

A need to develop Environmental Ethics by changing Attitude and Behaviors of students for the safety of Natural Environment

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Abstract

This study is based on primary data with some descriptive methodology based on review papers and articles published in newspapers. Data are collected through random sampling by filling questionnaire in Government College Kharkhara, Rewari, voluntarily by all streams including Arts, Commerce, and science. The designed hundred questionnaires are containing twenty set of questions. Data collected were divided into two aspects consist of essential knowledge about nature and environment and attitude and behavior in terms of eagerness to work for the safety and conservation of environment. The analysis were derived and tabulated from the response collected from the students and is shown by bar graph and pi chart. The study shows that the participation of female students is higher as compared to male students. The study also reflects that the knowledge regarding sustainability and conservation practice is less among students. Students are less voluntarily willing in the participation of environmental campaign. Paper also reflects some scholarly efforts of some environmental activists and with their positive constrictive behavior. Hence this paper is an effort to develop a positive constructive behavior, and attitude among youth and students for the safe guard of nature and the Mother Earth.

Introduction

On the earth we see that various racial and ethnic flocks are living with facing differential geo-climatic state or experiences. Each of these groups uses or misuses its natural environment as suited to its cultural level and technological base. Man itself is a part of this natural environment and struggle with the limitations marked by nature for his survival. Nature provides only the physical environment comprises relief, water bodies, vegetation, soils, minerals etc. The cultural environment is itself created by mankind, by establishing interactions with physical environment in the form of language, ethnicity, religion, technology, social organizations, economic groups and industrial organizations etc. People with differential sethnicity developed some norms, traditions, while they interact with their environment during fulfilling their desires or needs. *According to Majjid Husain, "It was a psychological turn which emphasized the role of cognitive or subjective environment of man in the decision making process of man about the use of his resources." "The concept of behavioral environment developed by the Gestalt School of Psychology, which holds that the objects which we view in the world have a different meaning when viewed as a whole*

rather as individual parts; and the perception itself is not chaotic, haphazard, or learned, but rather intuitive, ordering and ideally simplifying.” Thus, it is important to develop and to inculcate the appropriate habits with certain norms in the children and youth, because Government policies framed regarding the protection of environment will get failed without these. Only youth and children have the capabilities to bring the fruitful results towards sustainability of natural environment. Because the adolescent age of human being is a unique stage of human growth and development for laying down the foundation of approach towards appropriate human behavior and attitude towards environmental safeguard. The vital component for the existence of mankind is its environment. With the passage chronological stages, the human species or mankind are evolved from the well established interaction with nature or environment. Human behavior is the response derived from the ecological relationship established between man and environment. Our nature or the environment is the mother of all life processes of the Earth which is the most beautiful planet of our solar system. Youth have the full potential either to safeguard or destroy their nature. The change in attitude, behavior, knowledge, awareness, and best practices may change the scenario or meets the need of the present era. The attitude should be positive towards every field of life and the cultural and economic background of human beings determines its views regarding environment. The conservative attitude represents a moral code for interacting the environment. In order to motivate or aware the students, many Universities introduced the basics of environment as a compulsory subject for qualifying the degree courses.

Objective of the study

The main objective of the study is to assess the sensitivity and awareness among students and youth regarding the safety of environment and to examine their behavior and attitude towards nature.

Key Words Environment, Attitude, Behavior, Conservation, Ecosystem, ecological balance.

Hypotheses

There is no significant positive approach found among adolescent/young age group in their attitude, behavior, and practices towards the safety of environment.

Methodology

Survey method through sampling by filling questionnaires is used for collecting data. Table format is used to show the derived data. Along with this, descriptive methodology is also used to prepare this paper based on literature and previous studies. Data is also derived from reports and articles published in news paper with the source mentioned below.

