

Environmental Awareness in Relation to Environmental Ethics and Pro Environmental Behaviour of Secondary School Students

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ABSTRACT

Every human being has the right to decent life, but today there are elements in our environment that tend to militate against the attainment and enjoyment of such a life. The exacerbation of the pollution of environment can cause untold misery. Unhappiness and suffering to human beings crop up, simply because of our lack of concern for the common good and the absence of sense of responsibility and ethics for sustaining a balanced ecosystem.

Keywords: awareness, environment, Awareness, Ethics, Pro-Environmental behavior

Environment:

The environment is something you are very familiar with. It's everything that makes up our surroundings and affects our ability to live on the earth—the air we breathe, the water that covers most of the earth's surface, the plants and animals around us, and much more.

Environmental Awareness:

Environmental Awareness refers to the knowledge which people have acquired about the total environment and its allied problems. Environmental specialists and world educators have repeatedly pointed out that solution to the environmental crisis will require Environmental Awareness and understanding to be deeply rooted in the educational system at all levels. Environmental education aims at developing in the individual, awareness and understanding of the physical and social environment in its totality.

As an effort towards teaching environmental education to the school students, the ministry of environment and forests under the Government of India is helping to run the Eco-clubs in several schools across the country. The Eco-clubs were set up very recently in the late nineties, mostly in government run schools with the ministry chalking out programs for the students. The Eco-clubs were also part of the Schools' extra-curricular activities. The Eco-club movement has been religiously taken up in the Kendriya Vidyalayas (Central Schools) all over the country. The Eco-clubs are under the charge of a senior teacher in the school with interested students becoming its members. Gradually the Eco-club membership is likely to become compulsory for all students from sixth to twelfth standards. The members meet regularly under the teacher's guidance at intervals of fifteen days or a month. They discuss the environmental problems faced by mankind, their causes and their role in preventing them in the future. Sometimes students are shown videos of several environmental hazards in the world. Student members also take up tree plantation programs and take care of the saplings till they grow. In addition, the members take out rallies and organize poster campaigns to draw the attention of the general public to the current environmental problems. Thus the Eco-clubs are a government - supported effort to kindle concern for the environment in the young minds of the society.

Environmental Ethics

Environmental Ethics concern to human beings ethical relationship with the natural environment. Environmental Ethics has developed into a specific philosophical discipline in the 1970's. This emergence was no doubt due to the increasing awareness in the 1960's and the effects that technology, industry, economic expansion, and population growth were having on the environment. The development of such awareness was due to the publication of two important books at that time, Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring', first published in 1962, alerted readers to how the widespread use of chemical pesticides was posing a serious threat to public health and leading to the destruction of wild life.

Environmental Ethics is basically a human ethics based on social justice for all without discrimination of race, sex, religion, ideology, caste, region or nation. Most of the current environmental problems are essentially resulting of people's activities and their attitude toward the socio-cultural and natural environment. Historically, individual and societal values have not always been in the best interest of preserving a high quality environment. The present day

environment crisis demands a change in attitude, in order that initiatives can be taken to rescue the environment from destruction (Natural Environment Research Council, UK, 1989).

Pro-Environmental Behaviour:

Environment is the surroundings of the human. Environment and humanity are closely related to each other. Interaction of a person with environment is usually called environmental behavior.

In early 1970s, the term environmental behaviour (Rickson, 1972; Kinnear, Tailor and Ahmed, 1974; Arbuthnot and Lingg, 1975) emerged in empirical studies. The motivation of social scientists to conduct this kind of research has been not only progress of scientific knowledge but also providing policy and marketing relevant knowledge.

Pro-environmental Behaviour is defined by Kollmuss and Agyeman (2002) as, Behaviour that consciously seeks to minimize the negative impact of one's actions on the natural and built world. Most cases of environmental behavior can be, based on the knowledge of environmental science or ecology, judged according to their impact on the environment, and labeled as environmentally friendly or unfriendly. Some cases can be judged easily, e.g. a bicycle ride is more positive than the ride in a car. Pro-environmental behavior is such behavior which is generally judged in the context of the considered society as a protective way of environmental behavior or a tribute to the healthy environment. Other terms are used as equivalents for pro-environmental behavior. They are Environment protective Behavior, Environment-preserving Behavior, Environmentally responsible Behavior, Ecological Behavior and Sustainable Behaviour. Out of the 1806 secondary school students of Kerala, 61.50% of students show average responsible environmental behaviour. 18.80% shows high responsible environmental behaviour and 19.70% shows low responsible environmental behaviour. Majority of the students shows average responsible environmental behavior.

