



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Education

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE PERCEPTION ABILITIES OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF KOTTAYAM DISTRICT OF KERALA

KEY WORDS:

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ABSTRACT

This paper aims to raise questions and stimulate questions about the efficacy of our present system of Education to develop environmental values in our students. The study aims to find out value perception abilities of secondary school students of Kottayam district of Kerala and to analyse if any difference environmental value perception abilities based on gender and locale. The tool used for the study is Environmental Value Perception Test. The study reveals that the secondary schools students have above average environmental value perception abilities. The test scores of rural and urban students show significant difference in environmental value perception abilities. The paper ends by suggesting that a right attitude training and sound knowledge of environment from early stage of education play a crucial role for the survival of man in our planet.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

IUCN/ UNESCO, at the International Working Meeting on Environmental Education in the school curriculum held in 1970 in Nevada, United States of America, developed a definition of Environmental Education, which arose out of face-to face dialogue over a period of weeks. According to IUCN "Environmental Education is the process of recognizing values and clarifying concepts in order to develop skills and attitudes necessary to understand and appreciate the interrelatedness among man, his culture and his biophysical surroundings. It also entails practice in decision-making and self-formulation of code of behaviour about issues concerning environmental quality".

2.0 NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The UN Conference on Environment And Development popularly known as Earth Summit [1992] in its agenda 21 and chapter 36 gave importance to "education, awareness and training" the critical factors of public understanding – fundamental to any progress to be made, it stressed reorienting education towards sustainable development. Environmental Education lays emphasis not only on cognitive domain but more on affective and psychomotor domain and is an applied subject in which the knowledge acquired and the attitudes developed must result in actions for sustainable future. Today our students are living in the world of controversies, which often leads to value conflicts even in environmental issues. Mean while the school, like an ostrich, buries its head in to the dreary desert sands of dead syllabus devoid of the springs of life. Even many students, who do well in schools, study the prescribed portions and pass the examinations and simply flounder when they meet a real problem in life, for which this theoretical learning is of no help. The students have to learn to wrestle with the realities of life and start learning a new.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of environmental value perception abilities of secondary school students of Kottayam district of Kerala
2. To find out the any difference in environmental value perception abilities of secondary school students based on the following variables. 1. Gender – Male/Female 2. Locle-Rural/Urban

4.0 HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY : 1. There will be significant difference between the environmental value perception abilities of secondary school students based on gender.

2. There will be significant difference between the environmental value perception abilities of secondary school students based on locale.

5.0 METHOD ADOPTED: Normative survey method is used for the study consisting of 200 students,100 from rural school (Muslim HSS Kangazha) and 100 from urban school (St. Dominics HSS Kanjirapally).

6.0 DISCRPTION OF THE TOOL: The investigator for the present study used is Environmental Value Perception Test (prepared by

the investigator) consisting of standardised 50 items.

7.0 STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED: Mean, standard deviation, and 't- test' used to test the hypotheses with level of significance.

8.0 LIMITATIONS : The present study focus only on secondary school students based on variables gender and locality due to paucity of time.

9.0 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION : 1. To determine the level of environmental value perception abilities of secondary school students of Kottayam district of Kerala, the investigator administered the Environmental Value Perception Test for 200 sample. The average test score obtained is 28 which show above average environmental value perception abilities of students.

2. Table 1. Data and results of test of significance of difference between mean Environmental Value Perception Test scores based on gender

Group	Number	Mean	SD	C R	Level of Significance
Male	100	27.14	7.08	1.10	P>0.05
Female	100	28.7	6.99		

The obtained critical ratio is not significant even at 0.05 level. This shows that the two scores do not differ significantly with respect to Environmental Value Perception abilities of students based on gender.

3. Table 2. Data and results of test of significance of difference between mean Environmental Value Perception Test scores based on locale

Group	Number	Mean	SD	C R	Level of Significance
Rural	100	28.22	5.33	3.90	P<0.01
Urban	100	26.59	4.92		

The obtained critical ratio is significant at 0.01 level. This shows that the two scores differ significantly with respect to Environmental Value Perception Test of students. The higher mean score value of rural students states that they posses more environmental value perception abilities than urban students.

10.0 SCOPE AND EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS: The present study intended to through light on the importance of developing Environmental Awareness, Attitude, Value Perception Abilities at secondary school students. The investigator hopes that the results will help to make measures for the improvement of Environmental Education action plans by teachers because children are the foundation stones of the society. A right attitude training and sound knowledge of environment from early stage of education play a crucial role for the survival of man in our planet.

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