Research Paper Education

A Study of Environmental Awareness Among Secondary School Students In Relation to Caste, Father Occupation, Class of Study In Chittoor District

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ABSTRACT

Environmental education must utilize diverse learning environment and a broad array of educational approaches to teaching learning about and from the environment with due stress on practical activities and first hand experiences. The main objective of the present study is to study the influence of caste, father occupation, class of study on the environmental awareness of secondary school students. Environmental awareness questionnaire developed by Haseen Taj (2003) was adopted. A sample of 300 secondary school students representing all categories of high schools is selected in Chittoor district by following the standardized procedures. 't' – test and ANOVA ('F' - test) were employed for analysis of the data. There is significant influence of caste at 0.01 level on the environmental awareness of secondary school students. There is significant influence of father occupation at 0.01 level on the environmental awareness of secondary school students. There is significant influence of class of study at 0.05 level on the environmental awareness of secondary school students.

KEYWORDS Environmental Awareness, Secondary school students, Caste, Father Occupation, Class of Study

INTRODUCTION

Education is a fundamental means to bring any desired change in society. This can be attained only if schools become real centers of learning. Education not only helps in the development of personality of the child but also determine his future.

The need of environmental education is to educate the people of all ages on environment for making decisions which are compatible to environment. Environmental Education is a necessary tool for making appropriate decisions concerning the solution and prevention of environmental problems.

People need to learn ways to perceive environmental problems and opportunities acquire information for forming and evaluating alternative solutions and develop the cultural skills for living according to chosen alternatives.

The need for environmental education has also been formally acknowledged at both the national and international levels. Environmental consciousness should be developed teaching in school and colleges. This aspect will be integrated in the entire educational process.

Environmental Education promotes attitudes of concern for the quality of the biophysical environmental, which will motivate citizens to participate in solving biophysical environment problems. Environmental education and research are necessary because many environmental problems that cannot be solved by government alone can be solved by individual, and the individuals must be educated to know what needs to be done. With enormous ignorance of vital environmental problems it is disheartening to realize that in many countries including India, lot of time and money are being spent on environmental destructive activities than constructive ones.

Review of Literature

Kalpana Thakur (2012) conducted a study on Environmental awareness among senior secondary school students of Chandigarh. The study was conducted on the sample of 200 senior secondary students form four schools of Chandigarh and data was collected through descriptive survey method. The major findings were 1.Students of government and private schools exhibited comparable environmental awareness.2. Science students exhibited very high degree of environmental awareness than students opting for humanities.3. Male science students exhibited higher degree of environmental awareness than female science students but overall no significant difference was found between male and female students.

Madumere Ajyege Jane (2012) conducted a study on "Assessing the level of Environmental awareness of Non-Science students of colleges of education in rivers state. Environmental awareness is the first step towards the achievement of environmental literacy. The pivot to any educational system is the teacher. Teachers are the most crucial factors in any educational system and one of the goals of the teacher education is to provide teachers with the intellectual and professional background adequate for their assignments to changing situation. These teachers are products of teacher education institutions. The non science students outnumber the science students in college of education and they graduate to take up teaching opportunities and from greater part of the teaching work force or the primary and junior secondary schools. These non science students at graduation teach the primary science subjects therefore there is a need to know their environmental content readiness to handle primary science subject. Three research questions were postulated and analysed using percentages. The implication of the finding was that non science student's environmental awareness is low. It was recommended among others that a planned environmental education curriculum be made compulsory as general studies in colleges of educations.

Indumathi Bharambe (2013) found that there is no environmental awareness among secondary school students. There is no significant gender difference in environmental awareness. There is a significant difference between environmental awareness among students in relation to qualification of their parents. The environmental awareness among students hav-

ing highly qualified parents is more than the lower qualified parents. 4. The environmental awareness is more among the students above parents are farmer than the students whose parents are teachers and labour.

