



# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS HUMAN HEALTH

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**Abstract:** In the present study work comparison of secondary school students on environmental awareness and attitude towards human health is studied. The most significant use of this for the investigator is that it plays an important role in increasing the knowledge and understanding about environmental awareness in students. Today environmental awareness is a very sound topic for investigation. The knowledge of the environment and knowledge of human health being help us in modifying the polluted environment and help in maintaining the human health into a clean environment and balanced human health so that we can lead on the right path of development which is beneficial to every section of the society.

**Keywords:** Secondary School Students, Environmental Awareness, Attitude, Human Health

**Introduction:** “Live along and like it” is such a slogan that no living organism is surrounded by material and forces which constitutes its needs and it has become inevitable to have an intelligent knowledge of the environment and increased population. The present environmental challenges in India are a mirror for the rest of the world. Here the people's movement to protect the environment and livelihood of nature is calling for a new model of development, beneficial to all without stripping the environment or destroying nature and the human being. We need to harness nature with better objectives towards the betterment of the environment our nature and humanity by increasing environment beneficial schemes.

Modernization and advancement have influenced human life in so many ways that today we have an entirely new world. As technological findings are at his disposal. There is narrowness in attitude and thinking and day-by-day life. After fulfilling his own needs and requirements he is not bothered about the world. This attitude must change and awareness through education and various other media is required to play an important part in it. Even all this will become more intense and complicated. If during the formative years of the age of the child, efforts are made to equip him with an adequate understanding of these problems and the functional skills of taking right decisions at the right moment for solving these problems are developed. It may be possible that the future citizens of the country will not suffer from such problems in the time to come.

### Environment:

The word environment means the surroundings. It is the aggregate of the external and internal conditions affecting the existence, growth, and metabolism of any living being. Hence, those conditions which affect the very existence, organization, and metabolic processes of an organism in the slightest manner may be referred to as environmental and ecological factors. They are related to a particular type of habitat. An organism may develop certain specific features or adaptations. The ecological facts are generally classified into four major and several minor categories.

#### (A) Climatic

They refer to atmospheric humidity, atmospheric precipitation (rainfall) atmospheric temperature, atmospheric gas, wind, and light.

#### (B) Edogic

It relates to soil

#### (C) Topographic or Physiographic

They include the influence of other living beings. Daubenmire, 1959 however, differentiate seven ecological factors namely soil (Epaphic), water (Hydrologic), temperature (thermal), light (Radiation), atmosphere (air), fire (pyric), and biotic. We shall follow this classification.

### Ecology

Hillaire, a French zoologist in 1850 proposed the term ecology and defined it as 'the study of the relation of the organism' within the family and society in the aggregate and the community. Reiter, 1868 coined the term Oikologie by combining Oikos (house) 'logos' (study) which later on become ecology. A German biologist Haeckel, 1869 defined ecology as the science treating the reciprocal relations of the organism. Odum, 1971 puts a very

broadly based definition of ecology by calling it the study of the structure and the function of population community and ecosystem.

In recent years with the increasing awareness of pollution, the science of ecology has gained new dimensions. People have become more concerned about the maintenance of a healthy environment around them. The sustainability of the earth in respect to its productivity as also the growing dangers of depletion of the ozone layer has attracted the attention of not only scientists but also the politicians, environmentalists, social workers, and above all, of the entire human race. So, ecology is the study of the environment around us.

## Ecosystem

It is an open system and depends upon solar energy (radiant energy of the sun) from outside of its energy source. An ecosystem may be as small as a little water in a disk or as large as an ocean or a large forest or even the whole earth. Between adjoining ecosystems, there is a frequent exchange of materials and energy. Thus, they are all interconnected and hence, interrelated. So, "Ecology is a relatively self-contained and distinct community of organisms (plants and animals) and their environment.

## Human Health

Health is influenced by many factors such as heredity inherited (from parents) environmental, social, economic, and psychological. Hereditary factors include the genetic constitution of an individual, which is passed on from parents to offspring. Any defective gene may cause some incurable disease. Society may also influence health. The most important factor is its environment (maybe internal environment or external environment) because there is continuous and close interaction between the health and environment.

## Man, His environment and Human Health

Organism and its environment are also major components of nature, which are not only dynamic and complex but also interdependent, interrelated, and interactive. The environment has been defined to be the total of all conditions and influences the effects the development and life of human beings and other organisms. To understand health in its true perspective we must be concerned with how man relates to his environment. What goes on outside the body influences what occurs inside it. No organism can exist by itself and without an environment.

