

# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS OF C.B.S.E. AND U.P. BOARD IN KANPUR MAHANAGAR

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## ABSTRACT

*The problem of environmental degradation is becoming more and more serious day by day. This is due to the life style adopted by the people and their general apathy to the surroundings. The teen age students are more prone to the life style propagated by the TV. The traditional life style which was very much symbiotic with environment is under constant pressure by the industrialized and consumerist culture. The children and teen agers are particularly targeted through various advertisements to adopt a consumerised life style which is not in synchronization with the environment. That's why this study was conducted on the senior secondary students of C.B.S.E. and U.P. board in Kanpur Mahanagar.*

*A total of 137 students were selected from different boards by using purposive sampling technique. (83 male and 54 female). For collecting data the tool "Environmental Awareness Ability Measure" constructed by Praveen Kumar Jha was used and t-ratio test was used for analysis of data. The main findings of this study are: C.B.S.E. Board students have more environmental awareness in comparison to U.P. Board students. Male and female students of C.B.S.E. and U.P. Board were identical as far as their environmental awareness was concerned.*

## INTRODUCTION

The widespread agreement these days is that environmental problems are among the biggest problems facing humankind. We may not face an environmental crisis due to the advanced technologies developed by the scientists. But we do face a crisis in our conception of ourselves and of our relations to our surroundings. Reflection on these matters is timely for the future both of humanity and of the many other species whose survival is in our hands. Whenever society faces large problems, there is a tendency to think that either their roots or their solutions lie at least partly in the educational system. This is as true of environmental troubles as it is of football hooliganism, racism and child abuse.

Preservation of our environment is a fundamental need of humanity which was accepted by everyone in the first international conference on environment in Stockholm in 1972. Climate change, forest destruction, acid rain, desertification and global warming are some important issues discussed in Prithvi Shikhar Sammelan at Brazil in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro. After the report of IPCC (2007), the international community laid emphasis on the reduction of green house gases particularly CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> in Bali

Conference on climate change (2007). All the participants from about 188 countries, arrived at a final draft to follow the Kyoto-Protocol (1997) terms and conditions as soon as possible.

## NEED OF THE STUDY

Environmental problems are not at all new phenomena. In the present scenario environmental hazards produce dangers for the survival of the human race and other life forms. However, after the Second World War the exponential growth of ecological problems has broadly run parallel with population explosion in developing countries and the development of technology and affluence in industrialized societies. It is obvious that the equilibrium of the biosphere is changed and that the environment is shaped by man's adaptation to his surroundings and by the social systems he creates as his second 'nature'.

The researcher reviewed a few studies which are directly related to environment awareness. In her study Ms. Seema (1997) found that there is no significant

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difference between the awareness of undergraduate, postgraduate & research scholars in regard to their awareness of environmental pollution. Read and Pongracz (2000) studied public education and awareness in UK and concluded that several techniques have been commonly used in Europe and North America to try to motivate residents to participate in all forms of waste management. Environmental awareness has been studied with respect to scientific attitude among higher secondary students of Varanasi city (Bharti Anita, 2002). Moyer (1977) developed an unconstructive environmental attitude instrument to measure the environmental attitude of the students. Gupta (1986) studied the attitude of teachers towards environmental education and he found that the majority of teachers showed a favorable attitude towards environmental education. Singh (2005) conducted a study of scientific phenomenon between holistic education and environmental awareness. The finding of the study was that strategies for sustainable development can do only by improving environmental awareness by a holistic approach to education.

An analysis of the above research works proves that we do not find any study trying to answer some research questions which are given below:

1. How is environmental awareness affected by type of institution (C.B.S.E. & U.P. Board)?
2. How is environmental awareness affected by sex?

Investigator has taken effort to find out answers to these above questions. On the basis of the findings the investigator has tried to give the main causes. Hence the problem "A comparative study of environmental awareness between secondary students of C.B.S.E. and U.P. Board" is worth making and will go a long way in solving many problems related to environmental crises.

#### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A comparative study of environmental awareness in senior secondary students of C.B.S.E. and U.P. Board.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the study are

1. to compare C.B.S.E. and U.P. Board students with regard to their level of environmental awareness.

2. to compare male and female students of C.B.S.E. with regard to their level of environmental awareness.
3. to compare male and female students of U.P. board with regard to their level of environmental awareness.
4. to compare male and female students with regard to their level of environmental awareness.

#### NULL HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The null hypotheses of the study are

1. There is no significant difference between C.B.S.E. and U.P. Board students on environmental awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between male and female students belonging to C.B.S.E. on environmental awareness.
3. There is no significant difference between male and female students belonging to U.P. Board on environmental awareness.
4. There is no significant difference between male and female students on environmental awareness.

#### METHOD OF THE STUDY

Descriptive survey method has been used for the study.

#### POPULATION OF THE STUDY

All the students of class 11 affiliated to C.B.S.E. and U.P. Board in four colleges in Kanpur Mahanagar were taken as population for the study.

#### SAMPLE AND SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

A total of 137 students (83 male and 54 female) were selected by using purposive sampling technique.

#### TOOL

For collecting data the standardized tool "Environmental Awareness Ability Measure" constructed by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha which contains 43 positively and 8 negatively worded items was used. By Split-Half Method reliability of this tool is 0.61 and by K-R Method it is 0.84 and validity is 0.83.

## COLLECTION OF DATA

By direct administration of the test, data was collected by the investigator from the students belonging to four colleges.

## ANALYSIS OF DATA

t-ratio test has been used to test the significance between the two groups of students. Furthermore the null hypotheses were tested.

### Hypothesis 1-4

There is no significant difference between i) C.B.S.E. and U.P. Board students ii) male and female C.B.S.E. students iii) male and female U.P. Board students and iv) male and female students in environmental awareness.

Table 1

### SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN I) C.B.S.E. & U.P. BOARD STUDENTS II) MALE AND FEMALE C.B.S.E. STUDENTS III) MALE AND FEMALE U.P. BOARD STUDENTS AND IV) MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Group of Students	Number	Mean	Standard Deviation	t	Level of Significance
C.B.S.E.	29	45.07	2.87	4.7	0.01
U.P. Board	108	40.69	4.79		
C.B.S.E. Boys	18	44.39	3.2	1.69	N.S.
C.B.S.E. Girls	11	46.18	1.8		
U.P. Board Boys	65	40.83	5.26	0.36	N.S.
U.P. Board Girls	43	40.49	3.87		
Male Students	83	41.6	3.5	0.08	NS
Female Students	54	41.65	4.21		

t - Value at 0.05 level is 1.96

## FINDINGS FROM THE STUDY

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C.B.S.E. students had more environmental awareness in comparison to students belonging to U.P. Board because of better educational climate and higher socio-economic status of C.B.S.E. students. Male and female students of C.B.S.E. and U.P. Board were identical as far as their environmental awareness was concerned because of the socio-economic status and school environment of male and female students being the same.

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION

On the basis of conclusions of the study the investigator is able to say that due to better educational climate and higher socio-economic status the C.B.S.E. students had more environmental awareness in comparison to students belonging to the U.P. Board. So, it is essential to drastically change the socio-economic status of U.P. Board students by giving proper education.

This study also reveals many types of educational implications. To improve the level of environmental awareness in secondary students an interesting syllabus should be developed in curriculum of U.P. Board schools. Awareness campaigns about environmental related issues in U.P. Board schools as in C.B.S.E. schools should be organised. All the facilities like co-curricular activities related to environmental education should be provided in U.P. Board schools. Various activities related to environmental education like essay writing, mime etc. can be arranged in U.P. Board schools also. Environmental education should be introduced as a separate subject in the higher secondary level.

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