



## A Study of Environmental Attitude of Secondary School Students of Hyderabad City

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### ABSTRACT

*Environmental problem has become one of the most important issues of global concern. This research was conducted to investigate the environmental attitude of secondary school students of Hyderabad city of Andhra Pradesh state. The sample of 200 secondary school students for this study was selected through stratified random sampling. The collected data were subjected to statistical analysis, i.e 't' test. The results of this research were in favour of girls of senior secondary schools, students of private secondary schools and students of secondary schools of urban locality, it can be said that all the null hypothesis were rejected. We can infer that secondary school students those studied in private schools and schools of urban locality in Hyderabad city of Andhra Pradesh state have better environmental attitude than their counterparts senior secondary students.*

### KEYWORDS:

#### Introduction:

Formal Environmental education is the mandate of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the Ministry of Environment and forests has been interacting with the MHRD, NCERT, State Departments of education etc to ensure that environmental components are adequately covered at the school levels by infusion into the school curricula at various levels. Environmental education (EE) refers to organized efforts to teach about how natural environments function and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behaviour and ecosystems in order to live sustainably. It provides an individual with the basic understanding of our surroundings. The term environment is derived from French words 'environ' or 'environner', which means 'around'. This in turn is originated from the French word 'virer' or 'viron' along with prefix en, which means 'a circle' or 'around' or 'circuit'. So environment is that periphery of an individual which help him/her in developing his/her personality, growth, development, behaviour, positive attitude and above the all in true sense welfare of human beings. Environmental attitude helps an individual in developing all the above mentioned qualities. Environmental attitude provides the basic knowledge and understanding of the environment and our complex relationship with it. Government and policy maker have put all their efforts to make the people aware and to develop environmental attitude about their environment. The Environment protection act (1986) is also a step towards this. But we are not succeeding in this as much required in general. It's the students who can help to solve the problem of environmental pollution and create positive environmental attitude among society, who will be the future environmentalist, scientist or responsible citizen who can save their environment.

In recent years, the terms such as environment friendly, environmental awareness, environmental attitude, environmental literacy and environmental issues have become the sensitive topics of discussion among the socially and educationally advanced people. All of us want to live in eco-friendly environment. The root of environmental problems is due to the irresponsible behaviour of human beings. It can be said that one of the most important influences on behaviour is aptitude. Environmental attitude of school going children are more important because they will be suffered in future from their present days action. Present days action of young people will be responsible for arousing the environmental problems, so it is the prime duty of policy makers, teachers, and experts to provide congenial environment for creating or developing favourable attitude among students, at primary, secondary as well as senior secondary level.

Present study investigates the level of environmental attitude of senior secondary school students of govt. and private schools of urban and rural areas of Hyderabad city. Researcher tries to investigate the impact of locality, type of school, on environmental attitude of senior secondary students of Hyderabad city.

#### Objectives of the study:

1. To study the level of environmental attitude of senior secondary school students.
2. To study the significant difference between the environmental attitude of boys and girls of senior secondary school students.
3. To study the significant difference between the environmental attitude of senior secondary school students of govt. and private school.
4. To study the significant difference between the environmental attitude of senior secondary school students of urban and rural areas school.

#### Hypothesis of the study:

1. There is no significant difference between the environmental attitude of boys and girls of senior secondary school students.
2. There is no significant difference between environmental attitude of senior secondary school students of urban and rural areas school.
3. There is no significant difference between the environmental attitude of senior secondary school students of govt. and private school.

#### Design of the study:

Sample: For the present study the survey type descriptive research method was adopted. A sample of 200 secondary school students studying in eleventh class of Hyderabad city of Andhra Pradesh state, were selected using stratified random sampling on the basis of equal allocation. The study involves comparison between rural and urban students, govt. and private schools students and male and female students. 100 senior secondary school students were selected from four schools of urban area and 100 senior secondary school students were selected from four schools of rural area. Similarly as second strata 100 senior secondary school students were selected from four schools of government and 100 senior secondary school students were selected from four schools of private management. Gender of the student considered as the third strata. Total 200 students (100 male and 100 female students) are taken as a sample. The size of the sample is 200 students which include rural and urban, govt. and private, male and female studying in eleventh class.

#### Tool:

For measuring the environmental attitude of senior secondary students researcher used "Environmental attitude scale" (EAS) which was prepared and standardized by Dr. N.N Shrivastava and Ku. Shashi Prabha Dubey. This Questionnaire consists of 40 items based on the components like Causes of Pollution, Conservation of land, forest and Air, Energy Conservation, Conservation of Human health, Conservation of wild life, Conservation of environment. After the collection of data, the scoring was done by using the scoring procedure of tool which was given in manual. All the

items of this scale were positive. Every statement has three alternatives- agree, undecided and disagree. For 'agree' 2 marks allotted, for 'undecided' and for 'disagree' 0 marks allotted. Minimum score obtained could be 0 and maximum score could be 80.