Shiva Kant and Yogesh Sharma (2013) investigated the environmental awareness of secondary school students in relation to their intelligence. Sample of the study consisted of 100 secondary school students from different schools of Faridabad district. Students were divided into two groups of high and low intelligence and then their respective environmental awareness was measured. The result of the analysis shows that there exists significant difference between Environmental awareness of students belonging to rural and urban background, moreover the significant positive relationship between intelligence and environmental awareness was found.

Vipinder Nagra, Sandeep Singh (2013) identifies the Environmental education awareness of senior secondary school teachers in relation to type of school, gender and subject streams. Environmental Awareness Test was used for collecting data from a random sample of 200 senior secondary school teachers. Statistical Techniques such as mean, standard deviation and t test were applied for analysis of data. The results revealed average level of environmental education awareness in these teachers. No significant difference was observed in environmental education awareness in relation to type of school, gender and subject streams.

Scope of the Study:
The main intention of the study is to find the influence of caste, father occupation, class of study on the environmental awareness of secondary school students.

Objective of the Study:
To study the influence of caste, father occupation, class of study on the environmental awareness of secondary school students.

Hypothesis of the study:
Caste, father occupation, class of study do not have significant influence on the environmental awareness of secondary school students.

Tools for the Study
1. The environmental awareness questionnaire was adopted from Haseen Taj (2003). The tool was highly reliable for the investigation. The total items are 61. Covering the areas health and hygiene, population – explosion, wild life and forest, polluters and environmental concerned. There were 31 positive and 30 negative items. For the purpose of scoring numerical values (weightages) were assigned to each of the five categories namely Strongly Agree (S.A.), Agree (A.), Doubtful (D.), Disagree (D.A.) and Strongly Disagree (S.D.A.) based on the Likert (1932) method.
2. Personal data regarding the student – 1. Name, 2. Caste, 3. Father occupation and 4. Class of study

Data Collection
The sample for the investigation consisted of 300 secondary school students. The stratified random sampling was applied in three stages. The first stage is class of study i.e. VIII class, IX class and X class the second stage is locality i.e. rural and urban and third stage is gender i.e. boys and girls. It is a 3X2X2 factorial design with 300 sample subjects. The investigator personally visited secondary schools with the permission of the head masters of the schools. The secondary school students who attended to the school on the day of collection of data are considered for the purpose of the investigation. It was provided to the concerned high school students of the schools. The secondary school students were given necessary instructions about the instruments and motivated to respond genuinely to all the items. The environmental awareness questionnaire, personal data sheet were administered. The data on each variable in the investigation is properly coded to suit for computer analysis. The analysis was carried out on the basis of objectives of the investigation and hypotheses formulated by employing appropriate statistical techniques. The inferential statistical technique 'F' and 't' – tests was employed to test hypothesis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
1. Caste
The relationship of environmental awareness of Secondary school students with their caste is studied in the present investigation. On the basis of caste, the students are divided into three groups. Group – I is formed with OC students, Group – II formed with BC students and Group – III is formed with SC and ST students. The corresponding environmental awareness of Secondary school students of the three groups were analyzed accordingly. The mean values of environmental awareness of Secondary school students for the three groups were tested for significance by employing 'F' - test. The following hypothesis is framed.

Hypothesis – 1
There would be no significant impact of 'caste' on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students.

The above hypothesis is tested by employing 'F' - test. The results are presented in Table – 1.

Table – 1: Influence of caste on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students

S. No.	Caste	N	Mean	S.D.	'F' – Test
1.	OC	87	183.52	18.32	3.394*
2.	BC	99	185.24	18.96	
3.	SC and ST	114	187.86	19.24	

*** Indicates significant at 0.05 level**

It is clear from Table – 1 that the computed value of 'F' for the environmental awareness of Secondary school students is (3.394). It is greater than table value of 'F' (3.030) for 2 and 297 df at 0.05 level. Hence Hypothesis - 1 is rejected at 0.05 level of significance. It is concluded that the caste has significant influence on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students.

