



A STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG RURAL AND URBAN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN THIRUVALLUR DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the relationship between environmental awareness among rural and urban secondary school students of Thiruvallur District. This study adopted survey method of research. participants were 300 secondary school students randomly selected from different schools in Thiruvallur District. The research instruments used for data collection was environmental awareness ability scale developed by Dr. Praveen Kumarjha (1998). Tested at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance. The study reveals that the environmental awareness of male students is slightly better than the female mean score. The study reveals that the environmental awareness of English medium students is slightly better than the Tamil medium students mean score.

Keywords: Environmentalism, Environmental awareness, rural and urban students.

INTRODUCTION

Environment etymologically means surroundings. It means all that is found around an individual. It includes interaction and relationship among the natural elements living, non-living and man made. It is the sum total of external factors, substances and conditions which influence organisms without their intrinsic part. The environment though invisible has no geographical and ideological frontiers, and it is common to all living organisms-man, animals and plants.

'Environment included a complex of natural, built and social components in the life of humanity and that the social components constitute a set of cultural, moral, personal values and interrelations' (Tbilisi, 1997).

Human modified the natural system into an artificial and highly productive system to get more resources that are nutrient and it resulted in the production of more by-products and waste. This leads to enormous exploitation of natural resources and gigantic and unmanageable amount of by-products and wastes, has resulted in today's environmental crisis, which has endangered not only human existence but also the earth (Sharma, 1986).

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

While environment awareness may, at first glance, seem more connected with the science curriculum, it has implications for other disciplines. The issues associated with environmental awareness are connected with values, ethics, attitudes towards the natural world, social consciousness and aesthetic awareness. Furthermore, exploration through environmental awareness requires the use of language process. It is a broad series of topics that lend themselves to trans disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to instructions.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Formally the problem can be stated as follow

A study on environmental awareness among rural and urban secondary school students in Thiruvallur district.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To find out significant difference between the Male and Female secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
2. To find out significant difference between the Male and Female secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
3. To find out significant difference between the Tamil medium and English medium secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
4. To find out significant difference between the Tamil medium and English medium secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
5. To find out significant difference between the Joint family and Nuclear family secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
6. To find out significant difference between the Joint family and Nuclear family secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
7. To find out significant of difference among the secondary school students in Rural area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Type of school Management.
8. To find out significant of difference among the

secondary school students in Urban area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Type of school Management.

9. To find out significant difference between the Literature and Illiterate Father's qualification of secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
10. To find out significant difference between the Literature and Illiterate Father's qualification of secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
11. To find out significant difference between the Literature and Illiterate Mother's qualification of secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
12. To find out significant difference between the Literature and Illiterate Mother's qualification of secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
13. To find out significant of difference among the secondary school students in Rural area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Parental Income.
14. To find out significant of difference among the secondary school students in Urban area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Parental Income.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between the Male and Female secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between the Male and Female secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
3. There is no significant difference between the Tamil medium and English medium secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
4. There is no significant difference between the Tamil medium and English medium secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
5. There is no significant difference between the Joint family and Nuclear family secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
6. There is no significant difference between the Joint family and Nuclear family secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
7. There is no significant of difference among the

secondary school students in Rural area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Type of school Management.

8. There is no significant of difference among the secondary school students in Urban area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Type of school Management.
9. There is no significant difference between the Literature and Illiterate Father's qualification of secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
10. There is no significant difference between the Literature and Illiterate Father's qualification of secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
11. There is no significant difference between the Literature and Illiterate Mother's qualification of secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness.
12. There is no significant difference between the Literature and Illiterate Mother's qualification of secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness.
13. There is no significant of difference among the secondary school students in Rural area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Parental Income.
14. There is no significant of difference among the secondary school students in Urban area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Parental Income.

RESEARCH DESIGN

Methodology

The study was conducted through survey method of research and it is most suitable for the present study.

Variables

Environmental awareness

Sample

A started random sampling technique was adopted for the selection of sample 300 secondary school students were taken for the study.

Research tools

To verify the hypothesis formulate in the study, the following tool have been use.

- a. Environmental awareness ability scale developed by **Dr. Praveen Kumarjha (1998)**.

STATICAL TECHNIQUES

A research should be familiar with principles, procedure, merits and demerits of the statistical techniques was adopted. In the present study the following statistical

techniques were used.

