



ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS PRACTICES AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

Education

Dr. K. Leelavathi Dept of Education, Sri Venkateswar University, Tirupati. Andhra Pradesh -517502

ABSTRACT

This present study carried out focused on environmental awareness and practices related to an assortment of factors like causes of pollution, maintenance of soil, forest, air, etc., energy conservation, maintenance of human health, and wild life and animal husbandry. It also discusses environmental practices among secondary school students with regard to the usage of plastic and its disposal, alternative for plastic, toilet usage, its use in the cultivation, rainwater harvesting and also their participation in environment related programmes. The sample was secondary school students at Tirupati in chittoor district Andhra Pradesh. This study will support those who are working with for the environment related cases and environmental education is part of their curriculum; they can implement what they learnt. The study is quantitative in nature. It reveals that the level of awareness is high among the respondents irrespective of gender difference but in practice level there is difference between genders i.e. males practicing more than females. This study also proposes some recommendations to protection the environment in India.

KEYWORDS

Secondary School Students, Environmental Education, Awareness.

INTRODUCTION

The increasing concern with environmental issues and their impact on general awareness is one of the most noticeable phenomena of the last two decades. Increase in economic activities in developing countries results in more energy and consumption demand which generally leads to environmental degradation. There is a conventional belief that such environmental degradation would resolve as soon as these countries grow economically, since that would enable them to afford environmental friendly technology as well as pro-environmental regulations and policies. However, several studies indicated that many developing countries already equipped with environmental policies, legal frameworks and economic instruments, which are regarded as highly sophisticated by international standards (Huber *et al.*, 1998, Fujisaki *et al.*, 1997) and yet face the worsening of environmental conditions. Major difficulties these countries confront are not only the lack of legal and economic framework for environmental protection, but also lack of participation among general public in pro environmental behaviors. Some of the environmental problems which are critical at the present are fairly widely known because of the growing awareness of all levels of society, including governments, general public and the scientific community. However, the present study is trying to discuss the environmental awareness and practice among college students in Tamil Nadu. The fact that people from different cultures act with a nationalistic awareness, which is seen as one of the biggest problems of globalization, is taken into consideration. It will be inevitable for us to face the fact that it would not be easy to find a solution to environmental problems. India has more than 40% of young people in the world. The sensitizations and practice of environmental manner is will improve the present environmental conditions.

ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS IN INDIA

The Indian society-a supporter of renunciation, meditation and Dharma Moksha started converting into society-a supporter of culture of consumption. Artha Karna. This resulted in change of general outlook of nation and public towards environment and nature. Now misconnected terms-progress, development and quantitative forms of results 169 got emphasis over coordination, harmony and quality of things. In this race of misconnected development the mankind has literally become blind and unconscious of consequences of his activities. Better living conditions raised the average life span. Population kept on increasing civilization, urbanization and industrialization put on great stress on natural resources like soil, water, forests, mineral wealth, sea etc. and a chain of action and reaction started. One challenge met and in turn it gave rise to host of problems. The most important and related to very existence of life on the planet is the problem of pollution in environment. India has become one of the greatest making progress countries in the world, in addressing its environmental issues and improving its environmental quality. Still, India has a long way to go to reach environmental quality similar to those enjoyed in developed economies. Pollution remains a major challenge and chance for India. India has adopted different international and national strategies to solve and mitigate many

environmental issues such as Environmental Courts, Environment Friendly Products, Un-leading of Petrol, and Ban on Harmful Pesticides, National Waste Management Council, Public Liability Insurance, and Pollution by Motor Vehicles, Regulation of Sea Shore Hotels, National River Action Plan, Solar Energy Commission, and Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places. Even though, many environmental problems remain unresolved. Environmental issues in India are many. Air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution and wildlife natural habitat pollution challenge India. Tamil Nadu is one of the worst cases in dealing with environment related issues. Mohon.I, (2007) These complexes have also become environmental pollution hotspots. There are cement units, distilleries, sugar, sago, paper, dairying, electroplating, chemical and fertilizers (Agro chemicals), mining industries, ores/mineral processing industries and a variety of other industries which are water consuming and also generate large quantities of effluents. Some of the industries have also provided the treated effluent for irrigation with some degree of success. The professional social worker has a very vital role in environmental issues and generating awareness among people. The priority goes mainly for creating awareness among the students through mass media, campaign, competitions, voluntary work etc., but by viewing the present situations which is happening all over India. The environment is not only concern with ecological aspects, but it also affects the livelihood options for the marginalized groups. As environmental issues are becoming more and more complex and the need to take action becomes more urgent, college students need to be equipped with appropriate skills that can help them to make better decisions and choices (Joseph *et al.*, 2004).

