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#### ORIGINAL ARTICLE





## A STUDY OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF B.ED. TRAINEES

#### K. MANIKANDAN AND T. THILAGAVATHY

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#### **Abstract:**

This study examines the relationship between the attitude towards environmental education and environmental awareness of the B.Ed. Trainees. Normative survey method was employed. 400 B.Ed,. trainees were selected from Cuddalore and Villupuram District in Tamilnadu by using random sample method. The environmental attitude scale and the environmental awareness scale were used to collect the required information. The results of the study reveal that the B.Ed. trainees are having favourable attitude towards environmental education and also having a good level of environmental awareness. The demographic variables gender, subject, location, age, and optional subjects played vital role in the present study.

#### **KEYWORDS:**

Environmental attitude, Environmental awareness.

#### INTRODUCTION:

Today man is living in a world of crisis. The social, economic, political and value crisis are some of the threats that are quite alarming. Added to this, in the recent decades, the environmental crisis has become another important factor that has made everyone in the world to think of its gravity. Ever since man has been on this earth, there has been a constant interaction between him and the natural world. In the beginning man lived in harmony with nature, but as the numbers grew and his scientific discoveries and inventions led him on the path of industrialization. He became the predator and his increasing demands on the environment and its resources have led to its exploitation and degradation.

The term environmental education means the educational process dealing with man's relationship with his natural and man-made surroundings. The aim of environmental education is the individual and social group should acquire awareness and knowledge, develop skill and abilities and participate in solving real life environmental problems.

#### NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY

Environment has provided man with various resources in the form of flora and fauna, but man is destroying them by various sources. So it is the need of the hour to implement the environmental education effectively. Education's the only way to influence values, attitudes and beliefs in relevance to environmental ethics. In the long run behaviour can be modified through the process of environmental education, it is within this context that environmental education programme must be developed that will make possible drive towards a better quality of environment ad higher quality of life for present and future generation living within the environment. Hence this study is taken at present to that the level of B.Ed.,

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trainees attitude towards environmental education and environmental awareness.

#### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

Patel and Patel (1994) have conducted a research study on, "environmental awareness of the primary school teachers". The study has indicated that male teachers are having better awareness than female teachers. The result of the study indicated that primary schools have to set up appropriate environmental conditions.

Shahnawaj (1990) studied environmental awareness and environmental attitude of secondary and higher secondary school teachers and found 94% of students possessed positive environmental attitudes.

Pradhan (2002) has conducted a study on "Environmental awareness among secondary school teachers". The findings of the study indicated that the teachers working in secondary schools have low environmental awareness and the teachers teaching science subject have greater environmental awareness. The study has also revealed that there is no significant difference between language teachers and science teachers in environmental awareness.

#### **DEFINITION OF THE TERMS**

#### **Environment**

According to Peter Gray (1975), "Environment is a physical maturity in which organism exist". The broad definition of environment resulting from the Belgrade workshop on environment education. As being compose on the fundamental relationship that exist in and between the natural bio-physical world and the man-made socio-political world has been accepted in the present study.

#### Awareness

According to the Oxford Dictionary the word "awareness" is defined as "knowledge or recognition of something or phenomenon". B.S. Bloom describes the term awareness, as "lowest level of cognitive domain to be aware of something or someone may also know of it".

#### Attitude

A disposition to respond favourably or unfavourably towards a person, thing, event, place, idea or situation. B.Ed. Trainees

 $It\,refers\,to\,the\,students\,who\,are\,studying\,the\,course\,of\,Bachelor\,of\,Education\,(B.Ed.).$ 

#### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

- 1. To find out the level of B.Ed. trainees attitude towards environmental education.
- 2.To find out if there is any significant difference between the male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 3.To find out if there is any significant difference between the arts and science B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 4.To find out if there is any significant difference between the rural and urban B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 5. To find out if there is any significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 6. To find out if there is any significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees optional subject of biological science and social science in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 7. To find out the level of B.Ed. trainees environmental awareness.
- 8.To find out if there is any significant difference between the male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 9.To find out if there is any significant difference between the arts and science B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 10. To find out if there is any significant difference between the rural and urban B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.



- 11. To find out if there is any significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 12. To find out if there is any significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees optional subject of biological science and social science in respect of their environmental awareness.

#### HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The following hypotheses were formulated for the study

- 1. The level of attitude towards environmental education of the B.Ed. trainees is high.
- 2. There is no significant difference between the male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 3. There is no significant difference between the arts and science B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 4. There is no significant difference between the rural and urban B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 5. There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 6. There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees optional subject of biological science and social science in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 7. The level of environmental awareness of the B.Ed. trainees is high.
- 8. There is no significant difference between the male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 9. There is no significant difference between the arts and science B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 10. There is no significant difference between the rural and urban B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 11. There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 12. There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees optional subject of biological science and social science in respect of their environmental awareness.

