



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Social Science

A study on environmental awareness among teenagers

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ABSTRACT

Environmental Education is a process of recognized values and clarifications in order to develop skills and added tools to understand and participate, appreciate the inter-relationship among man, his culture and bio-physical surroundings. It creates an overall perspective, which acknowledge the fact that natural environment and manmade environment are inter-dependent. It should consider the environment in its totality and should be a continuous lifelong process beginning at the pre-school level and continuing through all stages. It should be inter-disciplinary and examine major environmental issues from local, national and international point of view. It should utilize various educational approaches to teach and learn about and from the environment with stress on practical activities and firsthand experience. It is through this process of education that people in the society to be aware towards protection of environment and make them skilled to solve environmental problem so as to enable them to participate in the activities undertaken for the protection of environment. Environmental education has been viewed as an important way to educate students about environmental issues. This study is a part of this field- namely, teenagers environmental education. The purpose of the study is to explore students awareness towards environment at the end of the course "Environment, Human, and Society". The present study was conducted with specific objectives to know the awareness of teenagers regarding environment and relationship between their age, gender and course studying and primary data were collected ,tabulated and analyzed using suitable statistical tools. The result indicated that the overall index of the teenagers to the extent of 63.92.

Introduction

Environmental problems have attracted the attention all over the world. People are becoming increasingly conscious of variety of problems like global warming, air, water and land pollution. Most of the environmental problems could be caused by manmade pollution which not only damage natural resources, but also its effect is also dangerous. Human activities create waste, and it is the way these waste are handled, stored, collected and disposed of which can pose risks to the environment and public health. In recent years there has been a growing concern in India regarding the steady deterioration in country's environment. Unplanned development, rapid industrialization and unprecedented growth in population with its accompanying poverty and deprivation are recognized as being the main causes of environmental degradation.

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 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. The present study was conducted with specific objectives to know the awareness of teenagers regarding environment and relationship between their age, gender and course studying.

Materials and Method:

The study was conducted in and around Dharwad district of Karnataka. Random sampling method was used for the study. The total sample size was 50 including both boys and girls. The collected data were tabulated, analyzed by using frequency, percentage, index and correlation.

Tool used for study: Selected awareness statements from the scale entitled "Taj Environmental Attitude Scale by Dr. (Mrs.) Haseen Taj (TEAS) (2001)"

Analysis and interpretation:

Table 1: General information of the respondents n=50

Sl. No	General information		Frequency	Percentage
1	Age	(<18 years)	-	
		(18-20 years)	50	100.00
		(>18 years)	-	
2	Gender	Male	30	60.00
		Female	20	40.00
3	Course studying	PUC & Diploma	15	30.00
		Graduation	35	70.00

Table 1 refers to the general information of the respondents indicated that cent percent of the respondents were belongs to 18 to 20 year age group. Majority (60.00%) of the respondents were male followed by 36.00 percent were female. Most (70.00%) of the respondents were studying graduation followed by PUC and diploma (30.00%).

Table 2 refers to the awareness of college students regarding environment depicted that about 93.60 percent Education about local issues and environmental pollution should be made mandatory in schools followed by 88.40 percent respondents were aware about Pesticides should not be sprayed on vegetables, Conservation of resources is necessary for the sake of future generations (87.20%), Over pollution of the environment can cause misery and sufferings to human beings (86.40%), The government should ban the use of plastic containers to reduce pollution of our surroundings (85.60%), One should participate in campaigns on "stop pollution" (84%), Shop-keepers should stop handing out plastic carry-bags (82.80%), One should use energy resources, such as solar, which cause least pollution (80%), Cutting of forests is essential to increase agricultural yields (54.80%), All people need not be kind and compassionate towards animals (45.20%), Protection of environment should be the sole responsibility of the governments and not of the individuals (36%), It is not wrong to hunt animals for commercial purposes (32.80%), overall awareness index to the extent of 63.92

percent.

Sl. No	Statements	Strongly agree		Agree		Undecided		Disagree		trongly disagree	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1.	Food additives are not hazardous to the health	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	90	5	10
2.	Over pollution of the environment can cause misery and sufferings to human beings.	16	32	34	68	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Pesticides should not be sprayed on vegetables.	21	42	29	58	-	-	-	-	-	-
4.	All people need not be kind and compassionate towards animals.	-	-	-	-	13	26	37	74	-	-
5.	It is not wrong to hunt animals for commercial purposes.	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	64	18	36
6.	Cutting of forests is essential to increase agricultural yields.	-	-	-	-	37	74	13	26	-	-
7.	Participation in afforestation programmes is a mere waste of time and energy.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	60	20	40
8.	The government should ban the use of plastic containers to reduce pollution of our surroundings.	14	28	36	72	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	One should use energy resources, such as solar, which cause least pollution.	-	-	50	100	-	-	-	-	-	-

10.	Environment is least affected though domestic garbage is dumped on the roadsides.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	60	20	40
11.	One should participate in campaigns on "stop pollution".	10	20	40	80	-	-	-	-	-	-
12.	Education about local issues and environmental pollution should be made mandatory in schools.	34	68	16	32	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Shop-keepers should stop handing out plastic carry-bags.	7	14	43	86	-	-	-	-	-	-
14.	Protection of environment should be the sole responsibility of the governments and not of the individuals.	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	80	10	20
15.	Conservation of resources is necessary for the sake of future generations.	18	36	32	64	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2: Awareness of students regarding environment n=50

Table 3: Relationship between selected independent variables and Awareness of the respondents

Sl. No	Variables	Opinion of respondents (r)
1	Age of the respondent	0.045NS
2	Gender	-0.107 NS
3	Course studying	-0.107 NS

Table 3 refers to relationship between independent variable and awareness of the respondents exhibited that age of the respondents and awareness had non significant relationship with each other. It means awareness about environment does not depend on age of the respondent. Gender and course studying is having negatively non significant relationship regarding awareness of environment. This is because their are more media which provide information about environment in one or the other way like campaigns, television programmes, print media etc, so today every students has awareness regarding environment.

Summary and Conclusion

- Most of the respondents are teenagers pursuing their graduation.

- The overall awareness index of the respondents is 63.92 percent.

- There is no relationship between age, gender and course studying with awareness of the respondent.

- On the basis of present study it can be concluded that students have more Environmental Awareness.

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