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ATTITUDE OF TOP SCORERS TOWARDS CLEAN AND GREEN ENVIRONMENT

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Dr. (Mrs.) R. Malini

Assistant Professor, PG Department of Commerce and Research Centre, Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam - 627802. Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 12. Tamil Nadu, India.

Mrs. R. Raghadevi

Full Time Ph.D. Research Scholar, Register Number: 11669, PG Department of Commerce and Research Centre, Sri Parasakthi College for Women, Courtallam - 627802. Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Abishekapatti, Tirunelveli – 12. Tamil Nadu, India.

ABSTRACT

Everyone loves to live and survive in the clean and green environment. Education encourages the people to live in the clean and green environment. The research work was undertaken to assess the attitude of the university top scorers towards clean and green environment and to test whether there is any significant difference in the attitude of the top scorers towards clean and green environment. The primary data were obtained from 305 top scorers by adopting cluster sampling technique. The percentage analysis revealed that majority of the top scorers had good attitude towards clean and green environment. The sign test revealed that there was a significant difference in the different categories of top scorers towards clean and green environment. The responsibility of educated persons towards trash and the policies of government regarding renewable energies should combat the ever increasing global warming effectively.

Introduction

"Save the Earth. We Have Nowhere Else To Go!"

Everyone loves to live and survive in the clean environment that includes clean air, water, land and energy. These components must be sustained through conservation and proper management of the environment. Cleanliness is the hallmark of national development. The more a nation is developed, the more it is clean. Clean and green environment helps us to live a healthy and happy life. To make such an environment people should be aware about the pollutants like smoking, plastics, harmful fertilizers and should take actions to control those pollutants. Education encourages the people to aware about the pollutants. Especially, the top scorers in higher education can contribute more and more for the clean and green environment.

Robert W. Varney (2007)¹, Dr. Michael A. Berry (2012)², Steelsoprano (2013)³, Krishnadas Nanath (2014)⁴, Mohd. Basheeruddin Bilal (2015)⁵, Ghanshyam Das Soni (2015)⁶, Santosh Kumar (2017)⁷, Sam (2017)⁸ conducted the research and published the articles entitled "Cleaner Cities Healthier Cities", "Cleaning and the Environment", "Importance of Clean Environment", "How to make our surroundings Clean and Green" and "Clean the Earth". The above studies and articles indicated that there are plethora opportunities to study about the clean and green environment.

With this backdrop, the attitude of the top scorers towards clean and green environment has been assessed and the significant difference in the attitude of the top scorers towards clean and green environment has been tested by adopting sign test.

Research Methodology

For analysis, both primary and secondary data were used. The primary data were obtained from the top scorers of Tamil Nadu State Government Universities for the academic year (2003-2008) with the help of structured questionnaire from 305 top scorers in the realm of commerce by adopting cluster sampling technique. The primary data were collected through e-mail, mail and over the phone.

The secondary data were collected from the Controller of Examinations of Tamil Nadu State Government Universities (six universities). They are, Annamalai University, Bharathidasan University, Madurai Kamaraj University, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Periyar University and University of Madras.

The collected data were analyzed by applying sign test with the following formula which is used to test the level of significance:

$$Z = \frac{\text{Number of '+' sign} - \mu}{\sigma}$$

$$\mu = 0.5n; \sigma = \sqrt{n}$$

Results and Discussion

"Live Life Cleaner. Make earth Greener."

The convenience of modern life easily make us to forget about how big impact our lifestyle has on the environment. But the hidden cost of that convenience is often paid out in the form of damaging environmental pollution. For example, the water we send down the drain can be dangerous when it deposits chemical cleaners and organic waste in rivers and lakes. Hence, it is crucial to study the attitude of the top scorers towards clean and green environment and it is given in the Table 1.

Table 1 Attitude of the Top Scorers towards Clean and Green Environment – Percentage Analysis

Attitude towards Clean and Green Environment	Yes	No Opinion	No	Total
Know about the law of prevention and control of pollution.	282 (92.46)	23 (7.54)	0 (0.00)	305 (100.00)
Preferring paperless transactions.	175 (57.38)	80 (26.23)	50 (16.39)	305 (100.00)
Taking steps to stop water pollution in my area.	184 (60.33)	46 (15.08)	75 (24.59)	305 (100.00)
I am wise enough to avoid smoking.	290 (95.08)	12 (3.94)	3 (0.98)	305 (100.00)
I reduce, refuse, reuse and recycle Plastic Bags.	161 (52.79)	19 (6.23)	125 (40.98)	305 (100.00)
Using public transportation.	279 (91.48)	9 (2.95)	17 (5.57)	305 (100.00)
Opposing to convert agricultural land into flats.	266 (87.21)	20 (6.56)	19 (6.23)	305 (100.00)
Rain water conservation tank is in my home.	236 (77.38)	30 (9.84)	39 (12.79)	305 (100.00)
Responsible regarding my trash.	27 (8.85)	84 (27.54)	194 (63.61)	305 (100.00)
Participated in Clean India Campaign (SWACHH BHARAT).	98 (32.13)	22 (7.21)	185 (60.66)	305 (100.00)
Supporting organic farming and purchasing organic products.	271 (88.85)	14 (4.59)	20 (6.56)	305 (100.00)
Participating in tree plantation programs.	217 (71.15)	22 (7.21)	66 (21.64)	305 (100.00)
Purchasing environment friendly or green products.	215 (70.49)	36 (11.80)	54 (17.70)	305 (100.00)
Using green energy.	7 (2.30)	2 (0.65)	296 (97.05)	305 (100.00)

