

# A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG 8TH CLASS SCHOOL STUDENTS

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## **Abstract**

*Present research paper examines the environmental awareness among 8<sup>th</sup> class school student in rural and urban area of distt. Kathua. A sample of 200 students was selected randomly from distt. Kathua. The environmental awareness scale constructed by Dr.Haseen Taj used as tool for data collection. The study found there is no significance difference in the environmental awareness among male and female of 8<sup>th</sup> class school student.*

*Key Words- Awareness, environmental, students, natural.*

## **Introduction**

It is observed that degradation of environment mostly occur due to destruction of natural surroundings. In the recent years conservationists, ecologists, concerned citizens and society is becoming concerned about the worsening conditions of human environment. Now there is a cry all over the world for protection and preservation of such natural resources. This can only be possible if we have a right type of attitude and sensitiveness towards such issues and if we have proper awareness in the related matters. It is widely accepted that the development of such awareness, sensitiveness and attitude can be possible through environmental education. Education is an important social instrument and means, which act as a catalyst in the improvement of different aspect of life. The best way to educate people is that everyone could voluntarily change the life style and be friendlier to the environment. Environmental education and awareness cannot exist without another. Knowledge, awareness, skills, values and attitudes acquired through education keep one to lead desired quality of life. In order to protect and conserve the environment, emphasis has been given to both standard and non-formal system of schooling. Today the global concern is to struggle against environmental problems and maintain the standard of human environment. To be environmentally educated means to be aware of how to live in peace with the earth and vice-versa. Environment in developing countries like India have been threatened by problems like poverty, pollution, over population and degradation and depletion of environment. In addition to the industrial revolution unprecedented scientific and technological revolution has resulted in disastrous changes in the environment leading to environmental problems. The environmental protection and preservation has been an urgent need of the hour. It should be emphasized that awareness is most important because education

itself does not guarantee change in people's behavior. Education without awareness can only provide knowledge; a set of facts and ideas which remains a dead stock. Education is the means by which real awareness can be obtained. At the same time as some of the harms strength to be alike due to their inclusive environment.

## **ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS**

Environment awareness comprises of two words:- (A)Environment (B)Awareness

### **Environment**

Environment is living things and what is around them. It includes physical, chemical and other natural forces.

### **(B) AWARENESS**

Awareness means knowledge or perception of a situation or facts. Awareness is the ability to directly know and perceive, to feel, or to be conscious of events, objects, thoughts, emotions, or sensory patterns.

In the present study, environmental awareness means the knowledge of the students with respect to the environmental problems as such air pollution, water problems, loss of wild life and deforestation and waste disposal problems.

### **Scope of the study**

Environment is the place where all the living beings lives and need to survive including water, food, shelter, and space. Thus is, important for one and all living life. We obtain clean air and water due to unpolluted ecosystems This diverse ecosystem provide us pure air and unpolluted water, also resources like food and ingredients for medicines and for our daily requirements. Biodiversity is important to the health of our environment. It is very essential to safe guard and enhances the environment for the benefit to present and future generations One and all are affected by environmental issues, whatever occupation they have. Deforestation, degradation of resources and other environmental issues like increase in global warming, depletion of ozone layer, endangered species, decreasing tree-plant, power resources, global thrashing of biodiversity etc. Environmental awareness provides power to recognize the interdependence among materials into physical environment which helps to take decisions individually and collectively and initiate the development and growth, also for the conservation of nature and natural resources. Environmental study is concerned with the learning of the processes of biotic and abiotic factors like organisms, air soil, water, land, and air that leads to environmental pollution or damage. It is concerned with minimization of their impact through changes in the study of the process to maintain secure, dirt free and vigorous natural environment. It is also concern with essential problems or issues related to environment which involve safe technical processes used to minimize pollution.

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

To study the environmental Awareness among male and female of 8<sup>th</sup> class school students.

## HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

There is no significant difference of environmental awareness among male and female 8<sup>th</sup> class school students.

## METHODOLOGY

Research is basic to every field of knowledge. It is a tool of tremendous importance for verifying, testing and validating current and old knowledge and also a potent means of creating new knowledge. After selecting the area of research, defining the problem, reviewing the research problems and stating the objectives and hypotheses the researcher finalizes the research methodology.

### Sample of the study

In the present study the investigator selected the sample of 200 students which are belongs to government and private higher schools. The students were selected by random sampling technique.

### TOOL USED FOR THE STUDY:-

In the present study “**Environmental Awareness Scale**” developed by **Dr. Haseen Taj** is used.

**STATISTICAL TECHNIQUE USED:-**These techniques were adopted for analysis in the present investigation were :-

- **Mean ( M )**
- **Standard Deviation (S.D.)**
- **Standard error (SE<sub>d</sub>)**
- **t-test (t)**

Significance of differences between two means.

$$t = \frac{|M_1 - M_2|}{SE_d}$$

**Result: “There is no significant difference between environmental awareness among male and female of 8<sup>th</sup> class school student.”**

With the view of verify the above stated hypothesis; data were treated statistically to get the result. The mean, standard deviation, standard error and t-test value are computed which are presented in the table

**Table – 1.1**

**Statistical inference on environmental awareness between male and female of 8th class school**

Schools	N	Mean	S.D.	t - value
Govt.	100	74.1	19.07	0.48
School Private	100	75.3	15.4	
<b>df = 198</b>		<b>P &gt; 0.01,0.05</b>		<b>Not</b>
<b>Significant</b>				

Table 1.1 shows that calculated t-value comes out to be 0.48 which is less than table value is 2.61 at 0.01 level also 7.9 which is more than table value is 1.971 at 0.05 level of significance with df 198. of significance with df 198. It means that there is no significant difference.

Hence the hypothesis, “there is no significant difference between environment awareness among male and female of 8<sup>th</sup> class school student” stand accepted.

Therefore, it can be inferred that environment awareness among male and female higher of 8<sup>th</sup> class school student is same.

## **CONCLUSION**

Earth is, perhaps, the only planet endowed with an environment and we all share it. One day we have to pass this legacy to our future generation. When they will inherit such a polluted environment, life will be misery for them. Men using their intelligence have developed new technologies which is necessary for increasing production of wealth and for this purpose pondered the wealth of the nature without thinking of its implication for the future generation. Increase in industries in the urban area resulted in migration of rural people to the urban area which in turn resulted in degradation and deterioration of environment. Before modern civilization could come into existence man lived and flourished amidst the nice balance of multiple biological processes. As the most intelligent being on earth man has constantly tampered with the

nature making use of his inventive genius and disturbed the ecological balance. Thus, air, water and soil, all have got polluted and pose a threat to the substance of mankind. Checking of environmental pollution has become absolutely necessary. If it is not checked, the earth will become a graveyard. So we must give due attention to protect it from our own abuses. That is why education is very important and every individual should have the awareness towards protection and conservation of environment. This is possible only through school since it is in the school the seed for environmental awareness and ethics can be sown by the teacher and hence the study.

### **Educational implications**

- (1) There should be provided resources and trained teachers for environmental education.
- (2) There should be provided guidance to education authorities in emergency affected areas and to civil-society organization on the conduct of environmental education programmes.
- (3) Facilitate the development of improvement of material and methodologies for environmental education and he testing and implantation of these programmes.
- (4) Assess environmental education needs and develop skill based environmental education curricula/programmes based on the assessments.
- (5) The motivation should be provided to people for various awareness programmes.
- (6) there should be more and more stress on the practical work in environmental education.

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