

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF IX STANDARD STUDENTS IN CHENNAI CITY – A STUDY

Research
Paper

ABSTRACT

Environment is the concern of mankind. We all wish to have a clean environment but very few of us are aware and much less feel genuinely concerned about it. Environment is the sum total of substances and forces around any organism, affecting its very existence. The world today faces problems like global warming, greenhouse effect, acid rain, deforestation, overpopulation and so on. So Environmental Education has great importance as our lives to a large extent depend on our response to emerging problems related to the environment. The present study aims at finding the level of environmental awareness among school students. In this study the investigator found that urban students have a higher level of environmental awareness than rural students, and no significant difference is seen in environmental awareness when sex, type of school, type of residence and locality are considered.

INTRODUCTION

Advancement in science and technology has made life more and more relaxed and man has become more and more ambitious. With such development, human dependence on the environment has increased. He consumes more resources and the effect of his activities on the environment has become more and more detectable.

Environment covers all the things present around the living beings and above the land, on the surface of the earth and under the earth. Environment indicates, in total, all of peripheral forces, pressures and circumstances, which affect life, nature, behaviour, growth, development and maturation of living beings.

Environmental Awareness is a state of being conscious about environment. It may be defined as helping the individual gain a variety of information and experiences leading to a basic knowledge and understanding of environment and problems associated with it.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

From the review of related studies it could be observed that a few attempts have been made so far to investigate the level of environmental awareness among school students after the implementation of 'Environmental Education' as a separate subject in Indian schools.

Jyotsna Jalan, E.Somanathan, Saraswatha Chaudhri, (2003) - from the studies we could see that

there is a significant difference between rural and urban regions and gender difference in the environmental awareness. Durga Malathi, K., (2002) – from his study, we could see that there is association between environmental awareness and fathers' occupations as skilled workers. Some findings showed significant difference in environmental awareness, and religious groups and school types (M.Balamurugan, 2004 – 05). A study on students' perception of 'Disaster Management' found that there is a correlation of perception of school students between the natural and man made disaster management. (P.Dharini). Another finding showed that teachers teaching science had significantly higher environmental awareness compared to teachers of social sciences and languages (G.C. Pradhan, 2002).

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To find out the significant difference in the Environmental Awareness of
 - ❖ Boys and girls
 - ❖ Government and Private school students

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- ◆ Students residing in Own houses and Rental houses
- ◆ Students from Rural and Urban area (locality)

HYPOTHESES

- ◆ There is no significant difference between the Mean scores of Standard IX boys and girls in Environmental Awareness.
- ◆ There is no significant difference between the Mean scores of Standard IX students studying in government and private schools in Environmental Awareness.
- ◆ There is no significant difference between the Mean scores of standard IX students residing in own houses and rental houses in Environmental Awareness.
- ◆ There is no significant difference between the mean scores of standard IX students from urban and rural areas in Environmental Awareness.

Methodology

The investigator adopted the survey method of research. After the selection of the title and the tool, the data were collected from 200 students. The data, thus collected, were statistically analyzed and conclusions were drawn. The investigator had taken 4 background variables for the present study. They are Gender, Locale of the school, Type of the school and Type of residence.

Sample

Standard IX students form the population of this study. Among them 200 students from 6 higher secondary schools were taken as sample. Random sampling technique was adopted for this study.

Tools and Statistics

The investigator constructed a standardized tool and the same was employed to seek information from the students of IX Std. Mean, Standard Deviation and 't' test were the statistical techniques used.

TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference between the Mean scores of Standard IX boys and girls in Environmental Awareness.

Table 1
DIFFERENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL OF STUDENTS DUE TO SEX

| Variable | No. | Mean | SD | Calculated 't' Value | Remark at 5% Level |
|----------|-----|-------|------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Boys | 90 | 13.51 | 3.46 | 1.31 | Not Significant |
| Girls | 110 | 15.71 | 3.94 | | |

The calculated 't' value 1.31 at 5% level is less than the table value 1.96. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis 2

There is no significant difference between the Mean scores of Standard IX students studying in government and private schools in Environmental Awareness.

Table 2
DIFFERENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF STUDENTS DUE TO TYPE OF SCHOOL

| Variable | No. | Mean | SD | Calculated 't' Value | Remark at 5% Level |
|------------|-----|-------|------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Government | 91 | 10.52 | 2.54 | 1.31 | Not Significant |
| Management | 109 | 18.31 | 4.54 | | |

The calculated 't' value 1.31 at 5% level is less than the table value 1.96. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference between the Mean scores of Standard IX students residing in own houses and rental houses in Environmental Awareness.

Table 3
DIFFERENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF STUDENTS DUE TO TYPE OF RESIDENCE

| Variable | No. | Mean | SD | Calculated 't' Value | Remark at 5% Level |
|----------|-----|------|------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Own | 122 | 27.9 | 2.47 | 1.66 | Not Significant |
| Rental | 78 | 16.5 | 1.53 | | |

The calculated 't' value 1.66 at 5% level is less than the table value 1.96. So, the null hypothesis is accepted.

Hypothesis 4

There is no significant difference between the mean scores of standard IX students from urban and rural areas (locality).

Table 4

DIFFERENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF STUDENTS IN TERMS OF LOCALITY

| Variable | No. | Mean | SD | Calculated 't' Value | Remark at 5% Level |
|----------|-----|-------|-------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Rural | 80 | 46.09 | 14.67 | 2.36 | Significant |
| Urban | 120 | 53.37 | 11.69 | | |

The calculated 't' value 2.36 at 5% level is greater than the table value 1.96. So the null hypothesis is rejected.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS

- There is no significant difference in the environmental awareness of students due to sex.
- There is no significant difference in the environmental awareness of students due to difference in type of school.
- There is no significant difference in the environmental awareness of students due to difference in type of residence.
- There is significant difference in the environmental awareness of students due to locality. Urban students have higher level of environmental awareness than rural students.

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- 4) Science attitude among the school students in relation to their school environment.
- 5) Science attitude among the school students in relation to their religious tolerance.

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