## Environmental Education and Awareness

The environment is an international issue today. It's a branch of education and approach to learning. It realizes people to make a way of thinking and to overcome prejudices. It helps in program learning, learning technologies, teaching technologies, and also a different model of education. It is making us perfect to understand simple to complex methods. The

principle of environmental education is that it makes the pupils' education problem related to understanding the environment and hazards of its pollution.

## Environmental Awareness

### Environment

Environment means the total of all the living and non-living factors that surround a given organism or community of organisms. The external environment is Edaphic, atmospheric, etc. while the internal atmosphere is biotic factors.

### Awareness

Consciousness or attentiveness or state being known or inform about something. In the present study awareness for the environment has been tried to be assessed. It has been there or not if yes then up to what extent.

### Environmental Awareness

In the present study, the environmental awareness of students is evaluated based on their scores obtained on EAAM, and their awareness is interpreted in terms of the percentage of right answers to a question of EAAM along a particular dimension.

### Human Health Awareness

### Human Health

It is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being.

### Awareness

Consciousness or attentiveness or state being known or inform about something. In the present study awareness for the environment has been tried to be assessed. It has been there or not if yes then up to what extent.

In the present study, the Human Health Awareness of students is evaluated based on their scores obtained on "Consciousness towards Human Health Measurement Questionnaires" and their awareness is interpreted in terms of the percentage of right answers to a question of CHHMQ along a particular dimension.

### UP Board Secondary School Students (Boys and Girls)

In this study, secondary school students mean UP Board (Boys and Girls) of IX class and X class whose educational process is run by State Government, Uttar Pradesh having management power in the field of education. It conducts all the educational processes at the high school level.



## Need of the study

According to the studies supported by UND in 1987, it was found that about two-thirds of the world population is forced to bear the harmful effects of environmental pollution. More serious consequences were seen in Europe where the rain shower changed into an acid rain shower. The greenhouse gases such as SO<sub>2</sub> and CO have been increasing at a high rate for the last two decades due to which the average temperature of the earth is increasing higher. Every citizen, community, institution, nation, etc. will have to accept the responsibility at each level to meet two environmental objectives towards a better and sustainable environment and life and the human health objective towards better human health to live. It is clear from above that environmental pollution and energy crisis is immensely dangerous to human life for which we will have to do something useful to our environment and society. But still today, we do not know that how many people are there who are sincere about the environmental problem as well as who is not sincere for the health and are unaware about their consequences. Such questions may be very important for an educated young one. Considering the above-mentioned questions and factors it was felt that a comparative study should be done on UP Board boys and girls, secondary students on environmental awareness and attitude towards human health.

## Significance of the study

The problem of the people of the society cannot be solved without knowing and understanding those problems objectively and exclusively. If one wants to study the complexities of human life, he cannot do so. For such study, the different dimensions of the multifaced problems are studied separately. So, this study may be useful to study. Two aspects of human health-related problems are environment and human health.

Concerning the significance of the study, it can be said that with development environmental problems and human health problems have increased manifold and they can only be solved if every one of us contributes somewhat to our nature and environment and our health. The environmental energy and related problems cannot be solved unless students are aware of it because the students are the future citizens of the country. The same consideration was kept in mind before stating the study. Thus, the study can be very significant in understanding.

## Objectives of the study

The present study has the following main objectives-

1. To study the attitude of students' awareness level towards human health of boys and girls secondary students.
2. To assess the awareness level of secondary students towards the environment.
3. To complete the awareness of male and female secondary students towards environments.
4. To find out the difference in the attitude of male and female secondary students towards human health.

## Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between boys and girls concerning their level of environmental awareness
2. There is no significant difference between the attitude of boys and girls towards human health
3. There is no significant relationship between environmental awareness and attitude towards human health in the level of environmental awareness. Human health location (Urban & Rural) faculty (Art & Science) & Administration (Government & Private College) and Sex (Boys & Girls)
4. There is no significant difference in the level of environmental awareness in different locations (Urban & Rural) faculty (Art & Science) & Administration (Government & Private College) and Sex (Boys & Girls)

## Review of related literature

In any specific project of research, "the researcher must be thoroughly familiar with the previous theories and researches both. To assure this familiarity, the review of the related literature is an integral early stage of any research. Under this stage, a researcher is supported to study thoroughly all the available sources in information and knowledge to develop his efficiency and competency in the field related to his problem.

