

ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AMONG THE STUDENTS OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out with a sample of 150 students from the College of Education using an environmental attitude scale for assessing the significant difference in the mean scores of environmental attitude. The results indicated that there was a significant difference in the mean scores of Environmental attitudes between the students belonging to the science group and arts group, there existed a significant difference in the mean scores of Environmental attitudes between the rural and urban students. There existed no significant difference in the mean scores of Environmental attitudes between the students in terms of gender and terms types of institution.

Keywords : *Environment, Environmental attitude, college students*

Introduction

Our environment is our surroundings, it provides us with the necessities of life, and if the environment collapses, then the whole of mankind will collapse. Thus, it is necessary to protect our environment. The attitude and knowledge about the environment help how to maintain, protect and improve the environment.

For accomplishing any task, the attitude towards it is a very essential criterion. Thus, the Attitude towards the environment of young people is quite essential for better conservation of our environment. Hence there is a need to identify their attitude towards the environment for promoting a positive attitude among young people which in turn will facilitate them to sustain the environment through their thus gained vibes.

The instant study is a detailed study of the Environmental attitude of College Students. Environmental consciousness is not new to our country, which is crystal clear through the sculptures, inscriptions, epitaphs, mausoleums, and most importantly through the dynasties of India, etc., Environment, as such has a wide perspective, which essentially means the surroundings that impact the development and growth of human race. This environment takes cognizance of all important facets of life – the biological, social, chemical, physical, and economic, making awareness among our population on this important aspect the ultimate requirement of the hour.

Significance of the study

Nowadays, there is a depletion of attitudes towards the environment among students. Hence it becomes inevitable to manifold their attitude and love towards the environment.

The whole of mankind is coming across an unexpected situation in respect of the worldwide prevalence of environmental degradation. Hence, the study of attitudes towards environmental problems has become a vital one for the conservation and protection of the environment.

Thus, the necessity of the hour for Society is to study the attitude of young people towards their environment, because any change in attitude will definitely bring about a major change in the conservation and protection of the environment. The future of the nation depends entirely on the students. So, the researcher wants to study Attitudes towards the Environment among college students.

Review of related studies

Elif Bozdogan Sert Environmental awareness and attitudes in university students. This instant study conducted

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on the Hatay Mustafa Kemal University students aimed to find out their awareness and attitudes towards environmental problems based on locality, nationality, gender, and education level. To facilitate this, based on a 5-point Likert scale a standard questionnaire was made ready. By using the stratified sampling method 1310 individuals were selected and the questionnaire was circulated to these 1310 individuals in the academic year 2011–2012. Statistically, the procured data were analysed. On analysis, it was found that for university students the environment was not the most important problem on a national or local scale. The result indicated that among the University students, the level of awareness was found to be higher than the level of attitude. Significantly, on environmental attitude, gender was not found as an effective parameter.

Ponmozhi1, S.Krishnakumari Environmental Attitude of School Students. Among the districts in Tamilnadu, Cuddalore District was taken and the environmental attitudes of the school students of Cuddalore District in Tamilnadu were considered. By utilizing a random sampling technique, 200 samples were collected. Through the Normative survey method, the study proposed to find out the levels of environmental attitudes of students and if selected pairs of sub-samples differ significantly, by any means. The researcher used High school students' environmental attitude: scale Developed by Ugulu, I., Sahin, M. & Baslar, S. (2013). It was ascertained that the environmental attitudes of the majority of the students were high. Sub-samples did not differ significantly. To find factors contributing environmental attitudes of students a stepwise regression was used. 2 out of 10 predictors were found in the 2 step. The model accounted for approximately 20% of the variance of environmental attitude and was statistically significant. It was evident that the Medium of instruction is a strong indicator of emotional intelligence and it was achieved through inspection of the structure coefficient.

Marianne Heyl Environmental attitudes and behaviours of college students: a case study conducted at a Chilean university. In order to reduce the environmental impacts and move toward a more sustainable future, the adoption of pro-environmental behaviour is to be encouraged and it is vital in order to reduce the environmental impacts and to sustain a better future. Training Professionals in Higher education, who have an indelible

part in protecting the future environment, plays an important role. This study aims to identify whether there are significant differences between college students depending on their gender, the year in which they are studying and the diploma of specialization, related to the environment or not. The instant sample consisted 383 numbers of engineering students in their first, third, and sixth years, to measure environmental attitudes and behaviors two instruments were designed to measure environmental attitudes and behaviors. Among the students pursuing Diploma and those who weren't, there existed significant differences related to the environment. On the other part, between students enrolled in different levels, there was no significant difference.

