



# ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

# Education

## PERSONAL VALUES AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AS PREDICTORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

**KEY WORDS:** Environmental Awareness, Adolescents, Values, SES

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### ABSTRACT

The present study is focused on to find out the correlation between Environmental Awareness and Values as well as Socio Economic Status of adolescents (students of Govt. Higher Secondary School) and to find the predictors of values which will predict the Environmental awareness in Durg district of Chhattisgarh. The Sample consists of 320 adolescents which were selected randomly. For collecting data, Environmental Awareness Ability Measures(EAAM), Personal Values Questionnaire(PVR) and Socio-Economic Status Scale(SESS), constructed by Praveen Kumar Jha(1998); Dr.G.P.Sherry & Prof.R.P.Verma and Meenakshi Sharma respectively, were used. The descriptive statistics such as mean, t-value and correlation were used to analyse the data. The results revealed that Environmental Awareness was negatively correlated with Values and Socio-Economic Status. Among ten dimension of values aesthetic value predicts environmental awareness.

### INTRODUCTION :

The growing concern with environmental issues and their impact on general awareness is one of the most noticeable phenomena of the last two decades. The root cause of enhancement of environmental problem is lesser awareness towards environmental issues. One of the best way of preservation of environment is by creating environmental awareness among society and especially among adolescents as they are future leaders. Bhatia(2006) defined environmental awareness means how much knowledge have the people about the environment.

Personal Values are the reflection of the highest principles of mind and thought and can even be said to be a part of spiritual domain of the individual. They play important role in the motivation of adolescents to varied behavior.

Values are considered fundamental dimension of an adolescents. Values play important role for bringing desirable changes in an individual's life. The values not only determine the aims but are helpful to achieve those aims(Kumar,2015). It is a process of perception of values which would directly govern the action and activity within a particular sphere.

Socio-economic status is a short hand description for a variety of economic, occupational and educational factors that comprises environment for human development (Deshmukh,2007).

The root cause of all the environmental challenges which creates unhappiness and suffering to human beings are lack of environmental awareness for sustaining a balanced ecosystem, difference in the socio-economic status of the people, inappropriate human behavior pattern and the misplaced value and belief system that produces these behaviours.

The importance of personal value, SES and Environmental Awareness has not been studied extensively in Indian context. In this backdrop, this study was conducted to investigate the role of personal value in Environmental Awareness of adolescent and its correlation with SES and Personal values.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE :

Kumar (2006) conduct a study entitled "A comparative study of Environmental awareness and values among female secondary school teachers trainees of rural and urban area of Himachal Pradesh " and found that the rural and urban female teacher trainees have almost the same kind of perception as far as religious, aesthetic and health values was concerned. There exist positive co-relation between environmental awareness and social value as well as health value.

Sharma (2006) conducted a study entitled "A comparative study of value orientation of Pre-service and in-service secondary school teacher of District Harimpur og Himachal Pradesh ". The main findings were that the in-service secondary male teacher do not

differ significantly on religious, domestic, power, family prestige and health value. On the basis of mean scores, in-service secondary school male teacher have more belief in health value as compared to pre-service secondary school female teachers.

### OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY :

1. To study the relationship between Environmental awareness and values.
2. To study the relationship between Environmental awareness and socio-economic status.
3. To find out value predictors of the Environmental awareness.

### HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY :

1. Personal value and socio-economic status would be found positively related with Environmental awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between Environmental Awareness of high Personal value (all ten dimension calculated separately) and Environmental Awareness of low Personal value (all ten dimension) of adolescents of Durg district (C.G.).

### SAMPLE OF THE STUDY :

Random sampling technique was used only 320 adolescents of government higher secondary School of Durg district (C.G.) Located in urban and rural area were selected for study.

### TOOLS OF THE STUDY :

1. Environmental Awareness Ability Measures by Praveen Kumar Jha, used to measure Environmental awareness.
2. Personal Value Questionnaire by Dr.G.P.Sherry and Prof.R.P.Verma, used to measure values of adolescents.
3. Socio-Economic Status Scale by Dr.Meenakshi, used to measure SES of adolescents.

### DATA ANALYSIS AND RESULTS –

Mean, Standard Deviation, 't' test and co-relation were calculated from the Environmental Awareness Test Scores of the entire sample of 320 adolescents student of government higher secondary school in Durg district of Chhattisgarh.

First hypothesis Personal values and Socio-economic status would be found positively related with Environmental awareness. Result (shown in Table no. I) shows that the mean of Environmental awareness is 38.29 and of Personal values is 122.96. The r-value = -0.081, it reveals that the relationship between Environmental awareness and overall Personal value was found negative, negligible and non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ). Thus, the hypothesis is rejected.

Mean of Environmental awareness and Socio-economic status are 38.29 and 62.795 respectively. The r-value = -0.21, it reveals that the relationship between Environmental awareness and Socio-economic status was found negative, negligible and non-significant ( $p > 0.05$ ). Thus the positive hypothesis is rejected.

