

Environmental Awareness Ability Study of Higher Secondary School Students of Ahmedabad with Context to Gender and Stream of Study

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Abstract

Environment is the surrounding around us that is life sustaining support of all living beings. Many factors are responsible for the destruction of environment to create living conditions for human beings. Environmental awareness in the Indians is the utmost necessity for our upcoming generations. Drastic change in the environmental conditions due to human interference in the nature has created a critical issue for environmental awareness in individuals. Environmental awareness and education when correlated they will give be able to provide us a better way to overcome the issues of environmental changes. Environmental Education is a key to the success of any overall environmental strategy, determined to help in the setting up of a Centre of Excellence in Environmental education. To have a probable level of environmental awareness in education, the study regarding the knowledge for Environmental Awareness could be useful. Therefore this study was undertaken for the exploration into the level of environmental awareness measure in to the higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad District. For this study the survey method designed by Praveen Kumar Jha was followed. Obtained data were statistically analyzed using mean, standard deviation and t-test.

KEYWORDS: Environmental Awareness Ability, Stream of study, Gender, Environmental Awareness Ability Measure

Introduction

Environment is the surrounding around us that is life sustaining support of all living beings. Environment forms a major part of all existing things on earth and the human race being a very important part of the environment.¹ Many factors are responsible for the destruction of environment to create living conditions for human beings. India being a very huge country involves various states, different climatic conditions, variety of people following diverse religions and rituals. They are directly affecting the environment during their various activities for the life sustaining measures along with the following of varied customs. Environmental awareness in the Indians is the utmost necessity for our upcoming generations. Drastic change in the environmental conditions due to human interference in the nature has created a critical issue for environmental awareness in individuals.

Education is vital for promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity of the people to address environment and development issues.² The most comprehensive

survey ever into the state of the planet concludes that human activities threaten the Earth's ability to sustain future generations.³ Thus environmental awareness and education when correlated they will give be able to provide us a better way to overcome the issues of environmental changes. When the awareness for a better and supportive environment will be generated in the upcoming generations, they will grow with the base of knowledge of environmental awareness and they will be having a worth environment for living.

Environmental Education is a key to the success of any overall environmental strategy, determined to help in the setting up of a Centre of Excellence in Environmental Education, to play the vital role of setting the pace and agenda for Environmental Education in the country.⁴ The simple way for saving environment is to create environmental awareness within the higher secondary school students as they are the fundamental base of the upcoming generations and they can lead the future if they have the understanding for the crucial issue of environmental changes. To initiate the awareness within the students, it is necessary to have concise information for present status of environmental awareness in higher secondary school students. The information regarding such data for the environmental awareness is published regarding many districts and states but there is very little information regarding the Ahmedabad District of Gujarat state. Therefore this study was undertaken for the exploration into the level of environmental awareness measure in to the higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad District.

Statement of the problem

A study of environmental awareness ability of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad district in context to variables of gender of students (Male and Female Students) and stream of study of students (Science and Commerce)

Objectives of the study

1. To find out the significant difference in environmental awareness of male and female higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad district
2. To find out the significant difference in environmental awareness of higher secondary school students studying in science and commerce stream of Ahmedabad district
3. To find out the significant difference in environmental awareness of male and female students of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad district studying in science stream.
4. To find out the significant difference in environmental awareness of male and female students of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad district studying in commerce stream.

Hypothesis of the study

1. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness ability of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad district having

- different gender.
2. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness ability of students studying in science and commerce higher secondary schools of Ahmedabad district.
 3. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness ability of students studying in science stream higher secondary schools of Ahmedabad district having different gender.
 4. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness ability of students studying in commerce stream higher secondary schools of Ahmedabad district having different gender.

Method of the study

The method used for this study was survey method and experimental method. Survey Method was used to collect the information regarding the personality traits of higher secondary students in relation to their gender and the stream of study. Data was collected from 2000 higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad district of which 1000 male students and 1000 female students were there. From each 1000 male students 500 students were from science stream of study and rest 500 students were from commerce stream of study. Similarly from 1000 female students, 500 students were from Science stream of study and rest 500 students were from commerce stream of study. These variables are with context to gender and stream of study.

Tools used in study

The researcher prepared questionnaire and collected the data from students using the standardized tool “Environmental Awareness Ability Measure” prepared by Praveen Kumar Jha. It is a highly related and valid test and standardized on 300 boys and 300 girls from higher secondary to college level ageing between 14 to 21 years.

Statistical Techniques for Data Analysis

Mean, Standard deviation and t-test were the statistical techniques used for carrying out the analysis and interpretation of the data collected.