Mehpare Saka(2023) The Examination of Relationship between the Approaches to Environmental Ethics and Environmental Behaviours of Teacher Candidates by Different Variables.. Out of the teacher candidates, 650 are female and 231 are male students. The data were obtained with Environmental Behaviour Scale and the Approaches to Environmental Ethics Scale. Descriptive statistics, Mann Whitney-U and Kruskal-Wallis H tests, and Spearman Rank-Difference Coefficient of Correlation methods were used for the analysis of the data which determined that there was a low level of relationship between the environmental behaviours and the approaches to environmental ethics of the teacher candidates and that the approaches to environmental ethics and the environmental behaviours differed for some of the variables including gender, department and place of residence.

Anjum Sahidullah(2021) investigation a study of environmental awareness among secondary school students. The present study is an attempt to study the Environmental Awareness of secondary school students with respect to gender. Descriptive research method has been used in the present study. 100 students of class X of Pragjyotish English High School and Rosebud English High School, Guwahati (Assam) were selected as sample of the study. The tool used in the study was Environment Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM) prepared by Dr Praveen Kumar Jha. The results revealed that the level of Environmental Awareness of secondary school students was above average. Further, no significant difference was found in Environmental Awareness of secondary school students with respect to gender.

Aquila Modupe Otitoju (2022) studied on Influences of Teachers Training on the Rate of Pro- Environmental Behavior Among Teachers; A Systematic Literature Review. hematic analysis was utilized to analyse emergent themes in chosen research papers focusing on teacher training on environmental education in schools, using NVivo software. As a result, several themes relating to pro-environmental activities/programs, environmental awareness, and pro-environmental behaviors emerged. The key finding revealed that after teachers received environmental-related training, there was an increase in environmental awareness, positive behavior toward the environment, and a motivation to teach environmental topics in classes.

Hong Tian (2022) examined Pro-Environmental Behavior Research: Theoretical Progress and Future Directions. It presented the research overview of pro-environmental behavior in terms of status of literature publication, research hotspots and topics.. Theoretical integration is the direction of future research, such as the combination of rationality and sensibility, and the combination of external and internal causes.

Kuldeep Chavada1, Dr. Dinesh Charan (2020) studied on An analysis of Environmental Ethics among - college students Purposive sampling technique was used to select sample of 60 college students equally divided according to the gender and level of education. The sample was selected from various college of Ahmedabad city. Tools like Environmental Ethics Scale (Dr. (Mrs.) Haseen Taj) was used to measure Environmental Ethics. The finding revealed there is significant difference was found among them with regard to gender and there is no significant difference was found among them with regard to level of education

Dr. Umme Kulsum & M. Shankarappa (2018) studied on Environmental Ethics among higher secondary students of Kolar District of Karnataka State. To study the effectiveness of Environmental Education that we are giving in

development of Environmental Ethics among Secondary School Students. The study found that irrespective of gender, boys and girls need to possess Environmental Ethics as Environmental Ethics is of at most importance for the protection and conservation of environment. There is lot of difference in Environmental Ethics of Urban and Rural background students. Rural background students possess more Environmental Ethics than that of urban background students.

Aziz, Syaeda Sara (2015) conducted a study titled, A Study of Environmental Awareness and Environmental Ethics among the Primary and Secondary School Teachers of Allahabad. Environmental Ethics scale developed and standardized by Haseen taj and Environmental Awareness test by Vipinder Nagra were been used in the study to measure the variables of the study The study recommended that Effective environmental courses should be developed for each level of education from primary to higher education .

Observations

From the review of related literature in Environmental Awareness in Relation to Environmental Ethics and pro environmental behaviour of secondary school students the following factors were identified.

- Male students had more environmental awareness while as female students possessed a more positive attitude and participation level in environmental activities than male counterparts. Private school students had more environmental awareness than Government school students.
- Environmental Awareness of secondary school students was above average. Further, no significant difference was found in Environmental Awareness of secondary school students with respect to gender.
- No significant difference was found between rural and urban, and between students from science and non- science stream with regards to their awareness about the environment.
- Male students of rural area, private school and English medium school were found to be more environmentally aware in comparison to male students of rural area, private school and English medium school.
- Significant difference between Environmental Ethics of male and female secondary school students.
- There is lot of difference in Environmental Ethics of Urban and Rural background students. Rural background students possess more Environmental Ethics than that of urban background students..
- No significant difference is noted in Environmental Ethics of Higher Secondary students with respect to gender.
- No difference of the pro-environmental behaviour was found in case of gender but the significant differences were found in case of localities as well as topographical zones.
- There was a low level of relationship between the environmental behaviours and the approaches to environmental ethics of the teacher candidates and that the approaches to environmental ethics and the environmental behaviours differed for some of the variables including gender, department and place of residence.

CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that majority of secondary school students awareness in environmental ethics and pro environmental behavior. Finally in all the level of education, Environmental Education is being taught as a prime subject.

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