Table II shows the mean and standard deviation and t-value of Environmental awareness(EA) of high religious value and Environmental awareness of low religious value;EA OF High Social value and EA of low Social value;EA of high domestic value and EA of low domestic value; EA of high aesthetic value and EA of low aesthetic value; EA of high economic value and EA of low economic value; EA of high knowledge value and EA of low knowledge value; EA of high hedonistic value and EA of low hedonistic value; EA of high power value and EA of low power value; EA of high family prestige value and EA of low family prestige value and EA of high health value and EA of low health value. The mean and standard deviation of EA of high RV, SV, DV, AV, EV, KV, HV, PV, FPV, and HV are 38.32 & 6.33 ; 38.39 & 6.13 ; 38.41 & 6.07 ; 38.66 & 5.99 ; 38.87 & 5.92 ; 38.42 & 5.97 ; 37.93 & 6.98 ; 38.45 & 4.5 ; 37.93 & 6.095 ; 38.43 & 6.09 respectively. The mean and standard deviation of EA of low RV, SV, DV, AV, EV, KV, HV, PV, FPV, and HV are 38.63 & 5.9 ; 40.25 & 2.73 ; 40.75 & 3.96 ; 35.56 & 6.21 ; 37.07 & 6.26 ; 39.38 & 7.42 ; 39.25 & 4.15 ; 38.49 & 8.79 ; 40 & 5.6 ; 39.33 & 4.15 respectively. The t-value of RV, SV, DV, AV, EV, HV, KV, PV, FPV and HV are t=0.36 , t=1.75 , t=1.154 , t=2.73 , t=1.72 , t=0.36 , t=1.67 , t=0.027 , t=2.07 , and t=0.514 respectively at df=318{ (N1+ N2)-2} . Table value of t at 318 degree of freedom(df) at 0.05 levels is 1.962 and at 0.01 level is 2.58. Hence calculated value (t=2.73) in (Table-2) of Aesthetic value is more than the value meant for 0.05 & 0.01 level of significance. Hence it is interpreted that Aesthetic value show significant difference between EA of high AV and EA of low AV. Rest nine

dimension of personal value shows no significant difference. Thus it shows that Aesthetic value is the predictor of Environmental Awareness.

## DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION :

On the basis of collection, analysis & interpretation of data given in Table 1, It is found that the relationship between Environmental Awareness & Socio-Economic Status was found negative & non significant & the relationship between Environmental Awareness & Personal Value (Overall) is also found negative & non-significant.

Result of Table 2 shows that out of 10 dimensions of personal Value, 9 dimensions do not show any significant difference but the aesthetic Value shows significant difference @ 0.05 & 0.01 Level. This reveals that Aesthetic Value is one of the predictors of Environmental Awareness.

S.N.	Variable	N	Mean	S.D.	r-value
1.	Environmental Awareness	320	38.29	6.34	-0.21
	Socio-economic Status	320	62.795	6.19	
2.	Environmental Awareness	320	38.29	6.34	-0.081
	Personal Values	320	122.96	6.99	

## ANNEXURE

**Table-I:** Mean, S.D., and Co-relation of Environmental Awareness with Personal Value and Socio-Economic Status  
0.05 level, df = 318 P > 0.05 Non-significant

**Table-II:** Mean, S.D., and t-value of Environmental Awareness of high and low Personal Value (dimension-wise) 03.

DIMENSION	ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS	N	MEAN	S.D.	t.RATIO	SIGNIFICANCE
RELIGIOUS VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH R.V.	173	38.22	6.33	0.36	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW R.V.	147	38.63	5.898		
SOCIAL VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH S.V.	307	38.39	6.13	1.75	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW S.V.	13	40.25	2.73		
DEMOCRATIC VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH D.V.	314	38.41	6.07	1.154	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW D.V.	06	40.75	3.96		
ASTHETIC VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH A.V.	264	38.66	5.99	2.73	SIGNIFICANT AT .05 & .01 LEVEL.
	E.A. OF LOW A.V.	56	35.56	6.21		
ECONOMIC VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH E.V.	248	38.87	5.92	1.72	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW E.V.	72	37.01	6.03		
KNOWLEDGE VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH K.V.	307	38.42	5.97	0.36	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW K.V.	13	39.38	7.42		
HEDONISTIC VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH H.V.	192	37.93	6.98	1.67	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW H.V.	128	39.25	4.15		
POWER VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH P.V.	229	38.45	4.05	0.027	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW P.V.	91	38.05	8.08		
FAMILY PRESTIGE VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH FPV.	240	37.94	6.095	2.07	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW FP.V.	80	40	5.06		
HEALTH VALUE	E.A. OF HIGH H.V.	310	38.43	6.09	0.514	N.S.
	E.A. OF LOW H.V.	10	39.33	4.15		

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THIS WORK IS SPONSERED BY UGC (MRP)

## Abbreviations:-

E.A.- ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS K.V.-KNOWLEDGE VALUE  
R.V.- RELIGIOUS VALUE H.V.-HEDONISTIC VALUE  
S.V.- SOCIAL VALUE P.V.-POWER VALUE  
D.V.- DEMOCRATIC VALUE FP.V.-FAMILY PRESTIGE VALUE  
A.V.- ASTHETIC VALUE H.V.-HEALTH VALUE  
E.V.- ECONOMIC VALUE

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