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ORIGINAL ARTICLE

A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS ABILITY OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

In the present study the researcher has attempted to study the Environmental awareness ability of higher secondary students. The investigations was carried out on 800 higher secondary students using the Praveen Kumar Jha's Environmental awareness scale. Descriptive Statistics and Differential Analysis were used to analyse the data. The findings of the study on environmental awareness ability shows that there is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students and different parental educational qualifications of higher secondary students and there is significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary students and between arts and science group higher secondary students in respect of their level of Environmental awareness ability.

Keywords: Environmental awareness ability, higher secondary students.

1.INTRODUCTION

The survival of the human beings mainly depends upon their harmony with nature. There is a close interaction between these two, i.e., man and the nature. His privilege to use the earth's resources can be compensated by his responsibility to cherish, to protect and to use them carefully. If man degrades the nature; nature is not going to help and the disaster is inevitable. Man exploits and uses the resources from the earth for his well being. The resource utilization pollutes the environment in many ways. Therefore the understanding of such impact of resource utilization against the environment is essential. We should protect the natural gifts like soil, water, air, forest and become the guardian of the earth.

Environmental education is the process of recognizing values and clarifying concepts in order to develop skills and attitude, necessary to understand and appreciate the interrelatedness among man, his culture and his bio- physical surroundings. It also entails practice in decision making and self- formulation of a code of behaviour about problems and issues concerning environmental quality.

Environmental awareness is the ability to understand the problems of environment through the relevant experiences and the assistance extended to the society and its individuals to solve these environmental problems.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find out the level of higher secondary students Environmental awareness ability.
2. To find out whether there is any significant difference in Environmental awareness ability of higher secondary students with respect to the following background variables:
 - a) Gender [Male / Female]
 - b) Locality of school [Rural / Urban]
 - c) Subject Group [Arts / Science]
 - d) Parental Education [Illiterate / School education / College education]

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. The Level of Environmental awareness ability among higher secondary students is unfavourable.
2. There is no significant difference in Environmental awareness ability of higher secondary students with respect to the following background variables:
 - a) Gender [Male / Female]
 - b) Locality of school [Rural / Urban]
 - c) Subject Group [Arts / Science]

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- d) Parental Education [Illiterate / School education / College education]

2.METHOD OF THE STUDY

The present investigation has been carried out by using Normative survey method.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The sample consists of 800 higher secondary students of Ramanathapuram District where random sampling technique, was used in the selection of the sample.

TOOL USED FOR THE STUDY

Environmental Awareness Ability Scale

This scale was constructed and validated by **Praveen Kumar Jha**, which consists of seventy one statements, based on the five dimensions such as Causes of Pollution, Conservation of soil forest, air, etc., Energy conservation, Conservation of human health, Conservation of wild-life and animal husbandry.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

The following statistical techniques were used to analyse the data collected from the sample.

1. Descriptive Statistics – Mean and Standard Deviation

2. Differential Analysis – t-Test, ‘F’-Test

3.ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

Based on the test scores the mean, standard deviation, “t” values and ‘F’ values were calculated and tabulated

Table 1.0 Mean and Standard Deviation of Environmental Awareness Ability

Variable	N	Mean	S.D
Environmental awareness ability	800	32.65	5.33

Interpretation

It is analysed in the light of the mean scores for the total group. The mean score for the present study is found to be 32.65 which is laid in between the scores of 16 and 36. Therefore, it can be concluded that the higher secondary students have average level of Environmental awareness ability.

Table 2.0 Mean Scores of Environmental Awareness Ability of higher secondary students belonging to different background variables

Sl. No	Background variables	Category	N	Mean	S.D
1.	Gender	Male	N	Mean	S.D
		Female	323	32.26	5.22
2.	Locality of school	Rural	477	32.91	5.40
		Urban	315	32.06	5.37
		Government	485	33.03	5.28
3.	Subject groups	Arts	330	33.32	5.08
		Science	470	32.18	5.46
4.	Parental education	Illiterate	226	32.86	4.85
		School education	502	32.76	5.41
		College education	72	31.23	6.07

It is found that mean scores of Environmental awareness ability for different background variables are found to be in between 16 and 36. Thus, higher secondary students with different background variables are having average level of Environmental awareness ability.

Table 3.0 Mean Difference between male and female higher secondary student’s Environmental Awareness Ability

Variable	Group	N	Mean	S. D	‘t’ value	Level of significance at 0.05 level
Environmental awareness ability	Male	323	32.26	5.22	1.72	Not Significant
	Female	477	32.91	5.40		

Interpretation:

The ‘t’ value is found to be 1.72 and it is not significant. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. It is concluded that there is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students in respect of their Environmental awareness ability.

Table 4.0 Mean Difference between rural and urban higher secondary student’s Environmental Awareness Ability

Variable	Group	N	Mean	S. D	‘t’ value	Level of significance at 0.05 level
Environmental awareness ability	Rural	315	32.06	5.37	2.62	Significant
	Urban	485	33.03	5.28		

Interpretation:

The ‘t’ value is found to be 2.62 and it is significant. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. It is concluded that there is significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary students in respect of their Environmental awareness ability.

Table 5.0 Mean Difference between arts and science group higher secondary student’s Environmental Awareness Ability

Variable	Group	N	Mean	S. D	‘t’ value	Level of significance at 0.05 level
Environmental awareness ability	Arts	330	33.32	5.08	3.02	Significant
	Science	470	32.18	5.46		

Interpretation:

The ‘t’ value is found to be 3.02 and it is significant. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. It is concluded that there is significant difference between arts and science group higher secondary students in respect of their Environmental awareness ability.

Table 6.0 ANOVA for the higher secondary student's Environmental Awareness Ability with respect to different parental education

Variable	Source of variance	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	'F' value	Level of significance at 0.05 level
Environmental awareness ability	Between Groups	160.564	2	318.071	1.94	Not Significant
	Within groups	130431.796	797	163.653		
	Total	1311067.939	799			

Interpretation

The above table indicates that the 'F' value (1.94) of Environmental awareness ability is not significant. The null hypothesis is accepted. There is no significant difference among the different parental educational qualifications of higher secondary students in respect of their Environmental awareness ability.

FINDINGS

1. Environmental awareness ability of higher secondary students is average.
2. The female students have high level of Environmental awareness ability than the male students.
3. The urban higher secondary students have high level of Environmental awareness ability than the rural higher secondary students.
4. The Arts subject higher secondary students have high level of Environmental awareness ability than the science subject students.
5. The students whose parents are having college education have high level of Environmental awareness ability than the remaining categories of students.
6. There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students in respect of their level of Environmental awareness ability.
7. There is significant difference between rural and urban higher secondary students in respect of their level of Environmental awareness ability.
8. There is significant difference between arts and science group higher secondary students in respect of their level of Environmental awareness ability.

9. There is no significant difference among the different parental educational qualifications of higher secondary students in respect of their level of Environmental awareness ability.

4.CONCLUSION

The present investigation aimed at to measure the higher secondary students' Environmental awareness ability. The findings of the study revealed that the Environmental awareness ability among higher secondary students is average. The Environmental awareness ability among higher secondary students in relation to their background variables are also average. So, the educations, and policy makers should take. Care to impart new knowledge as well as awareness among them to develop the environmental awareness ability to greater levels.

10. There is no significant difference among the different parental educational qualifications of higher secondary students in respect of their level of mental health.

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