Source: Primary Data (Figures in Parentheses are Percentages)

The Table 1 shows that, the percentage of 'Yes' response ranges between 2.30 and 92.46. The percentage of 'No' response ranges between 0.00 and 97.05. The percentage of 'No opinion' ranges from 0.65 to 27.54. Majority of the respondents (more than 50 per cent) have positive attitude towards clean and green environment. The top scorers are aware of the law of prevention and control of pollution, preferring paperless transactions, taking steps to stop water pollution in their area, against smoking, refusing plastic bags, using public transportation, against converting agricultural land into flats, have rain water conservation tank in their home, supporting organic farming and purchasing organic products, participated in the tree plantation programs and purchasing environment friendly or green products.

But 63.61 per cent of the top scorers are not responsible regarding trash, 60.66 per cent of the top scorers are never participated in SWACHH BHARAT (Clean India Campaign), and 97.05 per cent of the top scorers are not using green energy.

It indicates that the opinion of top scorers towards clean and green environment varies from on top scorer to another top scorer. In order to ascertain whether there is any significant difference in the attitude of top scorers towards clean and green environment, the sign test is applied.

H₀: There is no significant difference in the attitude of the top scorers towards clean and green environment.

H₁: There is a significant difference in the attitude of the top scorers towards clean and green environment.

Table 2 Attitude of the Top Scorers towards Clean and Green Environment – Sign Test

Attitude towards Clean and Green Environment	Number of '+' Signs	Number of '-' Signs	N	Z - Value	Result
Know about the law of prevention and control of pollution.	282	0	282	16.79	Significant
Preferring paperless transactions.	175	50	225	8.33	Significant
Taking steps to stop water pollution in my area.	184	75	259	6.77	Significant
I am wise enough to avoid smoking.	290	3	293	8.38	Significant
I reduce, refuse, reuse and recycle Plastic Bags.	161	125	286	2.13	Significant
Using public transportation.	279	17	296	15.23	Significant
Opposing to convert agricultural land into flats.	266	19	285	14.63	Significant
Rain water conservation tank is in my home.	236	39	275	11.88	Significant
Responsible regarding my trash.	27	194	221	-11.24	Significant
Participated in Clean India Campaign (SWACHH BHARAT).	98	185	283	-5.17	Significant
Supporting organic farming and purchasing organic products.	271	20	291	14.71	Significant
Participating in tree plantation programs.	217	66	283	8.98	Significant
Purchasing environment friendly or green products.	215	54	269	9.82	Significant
Using green energy.	7	296	303	-16.61	Significant

Source: Primary Data

The Table 2 shows that the Z-value is not within the accepted region of null hypothesis (Z = 1.96 to Z = 1.96) for all the

statements and the Z-value of some statements is not within the null hypothesis region but it has negative sign. The negative sign is due to the number of "no" responses are more.

Thus, the sign test proves that the top scorers have awareness about the law of prevention and control of pollution, preferring paperless transactions, taking steps to stop water pollution in their area, against smoking, refusing plastic bags, using public transportation, opposing to convert agricultural land into flats, have rain water conservation tank in my home, responsible regarding trash, participated in clean India campaign, supporting organic farming and purchasing organic products, participating in tree plantation programs, purchasing environment friendly or green products and using green energy. It indicates that there are significant differences in the attitude of the top scorers towards clean and green environment.

Conclusion

The percentage analysis displayed that majority of the top scorers had positive attitude towards clean and green environment and the Z-value was not within the accepted region of null hypothesis for all the statements. Even though majority of the top scorers had good attitude towards the clean and green environment, this is not enough to build a healthy environment where we lives in. Because, the percentage analysis showed that, the attitude of the top scorers towards using green energy, participated in Clean India Campaign (SWACHH BHARAT), using plastic bags and responsibility regarding trash is not upto the mark. Hence, it is the responsibility of educated should avoid throwing waste everywhere because garbage pollutes our environment, especially hazardous wastes. They must use jute bags instead of plastic bags. Besides they should maintain a beautiful green environment by planting trees in and around them. They should participate in the events like SWACHH BHARAT at the local level to make a difference in the society as it ensures enough health conducive environment. These activities may induce the layman towards clean and green environment. The government should also develop various policies, schemes and loans to evolve, adopt and implement different renewable energies to combat the ever increasing global warming effectively.

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