in secondary school through suitable programs.

Dona Rai (2021) studied on “A Study on the Environmental Awareness of Students Studying at Secondary Level in Government Schools of South Sikkim”. We all are grateful for what our environment has and is giving us for our survival. It is much needed to transfer this knowledge to younger generation and so incorporation of environmental awareness is important in school curriculum so that students are made aware and will be able to develop positive attitude towards it. Further, they will be able to gain knowledge on ways of sustaining the environment. Hence, this paper is an attempt to understand the attitude of students of Government Secondary School towards environmental protection and the level of awareness they have on the impact of environmental degradation. For this, Environment Ability Awareness Measure (EAAM) was used which was constructed and standardized by P. K. Jha (1998).

Design of the Study

The researcher followed the survey method of the descriptive research. For this investigation the questionnaire had been considered as a suitable tool for the collection of data. The questionnaire consisted of 60 statements as perceived by the Students.

Reliability and Validity:

For the purpose of the present study the split- half method was adopted. The split-half reliability co-efficient for the Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students as perceived by students was 0.86 and for the validity of the scale it is based on the content and construct validity.

Administration of Tool:

The tool was administered among students, necessary instructions were given in filling the tool. All the respondents followed the instructions and filled the tool by reading the all the items carefully.

Data Collection:

The investigator personally visited the sampled schools and administered the tool among the sampled respondents. The data collected through questionnaire and Interview schedule were used for analytical purposes.

Statistical Techniques Used:

The statistical techniques used mainly for analytical purposes were means, standard deviations were used To study the significant differences in between the socio-economic variables, 't'-test and 'F'-test (ANOVA) have been used by the investigator with the help of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

Table 1. Overall perceptions of students towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among the Secondary School Students.

N	Min.	Max.	Mean Percent	Mean	Std. Dev.
200	1	60	51.25	85.41	10.78

It is noticed that from Table 1 the perceptions of 8th class students shows positive response towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students. The mean percent, mean and Standard Deviation are 85.41%, 51.25 and 10.78 respectively.

Table 2. Significant difference among the perceptions of students based on their demographic variables towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among the Secondary School Student

Variable	Category	N	Mean	Std. Dev.	t/F-value	p-value
Gender	Boy	100	116.17	11.99	3.16**	0.00
	Girl	100	121.10	9.95		
Class	9 th Class	100	119.10	10.19	0.57 ^{NS}	0.63
	10 th Class	100	118.18	12.19		
Management	Government	100	118.56	13.65	3.07*	0.04
	Municipality	50	116.96	10.30		
	Private	50	121.02	11.50		
Locality	Urban	100	119.36	11.32	1.98*	0.05
	Rural	100	117.89	11.29		

There is no significant difference between the perceptions of Students based on their class towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students.

There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their gender towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students and girl category Students perceived high than that of the rest.

There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their school management towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students and Private school Students perceived high than that of the rest.

There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their locality towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students and urban area Students perceived high than that of the rest.

Findings of the study:

1. There is no significant difference between the perceptions of Students based on their class towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students.
2. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their gender towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students and girl category Students perceived high than that of the rest.

3. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their school management towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students and Private school Students perceived high than that of the rest.
4. There is a significant difference among the perceptions of Students based on their locality towards Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students and urban area Students perceived high than that of the rest.

Suggestions:

It is a well known fact that environmental awareness is essential to keep life on this earth. Today the situation is so alarming unless a proper care is given on this issue human life becomes so miserable in future. Hence, the government may take up public awareness issue very seriously and also spend money on environmental education right from the elementary the level of education. Researches also should be encouraged at University level to tackle the problem effectively.

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