#### METHODOLOGY

#### Method of the Study

In the present study normative survey method is adopted. It involves collecting recording, analyzing and interpreting the data that are all directed towards a better understanding of the educational problem and finding solutions for them.

#### Sample of the Study

The investigator has taken a random sample of  $400\,\mathrm{B.Ed.}$  trainees from  $10\,\mathrm{educational}$  colleges in Cuddalore and Villupuram District of Tamil Nadu.

#### Tools Used in the Present Study

- (i)Environmental Attitude Scale (2001) by Dr. Hassen Taj.
- (ii) Environmental Awareness Scale was constructed and validated by the investigator.

#### $Environmental Attitude \, Scale \, Scoring \, Procedure \,$

The attitude score of an individual is the sum total of item scores on all six areas. The range of scores is from 61 to 244. The higher score indicating the more favourable attitude towards environmental and vice versa.

#### **Environmental Awareness Scale**



Range of Scores	Awareness Level
37-51	High
16-36	Average
0-15	Low

#### STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

In the present study the following statistical techniques were used.

- 1. Descriptive Analysis (Mean and Standard Deviation)
- 2.Differential Analysis ('t' test)
- 3. Correlational Analysis (Correlation Co-efficient 'r')

Attitude Towards Environmental Education of Male and Female B.Ed. Trainees

In order to find out the significant difference between the attitude towards environmental education scores of Male and Female B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in table-1

#### Null Hypothesis - 1

There is no significant difference between the male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

TABLE – 1
't' VALUE FOR THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF MALE AND FEMALE B.ED., TRAINEES

Variables	Sub-samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental	Male	200	110.63	11.29	0.52	Not Significant
Attitude	Female	200	110.23	11.42	0.53	Not Significant

The 't' value is found to be 0.53, which is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is retained and it is concluded that there is no significant difference between male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

Attitude Towards Environmental Education of Arts and Science B.Ed. Trainees

In order to find out the significant difference between the attitude towards environmental education scores of Arts and Science B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in table-2

#### Null Hypothesis: 2

There is no significant difference between the Arts and Science B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

TABLE – 2
't' VALUE FOR THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF ARTS AND SCIENCE B.ED., TRAINEES

Variables	Sub- samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental Attitude	Arts	200	107.92	12.02	1.72	Not Significant



The't' value is found to be 1.72, which is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is retained and it is concluded that there is no significant difference between arts and science group B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

Attitude Towards Environmental Education of Rural and Urban B.Ed. Trainees

In order to find out the significant different between the attitude towards environmental education scores of Rural and Urban B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in the table-3

#### Null Hypothesis: 3

There is no significant difference between the Rural and Urban B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

TABLE – 3
't' VALUE FOR THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF RURAL AND URBAN B.ED., TRAINEES

Variables	Sub- samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental Attitude	Rural	277	109.82	7.97	1.98	Significant

The 't' value is found to be 1.98, which is significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is retained and it is concluded that there is a significant difference between rural and urban area B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

Attitude Towards Environmental Education Age Between 20-22 and Age Between 23-25

In order to find out the significant different between the attitude towards environmental education scores of age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in the table-4

#### Null Hypothesis: 4

There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

TABLE – 4
't' VALUE FOR THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF B.ED., TRAINEES WHO HAS AGE BETWEEN 20-22 AND AGE BETWEEN 23-25

Variables	Sub-samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental	Age between 20-22	185	110.14	8.87	0.47	Not Significant
Attitude	Age between 23-25	161	109.32	14.06	0.47	Not Significant

The 't' value is found to be 0.47, which is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is retained and it is concluded that there is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

Attitude Towards Environmental Education of Biological Science and Social Science B.Ed. Trainees In order to find out the significant different between the attitude towards environmental education scores of Biological Science and Social Science B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in the table-5

#### Null Hypothesis: 5

There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees optional subject were biological science and social science in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.



#### TABLE-5

#### 't' VALUE FOR THE ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SCORES OF THE B.ED., TRAINEES WHOSE OPTIONAL SUBJECTS WERE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Variables	Sub-samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental	Biological science	102	110.53	8.17	2.78	Significant
Attitude	Social science	88	113.87	8.24	2.70	Significant

The 't' value is found to be 2.78, which is significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees whose optional subjects were biological science and social science in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.

#### Environmental Awareness of Male and Female B.Ed., Trainees

In order to find out the significant difference between the environmental awareness scores of Male and Female B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in table-6

#### Null Hypothesis: 1

There is no significant difference between the male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.