Statistical Techniques used: Researcher used 't' test for analysis of data.

**Results:**

**Table no. 1. Range of Scores, frequency and percentage of different categories of environmental attitude of secondary school students.**

Category	Most favourable	Favourable	Intermediary	Unfavourable	Most Unfavourable
Range of Score	Above 59	52-58	45-51	38-44	37 and less
Frequency	04	85	97	07	06
Percentage	2	42.5	48.5	3.5	3

From table no 1 it is found that majority of senior secondary students' i.e., 48.5% have intermediary level of environmental attitude. There are very few students having most favourable (2%) level of environmental attitude. Around 42.5 % of senior secondary school students are found to have favourable and 3% students possess most favourable level of environmental attitude. Only 3.5 % of senior secondary school students are found to have Unfavourable and 3% students have most Unfavourable level of environmental attitude.

**Gender and Environmental Attitude of senior secondary students**

The first hypothesis states that there is no significant difference between male and female senior secondary students in respect of their environmental attitude.

Table No.2 Showing significance of 't' between male and female students in respect of environmental attitude.

Category	Mean	SD	N	df	't'
Male	54.28	7.23	100	198	5.83
Female	60.23	7.26	100		

From the above table, the value of 't' is 5.83 and it is found to be significant at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance, so the hypothesis no. 1 is rejected. Thus, it is concluded that there is significant difference found between male and female senior secondary students in respect of environmental attitude. It is inferred that the mean (60.23) of environmental attitude of female students is found more than the mean (54.28) of environmental attitude of male students. This shows that, gender difference is found on environmental attitude of senior secondary school students. Chin, Chi-Chin (1994), Patel, D.N (1995), Ashraf, S. (2012) also reports that girls students were more sensitive about the environmental awareness than male students.

Locality and Environmental Attitude of senior secondary students The second hypothesis is that there is no significant difference between urban and rural senior secondary students in respect of their environmental attitude. This hypothesis is verified and shown in tables. No 3

**Table No. 3 Showing Significance of 't' between urban & rural senior secondary students in respect of environmental attitude.**

Locality	Mean	S.D	N	df	't'	Sig.
Urban	62.36	7.32	100	198	4.78	0.01 and 0.05
Rural	57.72	6.69	100			

The value of 't' 4.78 is found to be significant and the hypothesis is not accepted. Thus, it is concluded that there is significant difference between urban and rural students in respect of their environmental attitude. It is observed that urban students (62.36) possess higher level of environmental attitude than rural counterparts (57.72). It may be inferred that locality do influence the environmental attitude. It may due to in schools of urban areas better exposures provided through various co-curricular activities.

**Type of School and Environmental Attitude of senior secondary students**

The third hypothesis states that there is no significant difference between govt and private senior secondary school students in respect of their environmental attitude. This hypothesis is verified and shown in table. No.4

**Table No. 4 Showing significance of 't' between govt. and private senior secondary school students in respect of environmental attitude.**

Type	Mean	S.D	N	df	't'	Sig.
Govt.	58.23	6.23	100	198	6.34	0.01 and 0.05
Private	64.26	7.19	100			

The value of 't' is found to be significant and the hypothesis is not accepted. Thus, it is concluded that there is significant difference between govt. and private senior secondary school students in respect of their environmental attitude. It is further found that private (64.26) school students are superior to govt. school students (58.23) in respect of environmental attitude. The private senior secondary school students possess more favourable environmental attitude than the govt. senior secondary school students. It may be inferred that type of school do influence the environmental attitude. Supremacy of private school students may be due to the reason that their parents are able to paid attention, so they are more aware and have high level of environmental attitude.

Developing the environmental attitude is the demand of time. In schools, colleges more campaign is needed to create awareness and environmental attitude among students. In researcher's point of view, collective efforts by the researchers, policymakers, teachers in the field of environmental issues will made tremendous impacts on the level of environmental attitude of the students. So while interacting with students the management, policymakers, teachers should keep following things in their minds-

- Promote the environmental awareness among peoples of all the sections of the society.
- Provide the arrangement for spreading environment education especially in the non-formal system among different sections of the society.
- For development of environmental attitude among peoples of all sections, we can use different media including films, audio-visual, theatre, drama, advertisements, hoardings, posters, seminars, workshops, competitions e.t.c. In nut-shell, level of environmental attitude among senior secondary students is crucial for the reduction of environmental problems.

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