Results and Discussion

1. Environmental awareness ability of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad district having different gender

After analysis of the data (Table 1) it was observed that t-value 0.24489 is less than t-critical 1.96 at 0.05 level and thus there was no significant difference between the mean score of environmental awareness ability among students of higher secondary school of Ahmedabad district with different gender and thus the hypothesis was accepted.

Table 1 Statistical Analysis of Environmental Awareness Ability of Higher Secondary

School Students of Ahmedabad district having different Gender

Variable	No.	Mean	SD	t' value	CI
Male	1000	38.368	7.64074	0.24489 ⁺	⁺ Significant
Female	1000	38.286	7.33075		

⁺ Significant at 0.05 level

2. Environmental awareness ability of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad district studying in science and commerce stream

After analysis of the data (Table 2) it was observed that t value 53.68086189 is more than t critical 1.96 at 0.05 level and thus there was significant difference between the mean score of environmental awareness ability among students of higher secondary school of Ahmedabad district with different gender and thus the hypothesis was rejected.

Table 2 Statistical Analysis of Environmental Awareness Ability of Higher Secondary School Students of Ahmedabad district studying in Science and Commerce stream

Variable	No.	Mean	SD	t' value	CI
Science	1000	44.078	4.25370544	53.6808619*	* Non Significant
Commerce	1000	32.576	5.27409139		

* Not Significant at 0.05 level

3. Environmental Awareness Ability of Higher Secondary School Students of Ahmedabad district studying in science stream having different gender

After analysis of the data (table) it was observed that t value 4.4267 is more than t-critical 1.96 at 0.05 level and thus there was significant difference between the mean score of environmental awareness ability among students of Higher Secondary School of Ahmedabad District with different gender and thus the hypothesis was rejected.

Table 3 Statistical Analysis of Environmental Awareness Ability of Higher Secondary School Students of Ahmedabad district studying in Science stream having different gender

Variable	No.	Mean	SD	t' value	CI
Male	500	44.668	3.47014	4.4267*	* Not Significant
Female	500	43.488	4.84611		

*Not Significant at 0.05 level

4. Environmental Awareness Ability of Higher Secondary School Students of

Ahmedabad district studying in commerce stream having different gender

After analysis of the data (table) it was observed that 't' value 3.05861 is more than 't'-Critical 1.96 at 0.05 level and thus there was significant difference between the mean score of environmental awareness ability among students of higher secondary school of Ahmedabad district with different gender and thus the hypothesis was rejected.

Table 3 Statistical Analysis of Environmental Awareness Ability of Higher Secondary School Students of Ahmedabad district studying in Commerce stream having different gender

Variable	No.	Mean	SD	t' value	CI
Male	500	32.068	5.02971	3.05861	* Not Significant
Female	500	33.084	5.46559		

*Not Significant at 0.05 level

Findings of the study

It can be interpreted from the above Table 1 that there is significant difference between the mean score on environmental awareness ability of male and female students studying in higher secondary school of Ahmedabad District. On further analysis it was observed that from Table 2 there is no significant difference between the mean score on environmental awareness ability of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad District studying in Science and Commerce stream. Similarly, it was seen that from Table 3 there is no significant difference between the mean score on environmental awareness ability of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad District studying in Science stream. Correspondingly, it was examined that from Table 4 there is no significant difference between the mean score on environmental awareness ability of higher secondary school students of Ahmedabad District studying in Commerce stream.

On the basis of the results obtained from the study, it could be predicted that environmental awareness among higher secondary school students is mildly affected by the difference of gender. These results are in correlation with the previous findings of Shahnawaj (1990)⁵, Patel (1995)⁷, Szagun and Pavlov (1995)⁸ and Tripathi (2000)⁸ who reported that gender has an effect on the level of students environmental awareness, but these results contradict with the findings of Shobeiri et.al (2007)⁶ and Shazli Hasan Khan (2013)⁸.

Significantly no difference is found in the students studying in science stream and commerce stream. It was observed that the stream of study does not influence the environmental awareness ability of higher secondary school students. These results are contradictory with the earlier results of Sebastian & Nima, (2005)¹³, Astalin P. (2011)¹⁰, Pillai S, (2012)⁹, Dr. S. Kulasekara Perumal Pillai whereas it is coincide with the findings of Bhardwaj (2004)¹² and Neeraj Kumar Sharma (2014)¹¹, Khalid (2001)¹⁴. The above

study reveals that there is no association of male and female students' study of stream of students.

Conclusion

The present study provides us an insight for the level of the environmental awareness within the students of higher secondary school. The gender and the stream of study were the two basic variables selected within the study. The gender is a slightly influencing factor for the students regarding the environmental awareness but the stream of study doesn't have any major impact for the environmental awareness among the higher secondary students. This study may lead our path for a better environmental awareness programs within the schools to prepare a base of better environmental awareness knowledge within our future generations

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