ENVIRONMENTAL STATUS IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Andhra Pradesh Profile: the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 bill was passed by the Parliament of India for the formation of Telangana state comprising 10 districts and in Andhra Pradesh 13 districts. Hyderabad will remain as a joint capital for 10 years for both states. Andhra Pradesh is one of the country's south eastern coasts. The state is the 8th longest state in India covering an area of 61,855 sq.m. According to 2011 census the state is 10th largest by population with 49,386,799. The state has the 2nd longest coastal line of 972 k.m. There are 2 Regions which are more often referred as Seem Andhra by the news media. There are 13 districts with 9 in costal Andhra and 04 in Rayalaseema. The GSDP of Andhra Pradesh was Rs.2, 953.3 billion in 2012-13. The growth in state was mainly driven by the Agriculture, Industry and Service sectors. Literacy rate of 72.87 per cent (male literacy stands at 81.59 per cent while female literacy is at 62.46 per cent. The state also claims an outstanding sex ratio of 978 rural sex ratio 994, urban sex ratio 1,004. Out of the total population of Andhra Pradesh only 29.47 per cent people live in the urban areas while a massive 70.53 per cent of the population lives in villages (Census 2011). Andhra Pradesh is Agriculture rich and has a long coastline. Although the State Agricultural annual growth rate 5.90 per cent, Industrial Sector annual growth rate 5.25 per cent and Service Sector annual growth rate 8.48 per cent as on 2014-15. The poverty head count ratio of the stats is 21.9 per cent in India (2014-15) and the

number of poor in the state of Andhra Pradesh has been estimated to about 21.1 per cent (2014-15). The Global Hunger Index of the state is 23.8 (2007) which is more than that of the entire country estimated at 23.3 (2007). Considering the figures above the task of ensuring food security in the state has been a tremendous challenge for the state government.

In the context of Andhra Pradesh in India, the literacy rate is increasing over many years. It led to the establishment of many number of colleges all over Andhra Pradesh, but the quality of education is not up to the mark. Besides, the students studying in colleges should have social dimensions. In this aspect, environmental awareness and practice are given these days. In order to have insightful knowledge on college student's attitude towards environmental awareness and practice, this study was undertaken. Social workers can sensitize the people about the importance of environmental knowledge and pro-behavior for sustainable environment. This can be done by creating awareness among the students through different media and create different paths and encourage them for safe practices. Environment includes all living and non-living objects. We live in the environment and use the environmental resources like air, land and water to meet our needs. Development also means meeting the needs of the people. While meeting the ever-growing needs, we put pressure on the environment. When the pressure exceeds the carrying capacity of the environment to repair or replace itself, a serious problem of environmental degradation happens. If we use any environmental resource such as ground water beyond its limit of replacement, we may lose it forever. Therefore, there is a need to create 'knowledge' about Environmental protection. In the past two decades, Environment has attracted the attention of school and college students in India. They are becoming increasingly conscious of issues such as famines, droughts, floods, scarcity of fuel, firewood and fodder, pollution of air and water, problems of hazardous chemicals and radiation, depletion of natural resources, extinction of wildlife and dangers to flora and fauna. Since, incorporated environmental education as part of their curriculum and it's mandatory for all the students irrespective of their curriculum. Therefore, it is important to know the knowledge of environmental awareness among the future generation and their present practice towards environmental protection which leads for sustainable development. This present study is intended to understand the environmental awareness and practice status among Secondary School Students.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The Aim of the Article Is To Measure Environmental Education and Awareness Practices among Secondary School Students

Objectives

- To measure the environmental awareness level among Secondary School Students
- To study the general environmental practices among Secondary School Students
- To suggest actions towards creating environmental awareness and environment practice among the Secondary School Students

This research describes the environmental awareness and environmental practices among the college students. It also provides brief description of the various material practices among the students towards environment. The descriptive design suits to this paper and fulfills the above mentioned aim and objectives. It is attracting a great deal of education sector investments. The city also houses a large number of Textiles spinning Mills and leather factories. The primary and secondary data has been collected. The secondary data were collected from various sources such as books, reports and legislations. For the purpose of collecting primary data, the researcher adopted Standardized scale on Environmental Awareness Ability Measure and self prepared questionnaire on environmental practices were used for collecting primary data. In this research work multi stage sampling method was followed for selecting the respondents from study area in the 2nd stage, from the listed colleges, only the colleges started during the academic year of 2007 - 2008 was selected. On that basis five colleges were selected. In the 3rd stage systematic random sampling (hard numbers has been taken) was used to select 3 colleges out of 5 colleges. The total strength of the selected 3 colleges was 559 students. Based on the availability of students only secondary school students were selected. In these 3 colleges there were 244 1st year students, but 210 students were available during the period of data collection, all the 210 students were selected based on census method in the 4th stage of sampling.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The researcher presented the collected data with the help of tables. This also intends to do appropriate statistical test over the data to validate the statistical hypothesis which helps in interpreting data, to explain the relationship between gender and environmental awareness as well as correlation between gender and practice which means friendly practice and unsociable practice.