- Descriptive analysis
- Differential analysis
- Correlation analysis

MAJOR FINDINGS

1. It is found that there exists no significance of difference between the Male and Female secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
2. It is found that there exists no significance of difference between the Male and Female secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
3. It is found that there exists a significance difference between the Tamil medium and English medium secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
4. It is found that there exists no significance of difference between the Tamil medium and English medium secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
5. It is found that there exists no significance difference between the Joint family and Nuclear family secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
6. It is found that there exists no significance of difference between the Joint family and Nuclear family secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
7. It is found that exists a significant difference between Government vs. Private and Aided vs. Private school students based on their Environmental Awareness of secondary school students in Rural area.
8. It is found that there exists a significant difference between Government vs. Aided and Aided vs. Private school students based on their Environmental Awareness of secondary school students in Urban area.
9. It is found that there exist no significance of difference between the Literature and Illiterate Father’s qualification of secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
10. It is found that there exist no significance of difference between the Literature and Illiterate Father’s qualification of secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.

11. It is found that there exist no significance of difference between the Literature and Illiterate Mother’s qualification of secondary school students in Rural area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
12. It is found that there exist no significance of difference between the Literature and Illiterate Mother’s qualification of secondary school students in Urban area based on their Environmental Awareness mean scores.
13. It is found that there exist no significant of difference among the secondary school students in Rural area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Parental Income.
14. It is found that there exist no significant of difference among the secondary school students in Urban area with respect to Environmental Awareness based on their Parental Income.

TABLE -1

TABLE SHOWS THE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TAMIL MEDIUM AND ENGLISH MEDIUM SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RURAL AREA BASED ON THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS USING MEAN SCORES.

VARIABLE	MEDIUM	N	MEAN	SD	t-value	L.S
Environmental Awareness	Tamil	81	19.16	6.792	2.924	0.01
	English	130	22.47	8.657		

GRAPH SHOWS THE SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TAMIL MEDIUM AND ENGLISH MEDIUM SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RURAL AREA BASED ON THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS USING MEAN SCORES.

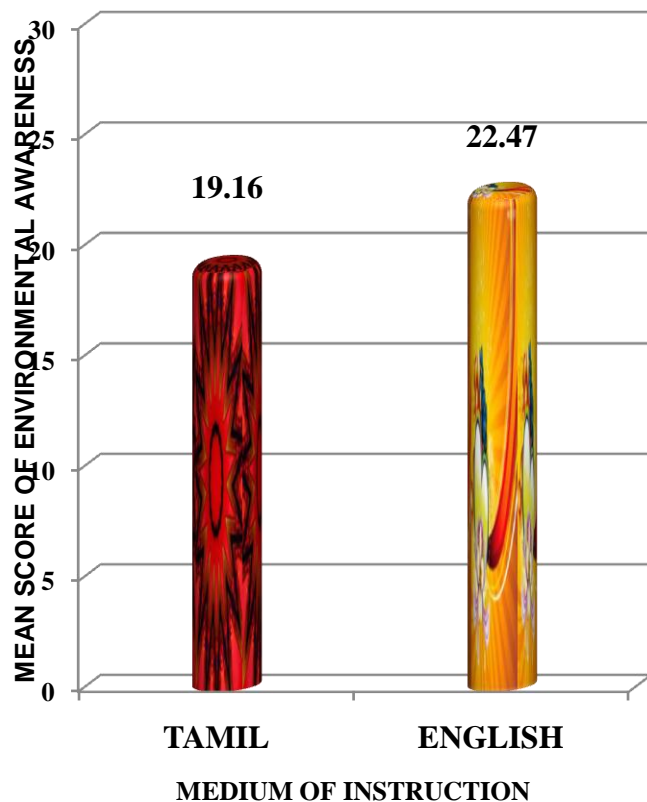


Table -2

TABLE SHOW THE SIGNIFICANT OF DIFFERENCE AMONG THE SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RURAL AREA WITH RESPECT TO ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS BASED ON THEIR TYPE OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT

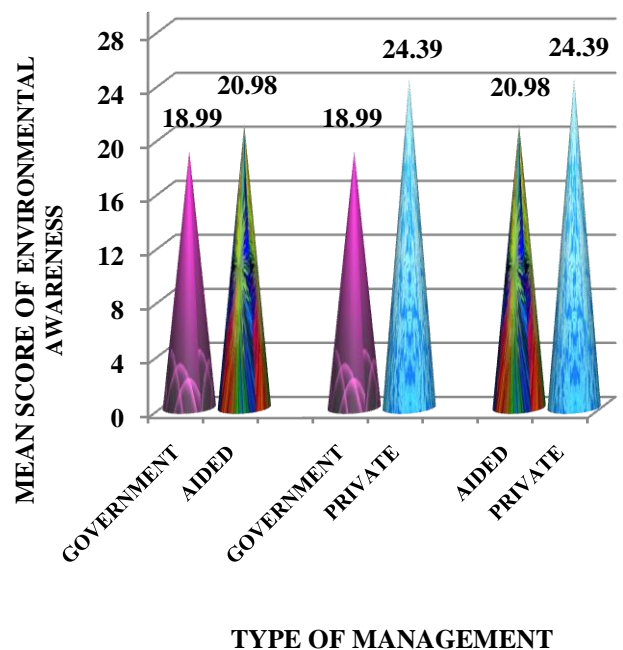
VARIABLE		SUM OF SQUARES	DF	MEAN SQUARES	F value	L.S
Environmental Awareness	Between groups	1038.957	2	519.479	8.398	0.01
	With in groups	12866.682	208	61.859		
	Total	13905.640	210			