Definition of key terms

Environment Science : The branch of science concerned with the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the environment and their effect on organisms.

Environmental attitude: The beliefs and values of individuals or societies with respect to nature, ecology, or environmental issues.

Objectives

Following are the objectives of the present investigation.

1. To study the level of Environmental attitude of college students.
2. To study the difference, if any, between college students with reference to Environmental attitude in relation to their Gender, Locality, Groups studied, Type of institution

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant mean difference between Male and female B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude.
2. There is no significant mean difference between rural and urban B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude.
3. There is no significant mean difference between the science and arts groups B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude.

4. There is no significant mean difference between private and government college B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude.

Methodology

Normative survey method was analysed as the best effective method and it was used to achieve the objective of the study.

Both descriptive and differential analysis were engaged to achieve the objectives of the study. The mean and Standard Deviation for the scores of Environmental attitudes of college students were calculated.

Sample

Both sexes of college students studying in Pondicherry constituted the population of the study. Six colleges formed the sample for the study. According to their locality, boys, girls, and co-education colleges were selected for the study. An equal number of students from each group was selected. The total number of students was 150.

Tools

The tool used in the present study is;

Environmental attitude

The environmental attitude scale consists of 25 statements rated on five points, a Likert-type scale. The five possible responses to each statement were

SA – Strong Agree

A – Agree

N – Neutral

D – Disagree

SD – Strongly Disagree

This scale was used to measure student's attitudes toward the protection of the environment and environmental problems. Scores were based on the student's responses on the Likert scale. A student obtained a single attitude score that fell between a minimum score of 25 and a maximum score of 125. A neutral score of 75 occurred if students answered primary in the mid-range of 3. This indicated that the students were apathetic or had no opinion about the environment. Attitude scores of less than 75 represented an overall favorable environmental attitude.

DATA ANALYSIS

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant mean difference between male and female B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude



Table 1

Difference between male and female B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude

Gender	N	Mean	S. D	t value	Remark
Male	75	14.11	3.25	1.88	NS
Female	75	15.11	3.26		

It is evident that the table value of 1.96 at a 0.05 significance level is higher than the obtained t-value of 1.88, thus, accepting the null Hypothesis. This infers that, in environmental attitude, there is no significant mean difference.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant mean difference between rural and urban B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude.

Table 2

Difference between rural and urban B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude

Group	N	Mean	S. D	t value	Remark
Rural	99	17.88	4.09	2.61	S
Urban	51	19.45	3.13		

It is evident that the table value of 1.96 at a 0.05 significance level is lesser than the obtained t-value of 2.61, thus, rejecting the null Hypothesis. This infers that, in environmental attitude, there is a significant mean difference between urban and rural B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant mean difference between B.Ed. students from science and arts groups in their environmental attitude.

Table 3

**Difference between arts and science group
B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude**

Group	N	Mean	S.D	t value	Remark
Science	80	15.81	3.15	5.23	S
Arts	70	13.23	2.88		

It is evident that the table value of 1.96 at a 0.05 significance level is lesser than the obtained t-value of 5.23, thus, rejecting the null Hypothesis. This infers that, in environmental attitude, there is a significant mean difference between urban and rural B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant mean difference between private and government college B.Ed. students in their environmental attitude.

Table 4

**Difference between Private
and Government College B.Ed. Students
in their environmental attitude**

Group	N	Mean	S. D	t value	Remark
Private	75	14.96	3.38	1.32	NS
Government	75	14.25	3.17		

It is evident that the table value of 1.96 at a 0.05 significance level is higher than the obtained t-value of 1.32, thus, accepting the null Hypothesis. This infers that, between Private and Government colleges B.Ed. students, there is no significant mean difference in their environmental attitude.

Conclusion

The results indicated that there is a significant difference in the mean scores of Environmental attitudes between the students belonging to the science group and arts group, there existed a significant difference in the mean scores of Environmental attitudes between the rural and urban students. There existed no significant difference in the mean scores of Environmental attitudes between the students in terms of gender and also in terms of types of institution.

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