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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & TEENAGERS



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Short Profile

Gaurav Sachar is working as a Assistant Professor in P.K.R Jain (P.G.) College of Education.



ABSTRACT:

Environmental Awareness is having knowledge of the surroundings or world beyond once place. Environmental Awareness is the abc... of Environmental Literacy, Environmental Education, Environmental Issues and Environmental Programmes and so on. It is the first step of the ladder to Environmental Security for sustainable development. Human beings have always exploited the resources available in their natural surroundings for their benefit. Air, water, land, the atmosphere, living

organisms-each of these elements is of importance in some form or other to human beings. In the present study, 400 students of age group of (13-19 years) are taken randomly from four different co-educational schools from of Ambala District. For measuring Environment awareness researcher use EEI by... The study tells us that the level of environmental awareness highly depends on the gender, region and type of school however it is independent of stream of subjects. From the above findings it can be conclude that females, students of Government schools and students residing in rural areas are more concerned about environmental awareness

KEYWORDS

Environmental Awareness, Environmental Literacy, Environmental Education, Environmental Issue.

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INTRODUCTION :

India is a unique country with great cultural diversity, associated with all kinds of climates and rich flora and fauna. Living in harmony with nature has always emphasized with the philosophy to take from nature only what we actually need and not more. We must conserve resources for our future generations. The advancement of science and technology made the life more and more relaxed and man also became more and more ambitious. With such development, human dependence on environment increased. He consumed more resources and the effect of his activities on the environment became more and more detectable.

ENVIRONMENT:-

The term Environment is derived from French words 'environ' or 'environner' which means 'around'. This in turn originated from the French word- 'virer' or 'viron' along with prefix en, which means – 'a circle' or around' or 'circuit'. In this way the word- environment indicates the total of the things or circumstances around an organism. In its broader sense, Environment covers all the things present around the living beings and above the land, on the surface of the earth and under the earth. The sum of physical, chemical and biological factors to which we are exposed to, constitute our environment. Thus, Environment indicates in total, all of peripheral forces, pressures and circumstances, which affect the life, nature, behaviour, growth, development and maturation of living beings. Environment- our surroundings, conditions and influences that shape our life on this earth- could be considered as a resource that affects human beings directly or indirectly. We all wish to have a clean environment but very few of us are aware and much less feel genuinely concerned about it. During the last four decades, environment has been a subject of major concern for the whole humanity. There are many environmental issues threatening the survival of mankind on the earth. Why the Ganges River is most polluted river in India? What are the reasons behind Cold Weather cycle (Europe) in 2010-2011 and Scotland Windstorms in 2011? Why did a number of environmental disasters happen in a single year 2010: Leh-floods, Haiti Earthquake, Chile earthquake, Iceland Volcanic Eruption, Pakistan Flooding, Russia Heat wave, Tibet Earthquake? The age-old proverbs, "Everybody talks about weather, but nobody does anything about it". is not valid in this century. Our activities have some impact on the climate, although we may not be aware of it. A wave of concern for the environment swept across the developed countries in the sixties and reached in the climax in 1970 with the celebration of "earth day" under the auspicious of United Nations. Then from 1972 onward with the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment at Stockholm, this wave started sweeping across India and other nations. The need of Environmental Education, both formal and non-formal was keenly felt at the national level. Protecting the environment – is economically more effective than repair of its damage. In this regard public awareness bears immense importance to create environment oriented citizens in society. In the words of Sri Aurobindo Gosh, "The past is our foundation, the present our material, the future our aim and summit. Each must have its due and natural place in a nation system of education." There is the need to create public opinion world – wide in order to save our environment and our sweet home, the 'EARTH'. The individuals and social groups should acquire knowledge and develop attitudes, skills and abilities and participate in solving real life environmental problems, all these variables depends upon two most important words 'Environmental

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Awareness’.

CONCEPT OF ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS:-

We live in a very materialistic world. We want all the latest technology, more powerful cleaning agents, faster and larger cars, not to mention easy access to countries on the other side of the world. One could argue that many of these things have enhanced our quality of life, making our lives easier and allowing us experiences beyond our wildest dreams. But have we stopped to consider the impact on our planet earth??

I am sure we would all agree that we want a cleaner and safer earth for our children and grandchildren and although we are not in a positive to make the massive changes necessary to reverse the current situation overnight, we are in a positive to play our part in changing the world one step at a time and collectively making changes that will to SAVE OUR PLANET EARTH before it is too late. By Creating Environmental Awareness, we are taking the first step towards making these changes. Environmental Awareness means to be aware of the fragility of the environment and of the interdependence between the environment and mankind. It aims to create general awareness of environmental issues, their causes and solutions by bringing about changes in perception. It is essential for generating a wide-spread awareness of environmental problems. Awareness leads to action. By environmental awareness we mean:

(1) The attitude of the students towards the environment, that is, to what extent does students:

- think environmental preservations is important,
- recognize the existence of environmental problems,
- think it is important to solve environmental problems.

(2) The willingness of the students to behave in an environment–friendly manner.

The need of the hour is to orient citizens in environment responsible manner by promoting them environmental literacy and awareness so that we can make our planet earth a better place to live in.

ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS:-

Educational institutions play a very important part in the society and can in apt modes propagate these concepts easily- SASP for PAPP - Student awareness to Student participation to achieve Public Awareness to Public Participation. Environmental Education has been an area of great concern for the last few years. Environmental Educational in schools is taught as a separate and interdisciplinary subject according to the syllabus framed by NCERT (National Council For Educational Research And Training) since 2004. The main objective of imparting Environmental Education in school curriculum is to create awareness and knowledge, develop attitude, skill and abilities and prepare our students to participate in solving environmental problems.

Education is a powerful instrument to control social problems. For the environmental

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awareness, Union and State governments have made efforts. The programmes conducted should study the level of awareness and attitude of the target group. The study of awareness remains an important one.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS:-

Public education and awareness are the key factors in any attempt to maintain a proper balance and ensure sustainable development. Recognizing the preventing the potential of Environmental Education as an effective instrument in preventing environmental crises and as an essential element of sustainable development, Indian Environmental society has been engaged in spearheading Environmental Education and Awareness from the very beginning . IES has undertaken a few projects on environmental Education and is also continuing with some of the going programme Environmental Awareness Education – Supreme court on 22.11.1991 directed the states and other authorities to create environmental awareness among the students through the medium of education and ordered it to be strictly implemented under the supervision of the state authorities. NCERT was directed to prepare a model syllabus to be taught at different grades providing for environmental awareness. The objective of the environmental education is to enlighten the public, particularly students about the importance of protection and conservation of our environment and the need to restrain human activities which lead to indiscriminate release of pollutant into the environment. The Supreme Court judgement in the M.C Mehta Vs Union of India case requires that the Government of India and all the State governments should include Environmental Education in the curriculum of schools and colleges. The ruling comes into effect from 2004 and all educational institutions are required to introduce environmental studies. According to Belgrade Charter (1975) the aim of environmental education is “to develop a citizenry which is aware of and concerned about the total environment and its associated problems and that has the the knowledge, attitudes, motivation, commitment and the skills to work individually and collectively towards solutions of current problems and preventions of the new ones”

The National policy on Education (1986) stated that protection of the environment is a value. Which must form an integral part of curriculum at all stages of education. According to Louis Vernal – The Ministry of environment and Forest has formulated the policy to create awareness among all sections of society through national environment awareness campaigns, setting up of paryavaran vahinis, eco-clubs, production of audio-visual and print materials, exhibitions etc. Many Non Government Organizations, educational organizations and social organizations are activity involved in this programme through padayatras, rallies, public meetings, exhibition, folk dances, street plays, seminars and competitions etc.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:-

Human beings have always exploited the resources available in their natural surroundings for their benefit. Air, water, land, the atmosphere, living organisms-each of these elements of importance in some form or other to human beings. However, technological advancement has made human beings rapacious in their exploitation of natural resources. According to Theodore Roosevelt “The nation behaves well if it treats the natural resources as assets which it must turnover to the next generation increased and not impaired in value.” Uncontrolled economic development, overuse of groundwater

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systems, and pollution of natural resources has become the order of the day. Polluted environment endangers the human race by threatening its survival on planet earth. Boundaries of the nation cannot limit these environmental problems to a particular country and regions, but its impact is globular. This large scale environmental degradation has caused a global concern about the conservation and protection of the earth's Environment. Hence, efforts should be made for inculcating Environmental consciousness or awareness among the masses. The need of the hour is to implement Environment Education in full swing. Education is the only way is to boast of Environmental Awareness. In the long run, behaviour can be modified through the process of Environmental Education. An overview of the foregoing analysis amply reveals the fact that people especially students, must be taught the art of living "Environmentally Sustainable Lives". right from early childhood. The Supreme court of India has also realized the importance of this "Awareness" and commented the people are not living with environmentally sustainable lifestyles due to lack of knowledge, lack of potential skills or tradition and lack of community spirit.

Environmental Awareness is having knowledge of the surroundings or world beyond once place. Environmental awareness is the ABC of Environmental Literacy, Environmental Education, Environmental Issues and Environmental Programmes and so on. It is the first step of the ladder to Environmental Security for sustainable development. Environment is closely linked to human beings and hence influences their health and well being of all. It is vital to effectively educate man regarding his relationship to the total environment, the relationship which is based on the mutuality of respect rather than on superior-subordinate relationship. Students are said to be the future of the nation. Thus, students must have awareness about the environment and the problems associated with it so that they can play their role very effectively. Hence, it is necessary to know how far the school students are aware about the environment and environmental problems.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:-

- 1.To study the extent of environmental awareness among teenagers.
- 2.To study the environmental awareness on the bases of gender.
- 3.To study the environmental awareness on the basis of discipline of study [Science and Humanities].
- 4.To study the environmental awareness on the basis of type of schools [Government and Non-government].
- 5.To study the environmental awareness on the basis of home location (Urban\ Rural).

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY:-

In the light of the analysis of the data and interpretation of result of the present investigation as already discussed in the previous chapter, the following main findings are stated:

- 1.There was significant difference in the environmental awareness among male and female.
- 2.There was no significant difference in the environmental awareness among students of Science and Humanities groups.
- 3.There was significant difference environmental awareness in environmental awareness among the students of Government and Non government schools.

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4. There was significant difference in environmental awareness among the students belonging to urban/rural areas.

CONCLUSION:-

The level of environmental awareness highly depends on the gender, region and type of school however it is independent of stream of subjects. From the above findings it can be concluded that females, students of Government Schools and residing in rural areas are more concerned about environmental awareness.

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