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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



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Abstract: The present study is about environmental awareness of higher secondary school students in Cuddalore district. The environmental awareness tool standardized by Dr. G. Suthakar was administered to a random sample of 300 higher secondary school students in Cuddalore District. This study reveals that the environmental awareness of higher secondary school students have average level of environmental awareness and significantly differs with respect to boys and girls, living place, and parents education. There is significant relationship between environmental awareness. There is no significant relationship between. Type of school, parents income and parents occupation.

Keywords: environmental , standardized , nature – water , atmosphere.

INTRODUCTION:

God has created so many living and non-living beings, only in the planet Earth. The five elements of nature – water, land, air, atmosphere and fire constitute of Earth. Any change in one of these elements is bound to affect the equilibrium of other elements. Any change in the environment brings impacts on all living organisms including human beings. The environment is subject to constant change as changes happen in the elements constituting the Earth. From the dawn of human civilization man has commenced his intrusions in the sphere of environment for his needs of wood and logs, he used to fell trees. He had been killing birds and animals for his food. Human actions, more particularly the selfish nature of human beings are the root causes of environmental degradation and all kinds of pollution in every part of the world. Further, industrialization and urbanization have only increased pollution to the environment. The chemical effluents have been flowing into the clean rivers thus polluting them it is like digging ones own grave. Awareness is a continuous process in which the consciousness and knowledge of an individual is triggered to grow and aware can in order to understand the state of environmental conditions, public awareness a form of brings, human beings and societies to reach their fullest potential. The creation of awareness and provision of knowledge and skills to meet the challenges of environmental degradation is essential. The environment and the earth's natural resources should not be considered as being free and unlimited. The awareness about the fragile nature of the environment, the need for its protection and equity of its use must form an integral part of any developmental initiative. In this connection an increased emphasis should be placed on education training and raising public awareness.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To find out the environmental awareness of higher secondary school students in Cuddalore District.

- 1.To find out, the significance of difference, if any, in environmental awareness in terms of gender, type of school, educational status, occupation and parents income.
- 2.To find out the relationship between environmental awareness and demographic variables of higher secondary school students.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between the environmental awareness of higher secondary school student in terms of
 - i. Gender (boys and girls)
 - ii. Type of school
 - iii. Educational status of parents
 - iv. Parents occupation and
 - v. Parents income
2. There is no significant relationship between environmental awareness and demographic variables of higher secondary school students.

METHODOLOGY

The survey method was adopted.

Sample

The population consists of all the students both boys and girls studying in standard XI in Cuddalore District. A total of 300 students studying in standards XI were selected by random sampling procedure.

Tools

The environmental awareness tool developed by

Dr. G. Suthakar was used to find out environmental awareness of higher secondary school students. The test consists of 50 items which have been classified into 14 problems of the environment tool. The test – retest and reliability co-efficiency range in 0.91.

Analysis of data

The data was analyzed using, mean, standard deviation 't' test F-ratio and correlation co-efficient.

Table – 1
Significance of difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness of various pairs of sub-sample groups

Description	N	M	S.D	't' value	Significant at 0.01 level
Entire	300	33.28	5.92		
Gender					
Boys	200	31.40	5.70	9.40	Significant
Girls	100	37.02	4.40		
Type of school					
Government	210	32.88	5.66	1.88	Not significant
Private	90	34.47	6.53		
Parents income					
Below 25,000	280	33.23	5.89	0.57	Not Significant
Above 25,000	20	34.45	6.96		
Living placed					
Rural	250	33.81	5.88	3.90	Significant
Urban	50	30.43	5.36		

Table – 2
Significance of difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness of various pairs of sub-sample groups

Description	N	M	S.D	F	Significant at 0.01 level
Parents occupation					
Government employee	25	33.20	7.01	1.08	Not significant
Private	20	31.00	7.54		
Former	255	33.40	5.78		
Parents education					
Un educated	107	31.58	6.06	7.40	Significant
School education	108	34.16	5.66		
College education	13	36.00	5.40		

Gender

The obtained 't' value 9.40 value 9.40 for the difference in the mean scores of boys and girls is statistically significant. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. It is concluded that there is difference between boys and girls in the scores on environmental awareness.

Living place

The obtained 't' value 3.90 for the difference in the mean scores of urban and rural sample sub groups is statistically significant. It is higher then the table value at 0.01 level. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. It is there fore concluded that there is significant difference between

the environmental awareness of urban and rural students. The rural students have scored a higher score.

Type of school

The obtained 't' value 1.88 for the difference in the mean scores of boys and girls in not statistically significant. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that there is no difference between government and private in their scores on environmental awareness.

Parents occupation

The obtained 'F' value 1.08. For the difference in the mean scores of parental occupation is not statistically significant. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that there is no difference between parental occupation in their scores on environmental awareness.

Parents education

The obtained 'F' value 7.40 for the difference in the mean scores of parental education is statistically significant. It is higher than the theoretical value at 0.01 level. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. It is therefore concluded that there is significant difference between the environmental awareness of parental education.

Family income

The obtained 't' value 0.57 for the difference in the mean scores of family income is not statistically significant. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that there is no difference between family income in their scores on environmental awareness.

Table 3
Relationship between environmental awareness and demographic variables

Demographic variables	r	Level of significance
Gender	0.20	0.01
Living place	0.25	
Type of school	0.26	
Parents occupation	0.13	
Parents education	0.04	
Family income	0.07	

The table reveals that there is significantly correlation between environmental awareness of demographic variables.

FINDINGS

- 1.The higher secondary school students boys and girls differ significantly in their environmental awareness.
- 2.The higher secondary school students living place in rural and urban area differ significantly in their environmental awareness and the rural students have a higher scores.
- 3.The Students studying in government and private school do not differ significantly in their environmental awareness.
- 4.The higher secondary school students parents occupation do not differ significantly in their environmental awareness.

Environmental Awareness Of Higher Secondary School Students

5.The students with parents education differ significantly in their environmental awareness the former group has secured the higher mean score.

6.The higher secondary school students from income status do not differ significantly in their environmental awareness.

7.There is significant relationship between environmental awareness and demographic variables of higher secondary school students.

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