A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG RURAL AND URBAN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF LUDHIANA DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to examine the Environmental Awareness among rural and urban senior secondary school students of Ludhiana districts. There was one variables in the study namely Environmental Awareness. Tool used in this study was Environmental Awareness Ability Measures (EAAM) by Jha (2010). Data was collected from senior secondary school students of Ludhiana District (100 male and 100 female) out of which 100 students were from rural area and 100 students were from urban area. The data was analyzed by employing descriptive statistics like Mean, Median, Mode, SD, t-ratio. It was analyzed that there exists no significant difference in environmental awareness of rural and urban senior secondary school students. It was further found that there exists no significant difference in environmental awareness of male and female of senior secondary school students.

KEYWORD: Environmental Awareness.

Environment refers to sum total of all conditions which surround a man at a given point of space and time. The environment is a term which refers all physically fortifiable things at a particular time. It is the interaction between the living and in a particular area to perform various important activities of life.

Environment cover all outside factors that have acted on the individual since he began life on earth. At the Belgrade international workshop (1957) working documents were provided by the trend papers that described the state of the art of the environmental education in all parts of the world and provisions to extend and explore the
environmental awareness, it also states a study shows that environmental awareness may provide power and understanding of some objectives of environmental education that is

- To recognize the interdependence among living and non-living things.
- To take decisions individually and collectively and initiate for conservation of nature and natural resources.
- To make people about effective use of environmental resources.

Through the process of environmental awareness, people participate in the process of development without destroying or affecting the economical balances because they are aware about the side effects of environmental degradation. The environmental awareness changes the human attitude towards nature. It creates consciousness and a sense of responsibility towards environment in the society. Environmental awareness is needed so that the people in general understand the complex nature of Nature and the man-made environment so that they should be in position to actively and intelligently participate in solving the problem related to the subject. They not only need motivation and knowledge but even the skills to tackle problems and that will come from awareness and education. Polluted environment in dangers the human raise by threatening its survival on the planet earth. It is education which can make the human being conscious and knowledgeable about various environmental problems.

**COMPONENTS OF ENVIRONMENT:**

Environmental factors may be biotic components (living organisms) and Abiotic components (non-living variables). Biotic component: Biotic components are the living things that form an ecosystem. Any living component that affects another organism is known as biotic factor. Abiotic components are non-living compound and physical elements in the environment. Components of environment can be listed into 4 major aspects- Lithosphere, Hydrosphere, Atmosphere and Biosphere.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS & UNDERSTANDING:**

Environment awareness and understanding among the people are, at once conscious of environmental education. An approach that emphasizes upon local issue, rather than global once, is often more effective in promoting public interest and understanding. This may account, in part, for the success of non-formal community environmental education.
and local environmental communication programmer in sensitizing people about the loss of natural resources & make them aware about environmental issues in both urban and rural areas.

A number of environmental problems have just a local dimension both in rural and urban areas. People should be made aware of the use of water, electricity, detergents, chemicals, plastic, steel, wood etc. above this level come the localities, villages and their common properties and small towns. People should be encouraged in tree plantation and maintenance, social forestry, environmental education, extension programmers etc.

**ROLE OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

Educational institutions play a very important role in spreading awareness among the mass and these efforts help in the Student awareness to student participation for achieves public awareness to public participation. Environmental education in schools is taught as a separate subject by following the syllabus framed by NCERT since 2004. The main objectives of imparting environmental awareness in school curriculum is to great awareness & knowledge, developing positive attitude & preparing students for participating in solving various environmental problems.

**ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION & AWARENESS:**

Environmental awareness refers to awareness about various problems related to environment. We should understand that improvement in the environment automatically improves the quality of life. It is not only a question of air and water pollution. It includes elimination of disease, hunger, malnutrition and poverty, destruction of waste. Hence there is an urgent need for proper management of the environment. The main hurdle is that there is a lack of scientific knowledge and the will to act. In such a position society needs to be convinced of the importance of environment and we have to rely the fact that the way we live, will determine our future. As the problem is one, of the people will go a long way in carrying out anti pollution measures. A number of environmental problem have a local dimensions both in rural and urban areas. Role of Non-Governmental organization (NGO, s) voluntary organizations help the government regarding some Local environment issues. Some of their functions are as follows:

- They can be very effective in organizing Public movements for the protection of environment through awareness programmes or courses.
- ‘Chipkoo Aandolan’ for conservation of trees.
• “Sastra Sahitya Parishad” for science and environmental awareness research and extension work.
• The recent report by CSE on use of excess pesticides in the Cola drinks sensitizes the people all over the country.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS: POLICY IMPLICATIONS

As government develops and revises national plans for environment and sustainable development which needs to be increasingly considered and integrated. Environmental education enables individuals to gain awareness about their environment. They also acquire and exchange the knowledge, values, skills etc which enable them to act, individually and collectively to solve all present and future problems. Environmental education includes a broader approach which tries to overcome the common perception of education as a one way flow of information usually taking place in school. This approach tries to use environmental education as an instrument to enable participation and learning for people for all ages, based on two way communication ultimately the educational process become sustainable when the people decide to head for action, when they take responsibilities and the process themselves. By achieving such a perspective, civil servants, social groups and NGO's put into effective environmentally sound policies for the conservation of nature. To achieve policy goals, government have at their disposal strict command and control instruments such as taxes, levies, subsidies, and laws as well as soft instruments such instruction, education, information, advertising and public relations.

As a policy instrument, education is effective only then:

1. The target is an identifiable and reachable.
2. The policy is clear, effective and legitimate.
3. The source is credible and legitimate.
4. The behavior requested is practicable, visibly helps solve the problems, has low individual cost, and is subject to control.

ROLE OF MEDIA IN CREATING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

One of the most effective way of spreading awareness among largest possible audience in the world and diverse country like India is mass media & vernacular press. Maximum environmental documentaries show on TV today attracts few viewers because of the
academic or pedantic manner in features on environmental issues, they usually superficially researched and poorly written. Various issues like pollution, climate change etc. the media has been playing a vital role in creating awareness and raise issue to the pertaining topic of the environment. The media covers each corner of our country for spreading awareness about environmental issues like drought in Gujrat, pollution in the capital metropolitan cities, Chennai ground water level depletion and pollution from coal mines in Jharia, west Bengal. It is still to be confirming that the role of mass media is one of the most important factors spreading awareness about environmental problems.

**METHODS TO PROPAGATE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS:**

Various stages and methods than can be useful in raising environmental awareness among different strata of the society are given below:

- **Inculcating among students with the help of education:** It is excellent step that at present, all over the state/country we are introducing environmental education as a compulsory subject at all stage including high school, higher secondary and college level which will be beneficial for all young generations.

- **Role of electronic media & Press :**The role of media is very important in spreading awareness among the masses on environmental issues through plantation campaigns, awareness rallies, Dramatization, real eco- disaster stories etc. Further TV serials are playing effective role in propagation of environmental awareness amongst the people of all age groups.

- **The society plays the most important role in shaping the future of the country,** it is very important to give them the decision maker for necessary orientation and training through specially organized seminars, workshops and other training programmes etc.

- **Publication of environment related resources material in form of brochure,** advertising pamphlets or booklets published by ministry of environment & forests, Govt. of India can also help in keeping environment save.
REVIEWS OF RELATED LITERATURE

Kaur (2012) conducted a study to provide information about the level of environmental awareness of B.Ed. students in Patiala district of Punjab (India). Data was collected with self prepared questionnaire on 100 B.Ed students. The results showed that B.ED students possessed fairly good level of environmental awareness. It was concluded that no gap exists awareness of students when distributed area wise and subject wise.

