



## STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN RELATION TO LOCALITY AND CULTURE AMONG ADOLESCENTS IN DURG DISTRICT, CHHATTISGARH

**Kanchan Sinha**

Lecturer, Education Department, ShriShankaracharyaMahavidyalaya, Bhilai, C.G

**Dr.Kanak Sinha\***

Principal, RahodEducationSociety, Rahod, Bilaspur, C.G. \*Corresponding Author

**Dr.Vijay Kumar Sinha**

Rtd Joint Director, Agra, U.P.

### ABSTRACT

The Environmental issues are major global problem of important concern. The present study focuses on the analysis of level of Environmental Awareness among adolescents (student of Govt. Higher Sec. School) in Durg district in the state of Chhattisgarh, in relation to Locality and culture. The sample consisted of 200 Adolescents (student of higher secondary school), which include 100 boys and 100 girls of Tribal and Non-tribal Culture from rural and urban background. A Standardized Environmental Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM) by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha were used to collect data. Data were analyzed by using t-test. The main conclusion is that, Tribal Adolescents have more Environmental Awareness than Non-tribal Adolescents and found significant difference between rural and urban background adolescents. Rural adolescents were more aware than urban adolescents.

**KEYWORDS :** Adolescents, Environmental Awareness, Locality, Culture.

### INTRODUCTION

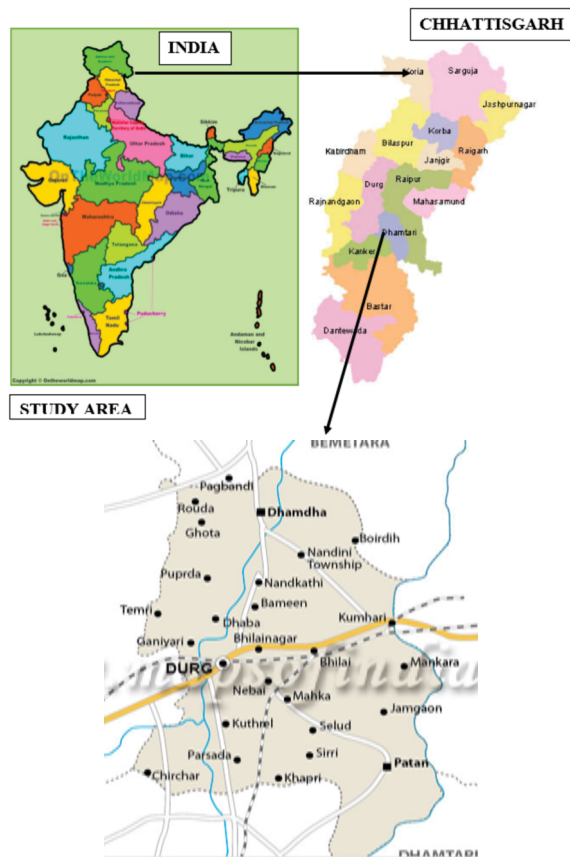
Man is facing one of the most horrible problem of ecological crises. Human ignorance, greed and lack of respect for the 'Mother Earth' created serious problems of over population, dwindling natural resources and environmental crises. Environment includes all the conditions, circumstances and influences surrounding and affecting an organism or a group of organisms (Trivedi and Raj, 1992). Today environment has become the concern of all; the academicians, intellectuals, scientists, policymakers and government across the continents (Kant and Sharma, 2013). In present situation destruction of environment is inexcusable as of now we have access to knowledge and information and therefore it becomes imperative on our part that we re-examine ethically as well as morally what we have inherited, what we are responsible for and what we will pass to our coming generations.

Environmental awareness helps social groups and individuals to acquire an awareness of sensitivity to the total environment and its allied problems. It is not only a question of air and water pollution but also includes elimination of diseases, hunger, malnutrition and poverty, destruction of forests, extermination of wildlife, erosion of soil and accumulation of waste, etc. Hence, there is an urgent need for proper management of environmental crises. Educators and environmental specialists think that solution of environmental crises requires environmental awareness which should be deeply rooted in the education system at all levels of school education (Khan, 2013). Environmental awareness is defined as 'an idea of holding a general impression or consciousness about environment without having to know much about it.' (Roberta, 2009). It implies knowledge, values and necessary skills to solve environmental problems. Environmental awareness is the initial step ultimately leading to the ability to carry on responsible citizenship behavior (Sengupta, Das and Maji, 2010).

In order to protect and conserve the environment, awareness is must. In this backdrop the present study – 'A Study on Environmental Awareness in relation to Locality and culture among Adolescents at Durg District, Chhattisgarh', was undertaken.