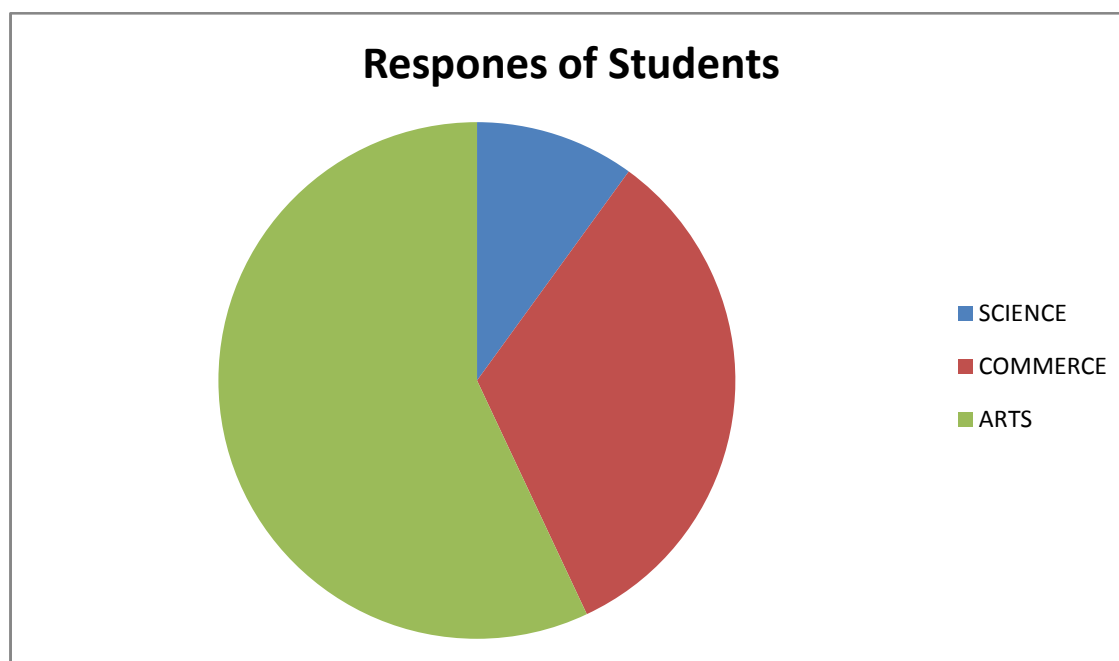
Data collection

The proposed survey was conducted in the campus of Government College Kharkhara, Rewari. A questionnaire with 20 set of questions was provided to students of all faculty

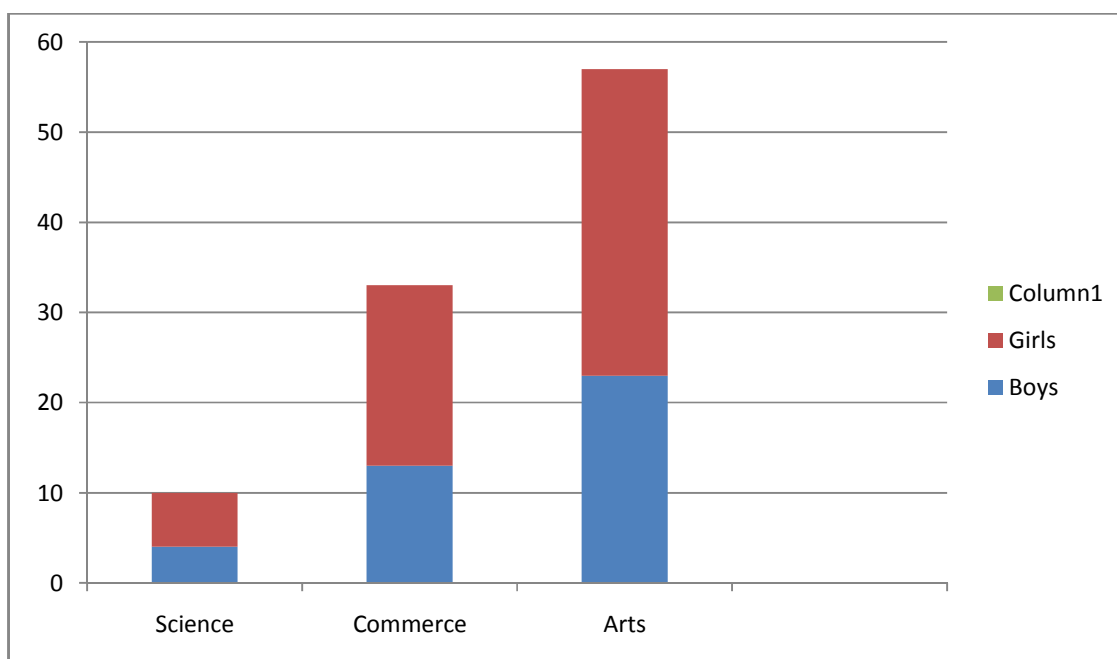
including Arts, Sciences, and Commerce to fill. The students were informed about the purpose of the study. The questions asked covered the two criteria as to assess the basic knowledge regarding environment and to assess the eagerness for participation in environmental campaigns and conservational program. The time limit given for filling the questionnaires was 10 to 15 minutes. The total numbers of questionnaire filled are 100; constituting 10% of science students, 34% of commerce students and 57% of arts students as voluntary participation. The collected data was prepared and tabulated manually to derive the results.