H1: Gender may influences environmental awareness among college Students

H0: There is no association between gender and environmental awareness among college students

Table no: 1 Cross Tabulation between Gender and Environmental Awareness

S.No	Gender	Environmental Awareness			Total
		Low	Moderate	High	
1	Male	0	11(12.76%)	92(87.24%)	94(100%)
2	Female	0	09(6.89%)	98(93.10%)	116(100%)
Total	10	20(9.52%)	190(90.47)	210(100%)	

Table

Chi square	Value	df	Significant
	1.07	2	0.99

***SINGNIFICANT@ 0.05% P> 0.05**

The table no: 1.Showesh the relations between gender and environmental awareness among respondents have been analyzed through Chi square. The p value is 1.076. The calculated value 1.076 is lesser than the table value 0.99 at 2 degrees of freedom, hence the Cross table Value (CV) is lesser than Table Value (TV) null hypothesis is accepted. There is no association between gender and environmental awareness. This statistical data is evident that irrespective of gender, students are aware about the environmental protection.

H1: Higher the environmental awareness among the respondents higher the environmental practice

H0: There is no significant relationship between environmental awareness and environmental practice

Table no: 2.Group Statistics between Gender and Environmental Practice

Environmental practice level	Gender	Men	N	Sd
	Male	94	9.39	2.14
	Female	116	8.78	2.32

Independent sample t-test

Environmental practice level	Equal variances assumed	Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	T	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		0.376	0.54	1.984	208	0.49

The table no: 2.There would be significant gender different in environment practice Explains about Independent sample t-test applied to check the difference between gender and environment practice. The p value (0.49) is lesser than significant level (P<0.05), so the null hypothesis rejected. Since, it is seen that there is a significant difference between gender and environment practice. The environmental practice is much high among the girl students then boy students in the study area.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The researcher concludes this paper with following recommendation. This study can be further stretched to do research on developing and employing special contemporary environment awareness packages for the students through NSS (or) by forming separate department for conserving environment. The researcher recommends that environmental study should be included in college curriculum and should be taught all students irrespective of their gender. It can be included in their study by adding more practical oriented programmes. They can be sensitized by celebrating special day like world environmental day, wildlife day; world water day, forest conservation day etc., and also knowledge about alternatives for plastic should be imparted and promoted among student population. It should not be

mere a study, rather it should become part of their life. It can be achieved through the help of NGOs who are working on environmental issues, social activists, government and Social Work professionals. That is to say students from various disciplines have to work together to create better environment. Social Workers in collaboration with other disciplines can undertake scientific researches to explore unexplored aspects of environments. These are all the recommendations given by the researcher. This research attempted to describes how environmental awareness and practices can be utilized as a tool for sensitizing the young students about environmental protection. Since this study covered various areas of social sciences and it relates environmental awareness and practices, it has focused only on the key literatures in each area. The review highlights the need for Social Work research on environmental awareness and practices among college students. All these findings urge the need to make efforts to provide the necessary facilities for promoting environment awareness and friendly approach to safeguard the environment. This study focused on various aspects of environment, mainly environmental awareness and practice among college students. This paper concludes with relationship between gender and environmental level of awareness and practice level, level of awareness is high but practice level is moderate and there are some differences between gender and practice level among Secondary school students

REFERENCES

1. AP State Portal. Government of Andhra Pradesh. p. 3. Retrieved 30 June 2018.
2. Huber, Richard, Jack Rultenbeek and Ronaldo Seroa da Motta (1998), "Instrumentos de mercadopara la politicaambiental en América Latina y Caribe: leccionesde oncepaíses", Discussion Paper, No. 381 S, Washington, D.C., World Bank.
3. Mohon.I, (2007). Environmental crisis (New Dimensions and Challenges). New Delhi – 110 002: Ammal publications Pvt.Ltd.
4. Joseph, L. A., Victoria, E. A., Campbell, A. B. & Louie, R. (2004). Teaching students to make better decisions about the environment: lessons from the decision sciences, *Journal of Environmental Education*, 36(1), 33–44.
5. Abdo, s. A.-w. (2010). The effects of demographic factors on the environmental awareness of Omani citizens. *Human and ecological risk assessment*, 16: 380–401.
6. Owens, S. (2000). Engaging the public: information and deliberation in environmental policy, *Environment and Planning A*, 32, pp. 1141–1148.
7. History of Andhra Pradesh". Government of Andhra Pradesh. Associated Press. Archived from the original on 16 July 2012. Retrieved 22 July 2012