Sivakumar (2012) made a study on the environmental awareness of high school students, related to their gender (boys/girls), locale (rural/urban) and type of school (govt./private). The study was conducted in Karnataka state (Devengere district). The sample comprised of 1440 students from standard ix in both urban and rural areas and different types of schools by stratified random sampling. Tool used for the study was environmental awareness ability measure developed by Parveen Kumar Jha (1998). The data were analyses by using mean, SD, ‘t’ test & ANNOVA(two way). Results show that, gender and locality have interaction effect on environmental awareness.

Singhal and Verma (2012) examined the study to measure environmental awareness by a standard tool in higher secondary students of Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. Level of environmental awareness was found to be high in most students of different disciplines without gender difference. The students of humanities showed minimum awareness; biology and mathematics students showed the maximum environmental awareness. The students of central board had better awareness than those of state board.

INFERENCE:

Many studies have been conducted on environmental awareness by many researchers. From most of the studies, it is evident that urban students have more environmental awareness than rural students and there is a different environmental awareness level between male and female students.
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM:

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG RURAL AND URBAN SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF LUDHIANA DISTRICT.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

- To study the environmental awareness among rural senior secondary school students.
- To study the environmental awareness among senior secondary school students with respect to their gender and locale.
- To find out the difference in environmental awareness between rural and urban senior secondary school students.
- To find out the difference in environmental awareness between male and female senior secondary school students.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:

- There exists no significant difference in environmental awareness ability of students belongs to rural and urban areas.
- There exists no significant difference in environmental awareness ability of males and females senior secondary school students.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM:

Human beings are the best creation of god and he always like to go for discovering something new, inventing, creating etc. He has the ability of transforming the nature. But, sometime same creativity can cause harmful effect to environment. Thus, since beginning of the earth he benefited the earth and with same zeal caused the harm also. He polluted the water, air, cause harm to living
beings on earth, land, sky etc. Ozone layer is depleted. At present, the entire world is facing numerous of environment problems. These problems are of great concern for scientists all over the world. We better know that over-exploitation of natural resources is responsible for some of environmental problem. Some other problems are the direct outcome of lack of concern toward environment. Environment is threatened due to many hazards. Air, water and soil pollution is increasing every day. Vehicular exhausts, smoke releasing tall smokestacks, mining are various problem associated with human activities. Such activities pose many threats to the help of people. Degradation of environment result in many problems. All this disturbs the ecological balance. The government is taking several steps but is not success everywhere. Participation of people and students is there for, very important in planning and management of environment. The surrounding in which we live is our environment. Therefore there is a need product and pre service our environment. Hence efforts are being made for inculcating environment consciousness among the masses.

**OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF THE TERM USED:**

**Environmental Awareness:** - Environmental awareness refers to information, conscious and sensitive state of an individual about environment and its allied problems along with measures for protection. Environment awareness means pure knowledge & understanding of environment and applied knowledge for solving various environmental problems.

**SAMPLE:** In the present study, sampling has been done by using Random Sampling Method. The researcher shortlisted sixteen schools from Ludhiana district (8 schools from rural area and 8 schools from urban area). The schools were randomly selected by lottery method. A Sample of 200 students from rural and urban senior secondary school students were selected. The systematic layout of design is as follows.
DELIMITATIONS OF THE PRESENT STUDY:

1. The study was restricted to 200 senior secondary school students only.
2. The study was restricted to 100 urban and 100 rural senior secondary school students (100 male and 100 female) only.
3. The study was confined to Ludhiana district only.

TOOL USED IN THE STUDY:

Environmental Awareness Ability Measures, (EAAM) by Jha.

METHOD AND PROCEDURE

The methodology makes the most important contribution towards the conduct of the study. It helps to achieve economy in time and coordinating of efforts. Descriptive survey method was used for present study. The data for the present study was collected from subjects belonging to various government & private schools of Ludhiana district. In all there were 200 students including both boys and girls. Before collecting data, confirmation from the head of the institutions was obtained and rapport with the students of senior secondary classes established. Before disturbing the test was readout. Students were motivated for providing correct response. At the time of data collection it was checked that they have answered all the statement. The scoring was done manually for
each list as discussed under tools. Scores of each individual were obtained on the basis of the tests.

**STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE USED:**

Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation & t-test.

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS**

Analysis has been done with the help of various statistical techniques. The researcher found the results are being discussed in the table below:

**TABLE 1:** Group-wise N, M, S.D, and t-value in Environmental Awareness among Rural and Urban Senior Secondary School Students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D</th>
<th>t-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rural</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>30.57</td>
<td>9.30</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>27.82</td>
<td>6.23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not significant at 0.05 level and significant at 0.01 level of confidence.

Mean value and standard deviation of environmental awareness among students of rural area are calculated as 30.57 and 9.30 respectively. Mean value and standard deviation of environmental awareness among students of urban areas are calculated as 27.82 and 6.23 respectively.

Further the calculated t-value is 2.16 which are significantly higher than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of confidence.

Further the calculated value is 2.16, which is less than 2.58 (table value) at 0.01 level.

Hence hypotheses which state that “there will be no significant difference in environmental awareness ability of students residing in rural and urban areas” is accepted as 0.05 level of confidence and rejected at 0.01 level of confidence.
Table 2: Group-wise N, M, S.D and t-value of environmental awareness among of male and female senior secondary school students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>S.D</th>
<th>t-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>18.14</td>
<td>0.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>29.67</td>
<td>14.98</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not significant at 0.05 level and 0.01 level.

Mean value and standard deviation of Environmental Awareness ability of male senior secondary school students 28.8 and 18.15 respectively. Mean value and standard deviation of Environmental Awareness ability of males and females senior secondary school students are calculated as 29.67 and 14.98 respectively.

Further the calculated t-value is 0.41 which is less than 1.96 (table value) at 0.05 level. Again the calculated t-value is 0.41 which is less than the 2.58 (table value) at 99 percent (0.01 level) confidence interval.

Hence hypothesis which states that “there will be no significant difference in environmental awareness ability of males and females senior secondary school students” is accepted at 0.05 level and accepted at 0.01 level of confidence.
CONCLUSION:

following conclusions have been arrived in the present study:

- There was no significant difference in environmental awareness of rural and urban senior secondary school students.
- There was no significant difference in environmental awareness of male and female of senior secondary school students.

The purpose of this study was to examine Environmental Awareness among senior secondary school students with respect to their gender and type of school. 200 students from 16 secondary schools (rural and urban) of Ludhiana district were selected by random sampling technique. The assessment instruments used in the study was Environmental Awareness Ability measure (EAAM) by Jha (2010).Results depicts an insignificant difference between mean scores of rural and urban senior secondary school students on the variable of Environmental Awareness. There was found a significant difference in male and female senior secondary school students on the variable of Environmental Awareness.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- The study may also be helpful in providing directions to the teachers and the parents to provide suitable facilities and congenial environment to promote environmental awareness level of the students.
- The study may also be helpful to encourage non-government institutions, media and other concerned for promoting awareness among the people at all levels.
• Educational programs and curriculum should give attention in developing the individual’s environment awareness.
• The study may also be helpful in designing special educational programs that raise the environment awareness for school students.

SUGGESTION FOR THE FURTHER RESEARCH

Research is a continuous process. When one problem is solved, another problem crops up; new problem is solved, it in turn to indicate still another problem needing scientific exploration. Moreover, after completing one’s piece of work, every investigator feels tempted to suggest new problems for research. Presently the investigator would like to offer the following suggestions for further research:-

• To promote environment education through various educational institutions.
• The study can be extended beyond Ludhiana district.
• A study can be made more comprehensive by extending it to state level which will make result more valid and reliable.
• Effectively designed search strategies can be constructed an implemented.
• Larger sample can be taken for the study.
• A similar study can be done on college and university students.

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