



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Education

A STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG STUDENT TEACHERS

KEY WORDS: Environmental awareness, student teachers, healthy life, demographic variables.

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ABSTRACT

This study has been conducted to investigate the environmental awareness among student teachers. Totally 72 student teachers has been taken from District Institute of Education and Training in Madurai district. The random sampling technique was used in this study. Environmental awareness questionnaire prepared by the investigator was used in this study. Survey method was employed in this study. The data was analyzed statistically by using mean, standard deviation, 't' test. This study revealed that “most of the students in District Institute of Education and Training have moderate level of environmental awareness. Also this study revealed that there is no significant difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness of student teachers with respect to gender, age, locality, parents' educational qualification and parents' annual income. From the findings of this research, researchers concluded that it is necessary to develop environmental awareness among student teachers. Also, it is the duty of our teacher educators nurtures the student teachers to improve their environmental awareness for healthy living of the society.

INTRODUCTION

Today environmental problems are experienced worldwide and threaten the continuity of human life. Human beings are the only species responsible for the current global environmental situation. The world's environmental problems are mostly the consequence of lifestyles in modern society (Gore, 1992; Orr, 1984). Today, the protection of environment has become a concern of all the people, as the protection of environment is essential for the existence of human race. Environment protection starts by creating awareness among the people so that it becomes part of their lifestyle. Environmental awareness is a process of recognizing values and clarifying concepts in order to develop skills and added tools necessary to understand and appreciate the interrelationship among man, his culture and his biophysical surrounding.

The environmental awareness changes and modifies man's attitude towards nature. It should be the duty of the every citizen to educate every section of society to protect and improve the natural environment including air, water, land and the biodiversity. It is obligatory on the part of government and every citizen to spread message for environmental protection and preservation. Today we are required to increase the pace of environmental education and protect the environment from future degradation.

The ultimate aim of teacher education is to prepare effective teachers who are capable of bringing about the desired behavioural changes in pupils. The quality of healthy living is determined by the quality of environment existing. In order to protect and conserve the environment, enhancing people to lead healthy life, emphasis has been made to create awareness about the environment.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

A teacher's ability to create an effective environment, including cultivating a sense of mutual respect with students, is an important indicator of success in the classroom and is something to look for in a student teacher. They should have the ability to make students feel valued in the classroom and comfortable enough to take intellectual risks, which can impact student performance and behaviour. It is important that a student teacher is open to and adjustment in an effort to provide the best learning experience. There should be a sense of strategy and organization to manage the change or new direction while keeping students engaged. Through the present study an attempt has been made by the investigators

to study the level of environmental awareness among student teachers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of environmental awareness of student teachers.
2. To find out the difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness of student teachers with respect to gender, age, locale, parents' educational qualification and parents' annual income.

HYPOTHESIS

1. The level of environmental awareness of student teachers is high.
2. There is no significant difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness of student teachers with respect to gender, age, locale, parents' educational qualification and parents' annual income.

METHODOLOGY

The investigator has adopted random sampling. Survey method was used to study environmental awareness of student teachers in District Institute of Education and training.

Sample

Totally 72 student teachers were selected from District Institute of Education and training in Madurai district.

Tool

Environmental awareness questionnaire was prepared by the investigator.

Data interpretation

Data were collected using the questionnaire of environmental awareness and analysis done by using SPSS.

Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed using mean, standard deviation, significance test.

HYPOTHESIS

Table -1 Level of environmental awareness of student teachers in District Institute of Education and training.

Sl. No.	Variables	Low		Moderate		High	
		No	%	No	%	No	%
1.	Environmental awareness	9	12.5	59	81.94	4	5.56

From the above table, the environmental awareness of student teachers (72) were categorized under three levels such as low, moderate and high. Out of 72 teacher trainees 9 (12.5%) falls

under low environmental awareness level, 59 (81.94%) of them are in moderate and 4 (5.56%) student teachers exhibited high level of environmental awareness.

Table -2 Significant difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness of student teachers with respect to demographic variables

Sl. No.	Category	Group	N	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Level of significance at 5% level
1.	Gender	Male	17	188	0.332	0.097	NS
		Female	55	189	0.315		
2.	Age	17 - 19	45	191	0.288	0.826	NS
		19 & above	26	185	0.368		
3.	Locale	Rural	54	191	0.293	0.858	NS
		Urban	18	183	0.383		
4.	Father's qualification	Illiterate	23	187	0.344	0.353	NS
		Educated	49	190	0.306		
5.	Mother's qualification	Illiterate	33	182	0.392	1.695	NS
		Educated	39	195	0.223		
6.	Annual income	Below 25000	51	190	0.300	0.543	NS
		Above 25000	21	186	0.359		

NS - Non significant, S - Significant

From the above table shows that the calculated 't' values (0.097, 0.826, 0.858, 0.353, 1.695, 0.543) are lesser than the table value (1.96). Hence the null hypothesis, "There is no significant difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness of student teachers with respect to gender, age, locality, father's educational qualification, mother's educational qualification and parents' annual income" is accepted.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

- The level of environmental awareness of student teachers is moderate.
- There is no significant difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness of student teachers with respect to gender, age, locale, parents' educational qualification and parents' annual income.

The mean scores of environmental awareness of student teachers with respect to Gender, Age, Locality, Father's educational qualification, Mother's educational qualification and parents' annual income are not significant. This is because all the students always want to enrich their environmental knowledge to develop themselves. Media play an important role in forming the positive attitudes of the public towards the environment. Media's role in increasing environmental awareness of the population is an enormous one as it reaches a vast percentage of India's complex society. Further they may be spend much time in strengthen their environmental awareness through wider participation in environmental awareness programme conducted by DIET.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Based on these findings, the investigator gives the following educational implications. The present investigation has clearly indicated and thrown much light on environmental awareness of student teachers of DIET, Madurai district. The following educational implications if implemented will go a long way in the development of environmental awareness for quality life. All the teacher educators want to improve the level of environmental awareness of student teachers through media and environmental awareness programmes based on local issues.

CONCLUSION

Clean environment is one of the most important parts of our lifestyle. The environment knowledge influences the quality of life of an individual, the family, the nation and the world. Environment also affects the health, particularly more of children and it reduces the lifetime. Hence there is an urgent need to develop more environmental awareness among the student teachers in future. If the student teachers are

effectively trained during their educational period, they can effectively increase the future generations' environmental awareness level. This is the only way to ensure that children are educated to be environmentally aware and attuned to solving the environmental problems that human beings face.

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