Gender wise voluntary participation

Faculty name	No. of responses	Girls	Boys
Science	10	6	4
Commerce	33	20	13
Arts	57	34	23
Total	100	60	40



Percentile participation of students



Out of 100 responses 10 responses are filled by science students comprise 60% girls and 40% boys. 33 responses are filled by commerce students which comprises 66% girls and 33% boys where as in arts 57 responses are filled contributing 59% girls and 41% boys. The derived results show that the participation of female students is higher than the male students.

Response analysis (1.1)

Response regarding essential knowledge about nature and environment.	Yes	No
Natural environment	98	2
Sustainable development	27	73
Green house gases	74	26
Living being and non living being; apart of nature.	98	2
Man as a part of natural environment.	99	1
Ozone layer	48	52
Melting of glaciers	99	1

The derived analysis from the collected data shows that most of the students have the the required essential knowledge about natural environment, except in three categories named sustainable development, green house gases and ozone layer. Eventually this is more crucial to have the knowledge about these aspects for the safe guard of our natural

environment as presently the emission of green house and depletion of ozone layer contributing more harm to the environment.

Response analysis (1.2)

Response regarding to asses behavior and attitude in terms of eagerness to work for the safety and conservation of environment	Yes	No
Participation in environmental campaigns	81	19
Practices for conservation	43	57
Association of human health with environment.	98	2
Knowledge regarding environmental activists	12	88
Discussion held in friends regarding environmental protection.	79	21
Are human behavior changes with the change in environment?	96	4
Reckoning regarding the need of future generation.	91	9
World environmental day celebration	89	11

The above analysis shows that students have knowledge about environmental campaigns, know the association of human health and human behavior with environment and makes discussion with their friends on environmental safety ,has thoughts regarding the need of future generation etc. But the students have very less awareness in fields of conservation of resources and the work or the contribution of environmental activists who works for the environmental safety. So it is important to develop a conservative ethic among the students to sustain flourished healthy environment. The conservative ethic states that thenature also has its intrinsic value and also needs protection. All the forms of life have equal rights for their survival and existence on the same platform of the environment. Man should be aware of the importance and potential value of all species and their ecosystem. The conservative idea views the natural resources as limited in nature. And unlimited growth and development is not feasible rather than the sustainable development. This thought will lead to maintain the balance between the availability of resources and the utilization of resources to meet future demands which leads to sustainable development and gave birth the idea of conservation which is a positive approach for the safeguard of nature.

Importance of attitude and Behavior

Exploring and trying new things, increasing skills in some areas, curiosity, and searching new things are the common behavior of all adolosant age groups. A Child learns all the habits silently from their parents, family members, relatives, friends and their social surroundings and inculcate within themselves as good or bad habits. Parents build a thought in the mind of their children that all their requirements are meeting by the earning of hard money of their parents and a child by this process assumes that he shall

have right on that in future. The idea has to be sprout on that time to introduce with our almighty mother nature in the mind of the child which is the ultimate source for all resources fulfilling our all necessary requirements. In childhood days the parents can build emotional relationship with our environment, and school education too also plays important role for building strong efforts towards conservative approach towards environmental sustainability by giving more focus of environmental education and by best practices by the children and youth, because children and youth are the backbone of the nation who can change or build the future of the society by changing in their attitude and behavior towards nature. But unfortunately today's youth spend time on mobile phones searching irrelevant things on internet rather putting their valuable efforts and time in constructive support for our natural environment which provides all the necessary resources for survival and prosperity. Change is the outcome of effort and efforts are necessary to be made to derive out the desirable change; as it is the common natural phenomenon or it is the law of nature too. Why people neither may nor act friendly with the environment besides having good knowledge and intentions. People lives in social groups which do not act accordingly as a single man can think and realizes. So with the knowledge and intention, attitude in terms of behavior is significant for the rational outcome from the established ecological interactions. Knowledge develops an attitude which turns into action in terms of behavior as reflect action during interaction with environment.

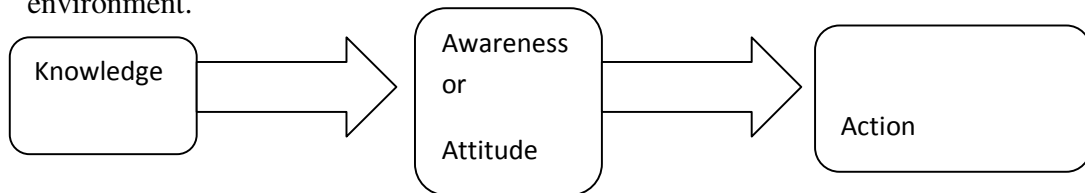


Figure 1: Behavioral Change Model

The above figure through this Behavioral Change Model shows that, only knowledge is itself, not sufficient for the fruitful interaction with environment rather it is important to develop a fruitful attitude which results into a positive constructive behavior of mankind for establishing a holistic relationship with our environment.

