

ATTITUDE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN RELATION TO LOCALE AND TYPE OF SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

The current research paper studies the attitude of high school students towards environmental protection with respect to locale and type of school. To study the attitude of high school students towards environmental protection descriptive survey method has used as research method. A sample of 200 high school students, comprised of 100 rural and 100 urban was drawn from five high schools (100 high school students from three government schools and 100 high school students from two private schools) of district Kanyakumari. The high school students were selected from different schools of district Kanyakumari through convenience sampling technique. Environmental Protection Attitude Scale prepared by investigator was used to collect the data from high school students. Z'-test was used to analysis the data. Result revealed that 1) there exists statistical significant difference in attitude of rural and urban high school students towards environmental protection; and 2) there exists statistical significant difference in attitude of private and government high school students towards environmental protection.

KEYWORDS: Attitude, Environmental Protection and High School Students.

INTRODUCTION

The human world undergoes various changes from its creation. The present environment is the outcome of million year transformation. This divine gift undergoes both positive and negative impacts. Even though the human actions destroyed the beauty of mother nature, She kept alive because of some good deeds of good hearts ie, the action of protecting the human environment. Protection of environment is the ultimate aim of human life. The stone age, which was considered as uncivil an age in our point of view, was the best age which groomed mother nature. It was the golden era of our earth. But the present world, which was considered as the most civilized age, harms the nature in all dimensions.

Environment etymologically means 'Surroundings'. All the living and non-living organism which surrounds us is called 'environment'. According to John Bellingham (2008) 'Environment is the totality of external surroundings, including conditions, circumstances and event. The concept of human world is to protect, to preserve landscape and monuments (or) buildings and to stop pollution. Environment is the combination of physical and biological situation, and is know as 'biosphere'. It consists of biotic components include plants, animals, microorganisms and human beings, abiotic components include water, air, soil, temperature and energy.

Man depends entirely on his environment for air, water, food, space, and shelter. There have been significant changes in the nature environment owing to man's rapid progress in Urbanization, industrialization, agriculture and modernization. Every natural components are now under threat of environmental deterioration. Man, in his quest for comforts, started exploiting natural resources. The people of ancient world protected the environment as Godly treasure. Because they have strongly believed that environment has a direct import on the quality of man.

Scientific and industrial revolution during the last century brought more comforts to man, but it directly and indirectly harms the environment. It caused serious environment erases. They are global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation and desertification. The well developed cities are highly polluted now environment has become the burning issue for all the academicians, scientists and politicians all over the world. Systematic concern for the environmental issues has been growing through out the world, particularly after 1960s.

Environmental awareness provides per and understanding to take decisions individually and collectively and initiate actions for social, cultural and economic survival and development and for conservation of nature and natural resource. Many governmental and non – governmental organizations of different countries generated awareness among masses towards environmental protection. Consequently efforts are being made to resist environment degradation. The earth summit held in Rio de – Janeiro (1992) and Johannes borg (2002) is considered as the remarkable action taken towards environmental protection.

The awareness towards environment should be aroused from childhood, as children are the future decision makes. They should be aware of their responsibilities and duties towards ecological environment. What is acquired in the developmental stage of an individual will have an influence in the attitude in later years. So opportunity should be given to every human

beings in their childhood, to mingle with the environment. At early childhood every individuals have more interest to play with nature. This attitude become weak as they grow up. If the children are provided with the opportunity to mingle with the nature as they grow up. If the children are provided with opportunity to mingle with the nature as they grow up, their attitude also will automatically revolve around environmental protection.

The family, school society and all the national and international governmental and non governmental organizations and associations have the responsibility protection among high school students.

REVIEWS OF RELATED LITERATURE

Sunitha Tewari¹ and Dinabandhu Pati (2024) conducted an investigation on the “Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students”. The study has been designed to study the Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students. Various Indian and foreign studies were reviewed. Descriptive Survey method has been used in this study. The sample consists of 200 students studying in secondary schools. The investigator used stratified random sampling technique for selecting the sample. Questionnaire was constructed for the Students to find out the opinions on the Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students. The data were analyzed using various statistical methods like mean, SD, 't' test and F-test were the statistical techniques used. The score obtained by different groups are compared across the variables like gender, class, management, and locality. The results are discussed in light of previous research studied; suggestions and Recommendations for further research were also suggested.

Harish Mittu (2019) conducted an investigation on the “Attitude of Secondary School Students towards Environmental Pollution in relation to Locale and Type of School”. The study focuses on the attitude of secondary school students towards environmental pollution with respect to locale and type of school. To study the attitude of secondary school students towards environmental pollution descriptive survey method has used as research method. A sample of 200 secondary school students, comprised of 100 urban and 100 rural was drawn from five secondary schools (100 secondary school students from three government schools and 100 secondary school students from two private schools) of district Kapurthala, Punjab. The secondary school students were selected from different schools of district Kapurthala, Punjab through convenience sampling technique. Environmental Pollution Attitude Scale by Prof. M. Rajamanickam (1998) was used to collect the data from secondary school students. Z'-test was used to analysis the data. Result revealed that 1) there exists statistical significant difference in attitude of urban and rural secondary school students towards environmental pollution; and 2) there exists statistical significant difference in attitude of private and government secondary school students towards environmental pollution.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Students are the most apt group for developing right attitude towards anything. Students usually have a don't care attitude towards pollution (or) protection of their surroundings. So it is necessary to develop sufficient awareness among them. Science has given us all the materials comforts. But man has still failed to realize that any new factors will upsets the balance of the ecosystem as a whole.

