

A Study on Level of Environmental Awareness among College Students in Coimbatore District

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to figure out what factors are most important in explaining different levels of awareness concerning environmental problems and to study the level of awareness among the college students with regard to the usage of plastic and its disposal, alternative for plastic, toilet usage, its use in the cultivation of saplings, rainwater harvesting and also their participation in environment related programmes in Coimbatore District. The growing concern with environmental issues and their impact on general awareness is one of the most noticeable phenomena of the last two decades. Increase in economic activities in developing countries results in more energy and consumption demand which generally leads to environmental degradation. There is a conventional belief that such environmental degradation would resolve as soon as these countries grow economically, since that would enable them to afford environmental friendly technology as well as pro-environmental regulations and policies. However, several studies indicated that many developing countries already equipped with environmental policies, legal frameworks and economic instruments, which are regarded as highly sophisticated by international standards and yet face the worsening of environmental conditions

KEYWORDS: Environmental Awareness, Environmental Practice, Pollution,

INTRODUCTION

Awareness of the environment means the ability to emotionally understand the surrounding world, including the laws of the natural environment, sensitivity to all the changes occurring in the environment, understanding of cause-and-effect relationships between the quality of the environment and human behaviour, an understanding of how the environment works as a system, and a sense of responsibility for the common heritage of the Earth, such as natural resources - with the aim of preserving them for future generations.

Thirty percent of the world's population is under the age of eighteen, according to UNEP, which is why educating children and young adults about environmental problems is crucial to long-term success. This will help them foster a sense of responsibility and "proactive citizenship," so that when they become adults they will make choices that help the environment rather than harm it. Many schools, however, do not currently teach their students about environmental issues. Integrating environmental education into current science classes or teaching environmental science as a separate discipline is one of the best ways to educate children and teens about environmental problems, particularly if the

classes involve some sort of "hands-on" learning, like starting a garden or caring for an animal.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Tyson and Snyder (1999) examined the effectiveness of direct mail video campaigns used to move the public towards the acceptance of positive values and attitudes in long-term initiatives that focus on the improvement and protection of local natural resources.

Filho (1995) also notes that in the relatively short history of "the environment" as a social problem, public concern has been cyclical and so has the media coverage of environmental news.

The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF) conducted its seventh year study in 1998 that investigated environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behavior among adult Americans. The overall "report card" was not good. There was a widespread and persistent

nature of misinformation among most demographic subgroups. Many who said they knew about the environment were erroneous about the facts. However, on the positive side, Americans were concerned about the environment and wanted the government to actively take actions to protect it (NEETF, 1998).

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the environmental awareness level among college students.
2. To compare male & female College students with regards to their level of environment awareness.

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference between college students in their environmental awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between male and female students with regards to their environmental awareness.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A sample is any group drawn from a population. A sample is a small proportion of a population that is selected for observation and analysis. In the present study, a random sampling technique was used to select the sample. The sample consisted of total 50 respondents.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

The aim of the paper is to measure the level of environmental awareness and habitual practices towards environment among the under graduate regular students in Arts and Science colleges in Coimbatore district, Tamil Nadu. The primary and secondary data has been collected. The secondary data were collected from various sources such as books, reports and legislations. For the purpose of collecting primary data, self prepared questionnaire on environmental practices were used for collecting primary data.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE

1. Chi -Square Analysis

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The main data source of this present study is field survey and another source of data and information are various books, journals, reports etc. After significant article review the frame work of the study is made. The researcher presented the collected data with the help of tables. This also intends to do appropriate statistical test over the data to validate the statistical hypothesis which helps in interpreting data, to explain the relationship between gender and environmental awareness

TABLE NO.1 GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

S.NO	GENDER	ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS			TOTAL
		Low h		Moderate Hig	
1	MALE	17(32.6%)	11(22%)	24(46%)	52(100%)
2	FEMALE	23(47.9%)	10(20.8%)	15(31.25%)	48(100%)
	TOTAL	40	21	39	100

Table

Factor	Calculated Value	Table Value	D.O.F	Remarks
Gender	4.628	5.991	2	Significant at 5% level

It is witnessed from the above table that the calculated Value is less than the table value and the result is not significant. It is concluded that there is no significant relationship between gender and level of awareness among college students.

TABLE NO.2

GENDER AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

S.NO	Students	ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS				TOTAL
1	I Year students	8(17.02%)	14(29.79%)	24(51.06%)	1(2.13%)	47(100%)
2	II Year students	4(12.90%)	13(41.94%)	11(35.48%)	3(9.68%)	31(100%)
3	III Year students	2(11.11%)	2(11.11%)	12(66.67%)	2(11.11%)	18(100%)
4	M.Phil	1(25%)	2(50%)	1(25%)	-	4(100%)

	Scholars					
	TOTAL	15	31	48	6	100

Table

Factor	Calculated Value	Table Value	D.O.F	Remarks
Students	10.387	16.91	9	Significant at 5% level

It is witnessed from the above table that the calculated Value is less than the table value and the result is not significant. Hence H_0 is accepted. It is concluded that there is no significant relation between gender and level of awareness among college students.

FINDINGS

The researcher has concluded this paper with the following Findings:

1. The gender does not influence the environmental awareness of college students.
2. The students from urban areas have more environmental awareness than rural.
3. Students from science courses have more environmental awareness.
4. Locality of students has significant influence on the environment.

CONCLUSION

This study focused on various aspects of environment, mainly environmental awareness and practice among college students. This paper concludes with relationship between gender and environmental level of awareness and many other factors. The principle of Environmental Education is to make people to know and understand the problems related with environmental hazards due to the pollution. So the educational process should be planned in such a way that it should help the students to know about the environment. Surely this will protect our future generation also.

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