TABLE -3

SHOWING THE SIGNIFICANCE DIFFERENCE OF TYPE OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RURAL AREA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.

Variable	Type of school Management	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	L.S
Environmental Awareness	Government	83	18.99	6.799	1.618	NS
	Aided	66	20.98	8.262		
	Government	83	18.99	6.799	4.189	0.01
	Private	62	24.39	8.720		
	Aided	66	20.98	8.262	2.267	0.05
	Private	62	24.39	8.720		

GRAPH SHOWING THE SIGNIFICANCE DIFFERENCE OF TYPE OF SCHOOL MANAGEMENT OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RURAL AREA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS.



DISCUSSION

The study reveals that the environmental awareness of male students is slightly better than the female mean score. It clearly shows that men are free to this society as

per our culture and hence that show some better awareness towards environment than the women in the rural area same also resembles in urban area statistical analysis.

The study reveals that the environmental awareness of English medium students is slightly better than the Tamil medium students mean score. It clearly shows that English medium are from self financing schools and they must have some extracurricular activities in their school and hence that show some better awareness towards environment than the Tamil medium students in the rural area but it totally changed in urban area where Tamil medium students awareness is better than English medium students. It is due to goal setting habits of the school changed the vision of students to concentrate only in result oriented schools.

In order to acquire with the knowledge of environmental suitable well organized curriculum need to be organized at all level of education more specifically at the higher secondary level. A special programme on environmental education need to made compulsory at levels of education. Series of workshops, seminars, conferences, exhibitions, field visit may be organized to create an awareness among the students just knowledge on environmental issues alone is no use but they should be informed of how to uphold the values to maintain the environmental without disturbing its equilibrium, educational institutions can organize environmental clubs/association to involve the student community to practice all the skill they have learnt in relation to environment awareness programme may be organized intensively for the student community and a new teaching-learning technique in the form of programmed instruction for the fun of knowledge of high school students can be developed for environmental awareness and academic achievement, this study will help to produce talent and caliber of high school students learners who will be environmental literate citizens in preserving the global environmental for a sustainable community such sustained efforts should be made to improve the coverage of adult education.

CONCLUSION

Environment is a global concept today. Environmental education is an approach to learning. It makes the pupil's education problem related to understanding the environment and hazards of its pollution. It helps us as how unchecked and unplanned development pollutes air, water and soil and thereby threatening our subsistence and existence. As the problem is one, of the people, for the people, a proper understanding and support of the people will go a long way in carrying out antipollution measures. A number of environmental problems related to use of water, electricity, detergents, chemicals, plastic, wood, sanitation etc. have just a local dimension both in rural and urban areas people. Should be made aware of these. People should be encouraged in tree plantation and maintenance, social forestry, environment education, extension programmes etc. In industrial towns the problems of industrial wastes and effluents on the one

hand and growth of slums and related urbanization problems on the other, assume importance. In the fast changing world, human being tride to make use of all this scientific and technological means to conquer and modified the nature for their conveniences. Such a human activities drastically affected the nature. The present investigation is an attempt to know the high school students environmental awareness and academic achievement. The potential group of the future country. From the present study, It is inferred that the student community of the high school students levels and need lot of orientation and other forms of inputs to develop awareness about the environment condition preservation and protection of the equilibrium of the environment such aspects program is more essential to save the environment unable to peacefully live and promote sustainable development of the human kind. The economic man derives and utilizes resources from the physical and biotic environment with his skills and technologies. The economic function makes the man an environment/geomorphic process as he transports matter and energy from one component of the ecosystem to the other. His exploitative functions may be in harmony with the natural environment. Such, functions do not necessarily involve change in the working of the ecosystem. These functions may exceed the critical limit. Consequently, the equilibrium of the environment/ecosystem is disturbed and a great number of environment and ecological problems crop up. These are deterring mental to man him besides to whole population of human species in a given ecosystem.

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