At present numerous issues like ecological imbalance, environmental degradation global warming etc. have been raised so it is the urgent need of the day to make awareness in our students about the environmental protection. It is observed that degradation of environment mostly occurs due to destruction of natural environment. Now there is a cry all over the world for protection and preservation of natural resources. But this is possible only with a right type of attitude towards environmental protection.

UNESCO marked that environmental education is the way of implementing goals of environmental protection. It should be carried out according to the principles of life long integral education'. According to Mishare (1999) 'Environmental Education appears to be a process that equips human beings with awareness, knowledge, skills, attitudes and commitment to improve one's environment'. The main objective of environmental education is to keep each and everyone to know about the ways of protecting one's environment. The aim of environmental education is that individual and social groups should acquire awareness on solving real – life environmental problems.

Through environmental education students get knowledge and skills from their teachers to protect their environment. The teachers and parents try to inculcate knowledge about environment and develop positive attitude towards environment from the beginning of life. Teachers motivate their students to participate in various environmental protection programmes the children acquire sensitivity to the total environment.

Today the global concern is to fight against environmental pollution and maintain the standard of human environment. The industrials revolution and unprecedented scientific and technological revolution has resulted in disastrous changes in the environment leading to environmental degradation. To overcome environmental degradation, awareness should be created among students. Nowadays we can hear drinking water issues and food issues often. It is because of the effect environmental pollution. As a result of global warming the ice plates have started melting and the sea level also have increased.

To overcome all these issues, a positive attitude towards the environmental protection must be developed. Every person must be provided with adequate opportunities to acquire knowledge on environment. By a study conducted by Mercy and Arjunan in 2005, it is revealed that boys have better attitudes than rural children. But the recent studies revealed that nowadays there is no gender difference in attitude towards environment. The students have to be educated about recent development in environmental issues like global warming, ozone layer depletion and soon. The students must be encouraged to participate in workshops and conferences, where the threats to the global issues are discussed. Schools should take efforts to update the students knowledge on environmental related issues by refresher courses (or) crash courses. Compulsory environmental education from primary level to higher education level should be implemented by government. The young generation should understand that conservation and improvement of the environment is very essential for the survival and well being of human world. They should have clear awareness on using natural resources carefully to ensure a healthy environment for the future world. Our education system is still lack in creating environmental awareness among the students. Serious actions should be taken to create awareness among the school students. There should be training programmes for the teachers to develop positive attitude towards environment and environment Protection. Teachers should be the role model for their students in creating positive attitude towards environment. The lack of awareness of the teachers on environment is also one of the reasons for the ignorance of the students on environmental matters.

The science teachers should give more importance for developing positive attitude towards environment. They can easily connect their cones with environments. Various recent studies reported that science students have better attitude and awareness level towards environment and issues related to its protection. It has been also founded that the children of educated parents have better knowledge on environment. So parents also should be aware of environmental issues.

It is necessary to make procedure and practices regarding environmental protection. It can't be fulfilled without the actions. It should become our part of life. All people in the world has same environment. So it is the duty of every citizen in the world to protect our nature education is much successful in creating better attitudes in students lives. So imparting these procedures and practices through education is very important.

The clear knowledge about environment helps to develop positive attitude towards environmental protection among high school students. It can be nurtured by curricular and co-curricular activities. In order to get success in developing positive attitude to the whole society high school students should considered as top priority. It is very important to give education to high school students to understand environmental problems and to identify the reasons behind these problems and to take necessary actions to solve these problems.

The irresponsible behaviour of the adults are the root cause of lack of knowledge among school students. To change the negative attitude of the adults towards environment, government should concentrate on mass media awareness. This is the only way to change the attitude of adults. This change will directly influence the younger generation also. Every individual should understand their own role in the environment. They should consider themselves as the part of the environment. Parents should encourage their children to engage in outdoor educational activities like hiking, gardening and camping. This will create a connection to the environment and motivate them to protect it. It is so school environments on developing positive attitude towards environment. It is also very important. It is also very important to analyze the impact of social media also.

Statement of Problem

The study is entitled as ATTITUDE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN RELATION TO LOCALE AND TYPE OF SCHOOL.