TABLE – 6
't' VALUE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF

#### Sub-'t' Significant at the Variables SD N Mean **0.05** level samples value 200 Environmental Male 17.83 3.52 1.98 Significant 200 17.31 3.70 Awareness Female

MALE AND FEMALE B.ED., TRAINEES

The 't' value is found to be 1.98, which is significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant difference between male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.

#### **Environmental Awareness of Arts and Science B.Ed. Trainees**

In order to find out the significant difference between the environmental awareness scores of Arts and Science B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in table-7

#### Null Hypothesis: 2

#### TABLE-7

#### 't' VALUE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF ARTS AND SCIENCE B.ED., TRAINEES

Variables	Sub- samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental Awareness	Arts	200	18.10	3.97	0.57	Not Significant



The't' value is found to be 0.57, which is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is retained and it is concluded that there is no significant difference between arts and science group B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.

#### Environmental Awareness of Rural and Urban B.Ed. Trainees

In order to find out the significant difference between the environmental awareness scores of Rural and Urban B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in table-8

#### Null Hypothesis: 3

There is no significant difference between the rural and urban B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.

TABLE – 8
't' VALUE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF RURAL AND URBAN B.ED., TRAINEES

Variables	Sub- samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental	Rural	126	17.28	4.23	1.29	Not Significant
Awareness	Urban	274	17.84	3.52	1,27	

The 't' value is found to be 1.29, which is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is retained and it is concluded that there is no significant difference between rural and urban area B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.

#### Environmental Awareness of Age Between 20-22 and Age Between 23-25 B.Ed. Trainees

In order to find out the significant difference between the environmental awareness scores of age between of 20-22 and age between of 23-25 B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in table-9

#### Null Hypothesis: 4

There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between of 20-22 and age between of 23-25 in respect of their environmental awareness.

TABLE – 9 't' VALUE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF B.ED., TRAINEES WHO HAS THE AGE BETWEEN 20-22 AND AGE BETWEEN 23-25

Variables	Sub-samples	N	Mean	SD	ʻt' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental Awareness	Age limit of 20-22	182	17.02	3.32	1.62	Not Significant

The 't' value is found to be 1.62, which is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is retained and it is concluded that there is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their environmental awareness.

#### Environmental Awareness of Biological Science and Social Science B.Ed. Trainees

In order to find out the significant different between the environmental awareness scores of Biological



Science and Social Science B.Ed., trainees, 't' test was applied and it has been presented in the table-10

#### Null Hypothesis: 5

There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees whose optional subjects were biological science and social science in respect of their environmental awareness.

# TABLE – 10 't' VALUE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF B.ED., TRAINEES WHOSE OPTIONAL SUBJECT WERE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

Variables	Sub-samples	N	Mean	SD	't' value	Significant at the 0.05 level
Environmental	Biological Science	90	18.30	3.41	0.86	Not Significant
Awareness	Social Science	110	17.82	3.82	0.80	Not Significant

The 't' value is found to be 0.86, which is not significant at the 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis is retained and it is concluded that there is a significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees whose optional subjects were biological science and social science in respect of their environmental awareness.

#### **Correlational Analysis**

To find out the significant relationship between attitude towards environmental education and environmental awareness were correlated and the result are presented in the Table-11

# Table-11 Relationship among the B.Ed. trainees attitude towards environmental education and environmental awareness

Variables	r value	Level of Significance	
Environmental Attitude	0.63	Cignificant	
Environmental Awareness	0.03	Significant	

The calculated correlation value for the entire sample is found to be 0.63 which is significant at 0.05 level. Hence it is inferred that there is significant relationship exists between B.Ed., trainees attitude towards environmental education and environmental awareness.

#### **FINDINGS**

- 1.B.Ed. trainees are having a favorable attitude towards environmental education.
- 2. There is no significant difference between male and female B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 3. There is no significant difference between arts and science subject B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 4. There is significant difference between rural and urban area B.Ed. trainees in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 5. There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their attitude towards environmental education
- 6. There is significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees whose optional subject were biological science and social science in respect of their attitude towards environmental education.
- 7.B.Ed. trainees are having a high level of environmental awareness
- $8. There \ is \ significant \ difference \ between \ male \ and \ female \ B. Ed. \ trainees \ in \ respect \ of \ their \ environmental$



#### awareness.

- 9. There is no significant difference between arts and science subject B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 10. There is no significant difference between rural and urban area B.Ed. trainees in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 11. There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees who has the age between 20-22 and age between 23-25 in respect of their environmental awareness.
- 12. There is no significant difference between the B.Ed. trainees whose optional subject were biological science and social science in respect of their environmental awareness.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The B.Ed., trainees are having favorable attitude towards environmental education and also they having a good level of environmental awareness. The demographic variables gender, subject (Arts and Science), location, age and optional subjects (biological science and social science) played vital role in the present study.

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