### STUDY AREA

The present study was carried out during academic year 2017-18 with adolescents of different locality (rural and urban) and culture (tribal and non-tribal) of Govt. Higher Secondary School, District Durg, Chhattisgarh (India) (Fig.1)



**FIG. 1: Map of District DURG of Chhattisgarh showing the study area**

### REVIEW OF THE STUDY

A number of research works have been taken up. Rajput et al. (1980), made an attempt to identify the awareness of children of primary level, towards the scientific and social environment. The study revealed that only one of the four group (2 schools X 2 Class) were significantly different on Environmental awareness at pretest stage, whereas at the post test stage two experimental group were significantly better than the control group. Paramjit (1993) conducted a study on "Environmental Awareness among the student of Different Socio-Economic status". The finding revealed that environmental awareness was more among boys of better socio-economic status whereas among girl, it was observed that the

girls of lower socio-economic status had more environmental awareness as compared with boys. **Sebastian and Nima (2005)** showed that science students have more awareness of biodiversity and its conservation than other students. **Fisman, L. (2005)**, study showed that the local environmental awareness found only among students living in high socio-economic neighborhoods.

### JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

Over recent decades, depletion of natural resources, scarcity of fresh water, deforestation, soil depletion, loss of biodiversity and air and water pollution are the problems of major concern, resulted in serious health problems as well as negative impact on the environment. Environment Awareness is essential to solve these problems. That's why the present venture had been made in this direction to study the environmental awareness in relation to locality and culture among adolescents (higher secondary school students).

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the environmental awareness of adolescents (students of govt higher sec. school students) of Durg district in the state of Chhattisgarh.
2. To study the environmental awareness of rural and urban higher secondary school students of Durg district in the state of Chhattisgarh.
3. To study the environmental awareness of tribal and non-tribal higher secondary school students of Durg district in the state of Chhattisgarh.

### HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference in the environmental awareness among the rural and urban adolescents (Higher Secondary School Students) in Durg district of Chhattisgarh state.
2. There is no significant difference in the environmental awareness among the tribal and non-tribal adolescents (Higher secondary school students) in Durg district of Chhattisgarh state.

### DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study is limited to Government Higher Secondary school in Durg district of Chhattisgarh only.
2. The study is limited to 200 students only.
3. The study is limited to the environmental awareness of adolescents belonging to Government Higher Secondary Schools in Durg district of Chhattisgarh.
3. The study is limited to the non-cognitive variables like Locality and culture of the adolescents.

### METHODOLOGY

In view of the objective of the present study, the researcher has adopted the Descriptive Survey Method. The details are as under:

#### Sample:

In the present study, a sample of 200 adolescents was selected by adopting the random sampling techniques. Further, selected sample was divided into two segments of 100 adolescents on the basis of culture and locality. Here, each segment consisting of students of the Higher Secondary Schools in Durg district of Chhattisgarh. Equal representation of students has been ensured for culture and locality.

#### Tools Used:

In the present investigation Environmental Ability Measure developed by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha was used to collect requisite data from adolescents. The tool comprises of 51 items. Reliability of test tool was determined by Split-half reliability which was 0.61, R-K method which was found to be 0.84 and test-retest was 0.74. Thus EAAS bears an adequate degree of reliability. To determine validity of the environmental awareness ability measure coefficient of correlation between the score of the present scale was computed which was found to be 0.83.

### Analysis of Data:

The data was statistically analyzed by using mean, Standard Deviation, and t-test.

### RESULT:

Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test were calculated from the Environmental Awareness test score of the entire sample of 200 adolescents (students of government higher secondary school).

First hypothesis was framed to find out the significant difference in Environmental Awareness between Urban and Rural background. Result (Shown in Table No. 1) shows the Mean and Standard Deviation of Urban and Rural background adolescents. The mean score of urban adolescents is found to be 35.58 and S.D. as 5.83, and mean score of rural adolescents is found to be 40.67 and S.D. as 7.19. To test the difference between two means, t-value is calculated which is found to be 5.83. Table value of t at 198 degree of freedom (df) at 0.05 level is 1.96 & at 0.01 level is 2.576. Hence calculated value (t=5.83) in (Table-I) is more than the table value for 0.05 & 0.01 level of significance. Hence, it is interpreted that there will be significant difference between Urban and Rural adolescents in Environmental Awareness. Thus null hypothesis rejected.