Objectives

- To compare the attitude of high school students towards environmental protection with respect to locale
- To compare the attitude of high school students towards environmental protection with respect to type of school

Hypotheses

- There exists significant difference in attitude of rural and urban high school students towards environmental protection
- There exists significant difference in attitude of private and government high school students towards environmental protection

Design of the Study

In the present study, descriptive survey method was used to collect the data. A sample of 200 high school students, comprised of 100 boys (50 urban and 50 rural) and 100 girls (50 urban and 50 rural), was drawn from five high schools (100 high students from three government schools and 100 high school students from two private schools) of district Kanyakumari through convenience sampling technique.

Research Instrument

Environmental Protection Attitude Scale was prepared by the investigator to assess the attitude of high school students towards environmental protection.

Delimitation

- The study was confined to the Kuzhithurai Educational District only.
- The study was confined to the environmental protection of high students alone.
- The investigator selected 200 high school students only.

Statistical Technique

The objectives and hypotheses of the study have been tested by using z'-test.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of data, result and interpretation of findings has been done keeping in view the objectives and hypotheses of the study.

Result Pertaining to Attitude of High School Students towards Environmental Protection with respect to Locale

The objective was to compare the attitude of high school students towards environmental protection with respect to locale. After administering the environmental protection attitude scale; mean, standard deviation, standard error of difference and z'-value for attitude of rural and urban high school students towards environmental protection were computed and the result have been presented in table 1.

H_a: There exists significant difference in attitude of rural and urban high school students towards environmental protection.

TABLE 1. Significance of Difference between Attitude of Rural and Urban High School Students towards Environmental Protection

Group	N	Mean	SD	SED	z'-value	Remark
Rural	100	84.36	8.52	1.61	5.21*	P < 0.01
Urban	100	95.87	12.89			

*Table values of t' (df = 198) at 0.05 and 0.01 level of confidence are 1.96 and 2.57 respectively

Interpretation

Table 1 shows the mean scores, standard deviations, standard error of difference and z'-value for attitude of rural and urban high school students towards environmental protection. The table 1 reveals that the mean attitude scores of rural and urban high school students towards environmental protection are 84.36 and 95.87 respectively. It may be concluded that urban high school students have more concern towards environmental protection as compared to rural high school students. The value of standard deviation in case of rural and urban high school students is 8.52 and 12.89 respectively. The z'-value for attitude of rural and urban high school students towards environmental protection comes out to be 5.21, which is statistically significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It shows that rural and urban high school students differ significantly from one another with respect to their attitude towards environment protection.

Hence, the stated hypothesis that there exists significant difference in attitude of rural and urban high school students towards environment protection is accepted at 0.01 level of confidence.

Result Pertaining to Attitude of High School Students towards Environmental Protection with respect to Type of School

The objective was to compare the attitude of high school students towards environmental protection with respect to type of school. After administering the environmental protection attitude scale; mean, standard deviation, standard error of difference and z'-value for attitude of private and government high school students towards environmental protection were computed and the result have been presented in table 2.

H_a: There exists significant difference in attitude of private and government high school students towards environmental protection.

TABLE 2. Significance of Difference between Attitude of Private and Government High School Students towards Environmental Protection

Group	N	Mean	SD	SED	z'-value	Remark

Private School Students	100	96.81	16.82	1.83	3.47*	P <0.01
Government School Students	100	89.02	10.20			

*Table values of t' (df=198) at 0.05 and 0.01 level of confidence are 1.96 and 2.57 respectively

Interpretation

Table 2 shows the mean scores, standard deviations, standard error of difference and z'-value for attitude of private and government high school students towards environmental protection. The table 2 reveals that the mean attitude scores of private and government high school students towards environmental protection are 96.81 and 89.02 respectively. It may be concluded that private high school students have more concern towards environmental protection as compared to government high school students. The value of standard deviation in case of private and government high school students is 16.82 and 10.20 respectively. The z'-value for attitude of private and government high school students towards environmental protection comes out to be 3.47, which is statistically significant at 0.01 level of confidence. It shows that private and government high school students differ significantly from one another with respect to their attitude towards environment protection.

Hence, the stated hypothesis that there exists significant difference in attitude of private and government high school students towards environment protection is accepted at 0.01 level of confidence.

CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded from the result and discussion that-

- Urban and rural high school students differ significantly from one another with respect to their attitude towards environmental protection. Table 1 shows that urban high school students found to have more concern towards environmental protection as compared to rural high school students because there are more problems related to environmental protection in rural areas as compared to urban areas.
- Private and government high school students differ significantly from one another with respect to their attitude towards environmental protection. Table 2 shows that private high school students found to have more concern towards environmental protection as compared to government high school students because more activities related to environmental protection are organized in private high schools as compared to government high schools.

Implications of the Study

This study reveals that the urban high school students are more concern towards environmental protection than rural high school students and private high school students are more concern towards environmental protection than government high school students. So it is needed to develop awareness among students.

- The awareness should be given students through environmental education.
- Teachers should create positive attitude among the students towards environmental protection.
- Various programmes on environmental awareness should be conducted and the teacher should encourage all the students to participate it.

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