2. Father occupation
The relationship of environmental awareness of Secondary school students with their father occupation is studied in the present investigation. On the basis of father occupation, the students are divided into three groups. On the basis of father's occupation, the students are divided into three groups. Group – I is formed with students of unemployed and labour fathers. Group – II formed with fathers of caste occupation / small business / cultivation / clerk / elementary teacher. Group – III is formed with fathers of high school teacher / technician / equal cadre employees and fathers of high Government official / land lord / professor. The corresponding environmental awareness of Secondary school students of the three groups were analyzed accordingly. The mean values of environmental awareness of Secondary school students for the three groups were tested for significance by employing 'F' - test. The following hypothesis is framed.

Hypothesis – 72
There would be no significant impact of 'father occupation' on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students.

The above hypothesis is tested by employing 'F' - test. The results are presented in Table – 2.

Table – 2: Influence of father occupation on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students

S. No.	Father occupation	N	Mean	S.D.	'F' - Test
1.	Group – I	35	192.77	18.65	5.230**
2.	Group – II	54	188.06	17.28	
3.	Group – III	211	182.83	18.75	

**** Indicates significant at 0.01 level**

It is found from the Table – 2 that the computed value of 'F' (5.230) is greater than the critical value of 'F' (4.68) for 2 and 297 df at 0.01 level of significance. Hence the Hypothesis – 2 is rejected at 0.01 level. Therefore it is concluded that the father occupation has significant influence on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students.

3. Class of study

The relationship of environmental awareness of Secondary school students with their class of study is studied in the present investigation. On the basis of class of study, the students are divided into three groups. The students whose class of study is 8th class form the Group – I, Group – II forms with the students whose class of study is 9th class and Group – III forms with the students whose class of study is 10th class. The corresponding environmental awareness of Secondary school students of the three groups were analyzed accordingly. The mean values of environmental awareness of Secondary school students for the three groups were tested for significance by employing 'F' - test. The following hypothesis is framed.

Hypothesis – 3

There would be no significant impact of 'class of study' on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students.

The above hypothesis is tested by employing 'F' - test. The results are presented in Table – 3.

Table – 3: Influence of class of study on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students

S. No.	Class of study	N	Mean	S.D.	'F' - Test
1.	Group – I	100	178.40	19.63	3.388*
2.	Group – II	100	189.26	20.27	
3.	Group – III	100	185.30	18.11	

*** Indicates significant at 0.05 level**

It is found from the Table – 3 that the computed value of 'F' (3.388) is greater than the critical value of 'F' (3.030) for 2 and 297 df at 0.05 level of significance. Hence the Hypothesis – 3 is rejected at 0.05 level. Therefore it is concluded that the class of study has significant influence on the environmental awareness of Secondary school students.

Findings:

There is significant influence of caste at 0.01 level on the environmental awareness of secondary school students. There is significant influence of father occupation at 0.01 level on the environmental awareness of secondary school students. There is significant influence of class of study at 0.05 level on the environmental awareness of secondary school students.

Conclusions:

In the light of the findings, the following conclusions are drawn. Caste has significant influence on the environmental awareness of secondary school students. Father occupation has significant influence on the environmental awareness of secondary school students. Class of study has significant influence on the environmental awareness of secondary school students.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

On the basis of the results of the present investigation the following recommendations are suggested:

Caste is the highly influenced in the environmental awareness of secondary school students. SC and ST students have positive environmental awareness scores than the other caste groups. The administrators to provide facilities for various caste groups.

Father occupation is the highly influenced in the environmental awareness of secondary school students. Low father occupation have positive environmental awareness scores than the high father occupation. The administrators to provide occupational facilities for the fathers.

Class of study is the highly influenced in the environmental awareness of secondary school students. IX class students have positive environmental awareness scores than the VIII class students. The administrators to provide facilities for the VIII class students.

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