**Table-I : Significance of Difference in Environmental Awareness between Urban and Rural Background Adolescents**

Variable Locality N Mean S.D. t-Value Result

Environmental Urban 100 35.58 5.83

Awareness 5.83 Significant

Rural 100 40.67 7.19

df = 198 p < 0.05 & 0.01

Second hypothesis was framed to find out the significant difference in Environmental Awareness between Tribal and Non-tribal Adolescents. Result (Shown in Table No. 2) shows the Mean and Standard Deviation of Tribal and Non-tribal Adolescents. The mean score of Tribal adolescents is found to be 41.80 and S.D. is 4.95, and mean score of Non-tribal adolescents is found to be 38.85 and S.D. is 5.66. To test the difference between two means, t-value is calculated which is found to be 3.93. Table value of t at 198 degree of freedom (df) at 0.05 level is 1.96 and at 0.01 level is 2.576. Hence calculated value (t = 3.93) in (Table-II) is more than the table value for 0.05 & 0.01 level of significance. Hence, it is interpreted that there will be significant difference between Tribal and Non-tribal adolescents in Environmental Awareness. Thus null Hypothesis rejected.

**Table - II : Significance of Difference in Environmental Awareness between Tribal and Non-tribal Adolescents**

Variable Culture N Mean SD t-value Result

Environmental Tribal 100 41.80 4.95

Awareness 3.93 Significant

Non-tribal 100 38.85 5.66

df = 198 p < 0.05 & 0.01

### CONCLUSION AND DISCUSSION

In the present investigation it was found that adolescents (students of The Government Higher Secondary School of Durg district of Chhattisgarh) of Rural and Urban background show significant difference in Environmental Awareness. The mean value shows that Rural adolescents tend to be more aware of the environment as compared to the Urban adolescents. The rural adolescents are primarily engaged in agricultural activities and they understand the

importance of living in harmony with nature as compared to the Urban adolescents that do not really get a chance to interact with nature.

We conducted a study on similar lines among the tribal and non-tribal adolescents. We found that the tribal adolescents are more environmentally aware than non-tribal adolescents. Tribal adolescents consider the forest to be their home and they believe that their wellbeing is intertwined with that of the forest. They have a non-exploitative relationship with Mother Nature. They depend on the forest resources for life essentials-food, shelter, medicine and tools and they ensure that there is minimum damage to the forest in the process of doing so. Because the tribals consider the forest to be their home, they are certainly more aware of the importance of the nature as compared to non-tribals who have not essentially been exposed to the intricacies of the forests.

## REFERENCES

1. Arunkumar, J.(2012).A Study on assessment of environmental awareness among teacher trainees in teacher training institutes. *International Journal of Research in Social Sciences* 2(3): 312-321.
2. Khan, S.H.(2013).A Study of attitude towards environmental awareness in relation to certain variables among senior secondary school students. *International Global Research Analysis*,Vol.2 (4):42-44.
3. Mandal,Animesh and Mondal,R.P.(2016):Environmental Awareness and Practices among undergraduate girl student of Purulia district, West Bengal,India.*International Research Journal of Environmental Sciences*,Vol.5(6):14-18.
4. Poonam,(2012).A Comparative Study of Environmental Awareness among Government and Private Secondary School Student., *International Journal of Educational Planning and Administration*,Vol.2(2):125-127.
5. Rajput, J.S., Saxena, A.B.and Jadhao, V.G.(1980): A research Study in Environmental Approach of Teaching at Primary Level. *Third Survey of Research in Education* (1978-1983), Edited by M.B.Buch, NCERT, 1987.
6. Sandhu, Dr.Sukhdev Singh.(2015).Environmental Awareness of Secondary School Students In Relation to Gender and Locale. *International Journal of Informative and Futuristic Research*,Vol.3 (4):1188-1192.
7. Sengupta, M., Das, J.and Maji, R.K.(2010): Environmental Awareness and Environmental Related Behavior of Twelfth Grade Students in Kolkata: Effects of Stream and Gender.*Anwesa*,Vol.5,No.1-8.
8. Shahnawaj (1990):Environmental Awareness and Environmental Attitude of secondary and higher secondary school teachers and students, In NCERT(ed.)*Fifth Survey of Educational Research-II*,p.1759.
9. Sindhu,Poonam and Singh,Suman.(2014):A Study of Awareness towards Environmental Education among the students at Secondary level in Gurgaon district. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publication*,Vol.4 (1), p2589.
10. Sivamoothy,M.,Nalini,R.and Kumar,C.S.(2013):Environmental Awareness and Practices among College students,*International Journal of Humanities and Social Science Invention*,Vol.2(81),11-15.
11. Sundaravalli,T.(2012).Student teacher's awareness on environmental pollution. *International Journal of Teacher Educational Research (ijter)*, Vol.1(4):52-58.