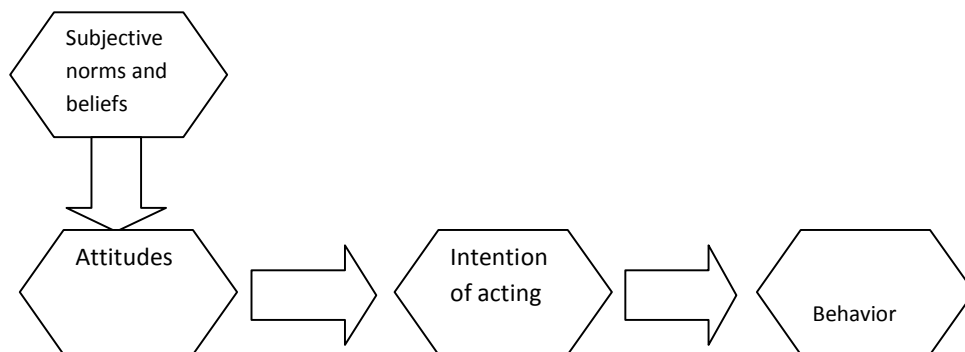


Figure 2: Theory of Reasoned/Responsible Action (By Ajzen and Fishbein)

Conservation and Protection Drive

“In a re-enactment of Chipko movement of the 1970s, hundreds of city residents as well as those from outside came together at Sahastradhara Road to express strong resentment over the proposed felling of 2200 trees for the widening of the Mussoorie-Delhi-NCR route, a move ostensibly meant to cut travel time for tourists visiting the hill town. As part of the protest, people, who were drawn from all walks of life and were of all age groups from 5 years to teenagers, adult and senior citizens- embraced trees and also tied sacred threads (mouli) around tree trunks. Many came holding play cards or had put up banners with messages like ‘What will you show to the tourists- landslides? ‘Cut the greed, not green’ and no greenery, no votes”.

A report published in The Hindu on 11 Feb 2021 as Deforestation drive, “on February 7, flash flood in the Alaknanda river system claimed several lives and swept away two major hydropower projects in Uttarakhand’s Chamoli district. While the cause of the flood is yet to be ascertained, the disaster has highlighted the danger of the numerous hydropower projects that dot the fragile Himalayan State. Uttarakhand diverted over 50,000 hectares of forest land to various developments and defense projects in the last 30 years – the fourth highest among all states. Furthermore, Chamoli district recorded the second- highest forest area diversion among all Uttarakhand’s districts. **A report published in The Hindu on 11 February 2021 by Sumant Sen and Vignesh Radhakrishnan** Another article published in Times of India stated that ‘Indian State of Forest Reports 2021 recorded the total forest cover in the country as 713789sq kms, ie, 21.71% of the country’s geographical area. Out of this , dense forests(considered as good forest) are 4,06,669sq kms and open forest (deemed to be degraded forest)3,07,120sq kms . In comparison, ISFR 2001 recorded the total forests cover as 6,75,538sqkms, i.e., 19.5% of the geographical area. An area of 4,16,809sq kms had dense forests cover and 2,58,729sq kms was open forests. In the last 20 years, therefore, the country’s forest cover has increased by 38,251sq kms, but during this period, dense forests have reduced by 10,140sq kms and open forests have increased by 48,391sq kms. So, while the total forest cover has grown, they have increased mainly in the degraded forests category; good quality forests have reduced.

Conclusion

Through this study it is tried to find and create rational paths for finding everlasting solutions for upcoming various environmental and ecological problems generated by differential human behavior toward their mother nature. Each life on nature has environmental cues. This is only one side of the table that changing climate is now causing the loss of millions of species each year. Infact these losses are due to human behavior. Such behavior is driven by humanity trivializing its own self. So efforts should be made in the direction that how the sensitivity is developed in the mind on children and youth for the long everlasting survival of our natural environment by developing small habits by giving moral education in family environment by the parents , grandparents, relatives and friends. As the homes are the best school for moral education for a child so we must cultivate and developed required behavior in terms of good behavior and good practices for the safety of our nature and sustainable development.

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