



ATTITUDE OF 10TH CLASS STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS IN RELATION TO THEIR GENDER AND AREA (URBAN/RURAL)

KEYWORDS

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INTRODUCTION:

The life on planet 'earth' has evolved to its present stage through millions of years of interaction between the organism & its environment. The environment and organisms both are products of continuing process of universal change. The man has immortal relationship with the universe. He lives in this universe and dies in it. However, with this passing of time, the development of intellect, with experimentation and new methods of living, he learnt to modify the environment in accordance with his will.

All over this world, the exponential growth of people, production, power, place and pollutants are having their impact on the water, air and land cycles of nature to the determinant of mankind.

ENVIRONMENT:

The term 'environment' etymologically means surroundings. Thus environment is a complex of so many things i.e. light, temperature, soil, water, oil, etc. It is an external force, substance or condition which surrounds and affects the life of an organism, in any way, becomes a factor of its environment factors, or ecological factors. The sum of these living or non-living factors makes the environment of an organism. Environment is defined as a surrounding or conditions influencing development or growth.

ECOLOGY:

Ecology is the scientific analysis and study of interactions among organisms and their environment. It is an interdisciplinary field that includes biology, geography and Earth science. Ecology includes the study of interactions organisms have with each other, other organisms, and with abiotic components of their environment. Topics of interest to ecologists include the diversity, distribution, amount (biomass), and number (population) of particular organisms, as well as cooperation and competition between organisms, both within and among ecosystems. Ecosystems are composed of dynamically interacting parts including organisms, the communities they make up, and the non-living components of their environment.

ECOSYSTEM:

An **ecosystem** is a community of living organisms called producers, consumers, and decomposers. These biotic and abiotic components are regarded as linked together through nutrient cycles and energy flows. The relationship between the abiotic components and the biotic components of the ecosystem is termed 'holocoenosis'. As ecosystems are defined by the network of interactions among organisms, and between organisms and their environment,^[4] they can be of any size but usually encompass specific, limited spaces.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS:

Environmental awareness means knowledge and information regarding environment and associated problems. We must understand that to improve the environment is to improve the quality of life. Environmental awareness is an interaction of human being with nature, its behavior, and role of nature to its surroundings. The term environmental awareness means knowledge and understanding of facts and concepts related to environment and consequences of various environmental problems like pollution, population, deforestation, ecological disruption and energy crisis.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:

Environmental education refers to organized efforts to teach how natural environments function, and particularly, how human beings can manage behavior and ecosystems to live sustainably. It is a multi-disciplinary field integrating disciplines such as biology, chemistry, physics, ecology, earth science, atmospheric science, mathematics, and geography. The term often implies education within the school system, from primary to post-secondary. However, it sometimes includes all efforts to educate the public and other audiences, including print materials, websites, media campaigns, etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION:

Environmental protection is a practice of protecting the natural environment on individual, organizational or governmental levels, for the benefit of both the natural environment and humans. Due to the pressures of population and technology, the biophysical environment is being degraded, sometimes permanently. This has been recognized, and governments have begun placing restraints on activities that cause environmental degradation. Academic institutions now offer courses, such as environmental studies, environmental management and environmental engineering, that teach the history and methods of environment protection. Protection of the environment is needed due to various human activities.ref. Waste production, air pollution, and loss of biodiversity (resulting from the introduction of invasive species and species extinction) are some of the issues related to environmental protection. Environmental protection is influenced by three interwoven factors: environmental legislation, ethics and education. Each of these factors plays its part in influencing national-level environmental decisions and personal-level environmental values and behaviors. For environmental protection to become a reality, it is important for societies to develop each of these areas that, together, will inform and drive environmental decisions.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

ATTITUDE OF 10TH CLASS STUDENTS TOWARDS

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN RELATION TO GENDER AND AREA (URBAN/RURAL)

DESIGN OF THE STUDY:

The present research study is based on the rationale that India is a country which has its natural resources utilized in a way that could severely harm its ecology and ecosystems to the maximum. As a design of the present study, it is to ascertain the attitude of 10th class students towards environmental awareness and to compare the attitude of the students towards environmental awareness on the basis of gender and area.

200 students of 10th class from four schools of the area were selected and compared on the basis of environmental awareness. "Environment Awareness Ability Measure" was administered to the students in order to collect data on environmental awareness.

OBJECTIVES OF STUDY:

1. To study the attitude of 10th class students towards environmental awareness.
2. To study the difference in the attitude of boys and girls towards environmental awareness.
3. To study the difference in attitude of urban and rural students towards environmental awareness.

HYPOTHESES OF STUDY:

1. The students are supposed to have the positive attitude towards environmental awareness.
2. There will be significant difference between the attitude of 10th class boys and girls regarding environmental awareness.
3. There will be a significant difference between the attitude of urban and rural students (boys and girls) towards environmental awareness.

SAMPLE:

The sample of present study consists of 10th class students of Fazilka district. Schools were selected by the investigator randomly from rural and urban area. Detail of the sample is as follows:

Area	Name of the School	Category	No. of Students
Urban	Govt. Girls Sr. Sec. School Abohar	Girls	50
	Govt. Boys Sr. Sec. School, Abohar	Boys	50
Rural	Govt. High School, Amarpura Abohar	Girls	50
	Govt. High School, Amarpura Abohar	Boys	50

TOOLS OF STUDY:

The present study employed Dr. Parveen Kumar Jha's Environment Awareness Ability Measures" (EAMM) 1998, Hindi Version for the purpose of data collection.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES:

Mean, Standard Deviation, Significance of Mean Difference and Standard Scores were used as statistical techniques in the present study.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

A number of environment problems have just a local dimension both in rural and urban areas. People should be made aware about these in a constructive manner, They relate to the use of water, electricity, detergents, chemicals, plastic bags, steel, wood etc, and above this comes the localities, villages and their

common properties and small towns. It is essential that attitude of citizens should be developed for awareness of various problems related to the environment. All the people, Males and Females,, inhabitants of rural and urban areas must join hands together for this noble cause of awareness. School student can play a vital role in this direction.

CONCLUSION:

Based on the results the conclusions of study entitled, " ATTITUDE OF 10TH CLASS STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN RELATION TO GENDER AND AREA (URBAN/RURAL) are the following:

1. It was found that 15.5% students have low awareness towards environment. 68.5% students have an average awareness towards environment and 16% students have high awareness towards environment.
2. Scores obtained by Boys and Girls regarding the attitude of environmental awareness has no significant difference.
3. Present study states that Urban and Rural students slightly differ so far as their attitude towards environmental awareness. After interpretation, it was found that 14% Urban Students have low awareness, 71% have average awareness and 15% have a high awareness toward environment. On the contrary part 17% rural students have low awareness towards environment, 75% have average awareness and 8% have a high awareness towards environment.

The picture that emerges about the attitude of 10th class students of Fazilka district towards environmental awareness on the basis of the analyses and interpretation of the data indicates that majority of 10th class students have an average attitude towards environment awareness. This study revealed that the attitude towards environmental awareness has not been influenced by the area. No significance differences have been found in the attitude towards environmental awareness with respect to gender.

SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Instead of consulting the research in limited area, sample may be drawn from large area i.e. District level and state level.
2. Instead of limiting the study on 10th grade students, sample may be drawn from college, university and elementary school students.
3. A study must be undertaken to trace the growth and development of environment education.
4. Another area in which the research can be focused is the preparation and standardization of instructional material in the field of different sections of society.