Rajput (1980) studied the environmental awareness of the student at the primary level. Its main aim was to study the awareness and scientific attitude of the students aware of the possible source in the community, which are helpful in environmental education. First of all, 140 students of classes III and IV were selected, and later on 200 students of the same standard but of different schools were selected as a sample.

Next time 275 students from two schools were taken as a sample. The major findings of the study were as follow:

1. In the pretest for environmental awareness, the significant differences were found to be in one group only while in the post-test the significant differences for the environment awareness were found to be more in the experimental groups than the controlled group.
2. No significant difference was found in the controlled and experimental groups for vocational achievement tests.

SCERT Andra Pradesh (1980) evaluated the textbook in environmental studies of classes III and V based on the revised curriculum in science. The sample consisted of 20 headmasters, 200 teachers, and 100 educated parents of the pupils. This study aimed at comparing the old and new curriculum of science in classes III and V concerning the cognitive load on students and instructional objectives to be attained.

The major findings of the study are:

1. The teacher and headmaster felt that the new curriculum was relevant to the environment in which children live. The parents opinionated that the new curriculum increased the cognitive level of the children.
2. Most of the teachers and headmasters felt that the old curriculum was not relevant to the cognitive level of the student as well as their needs. But contrary to this, parents felt that the old curriculum was easily understandable to the children.
3. According to teachers and headmasters, the new science curriculum fulfills the educational objective prescribed by the directorate of education.
4. Headmasters felt that the new curriculum was relevant to the age level of the children. But the teacher and the parents felt that the new curriculum was above the cognitive level of the children of classes III and V.
5. The headmaster, teacher, and parents opined that the new curriculum was more helpful than the old one in enriching the knowledge of the children and indicated that the new curriculum was relevant to the need of the children.

#### National Policy of Education

Emphasized the importance of awareness for environmental protection and conservation. According to it "The awareness should not be created in the school going student but in all age group people. The awareness of environmental protection and conservation should be an integral part of school and college education. It should be included in the whole process of education"

It is clear from the above discussion of the National policy of education that they need for environmental education cannot be restricted to any particular age group or geographical boundaries. Rather the whole population irrespective of any factor or variable should be made awake for.

Saxena, M.K. (2000)

In his article Paryavarn Shiksha Evam Chetna ki Avashyakta in Amar Ujala dated 5th June wrote he suggested the following method to create awareness for environment protection and conservation:

1. Lectures should be organized to provide knowledge and information regarding the environment and its various problems.
2. The demonstration should be given with the help of accessories and AIDS for better communication of the environmental messages.
3. Conference and seminar should be held and the maximum number of people should get the opportunity to participate in these anyway.

4. Media, both electric and print, should play a much better role in environmental concerns.
5. Contract programs should be organized for representatives of particular communities e.g., villages, towns, etc. And they should be given comprehensive knowledge for environmental protection and conservation.
6. Short-term courses should be run for those who have completed their studies and lack the knowledge necessary for environmental matters.

## Correlation 'r' between Environment Awareness and Human Health of different groups

S.No.	Group	N	Environmental Awareness (x)	Human Health (y)	'r'	Significant level
1	Boys	50	40.14	73.88	0.27	0.05
2	Girls	50	40.08	74.90	0.14	0.05
3	Art	40	40.10	74.12	0.26	0.05
4	Science	60	39.75	74.70	0.20	0.05
5	Rural	42	40.00	74.82	0.06	0.05
6	Urban	58	39.60	73.60	0.13	0.05
7	Government College	38	40.40	74.43	0.29	0.05
8	Private college	62	77.53	72.90	0.28	0.05

### Interpretation

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, the descriptive method was based on two statistical group designs. In sampling processes, at the first level, the schools were divided into 10 boys schools and 10 girls schools of U.P. Board through purposive sampling. At the second level, we select 50 boys and 50 girls from X class of those schools who are curious to know and discuss environment and human health. The researcher uses Environment Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM) to compare environmental awareness and Consciousness Towards Human Health Measurement Questionnaires (CHHMQ) to compare Human Health of U.P. Board students in the present study.

### Conclusion of the study

The study shows the following main conclusions:

1. No significant difference was found between UP Board boys and girls towards environmental awareness, which means UP Board boys and girls are equally aware of environments.



2. No significant difference was found between UP Board boys and girls towards Human Health, which means UP Board boys and girls are equally aware of Human Health.
3. No significant relationship between environmental awareness and attitude towards human health is found in a different location (Urban & Rural), faculty (Art & Science), Administration (Government & Private College), and Sex (Boys & Girls) it means the UP-Board student either on sex, location faculty or administration are equally aware towards the environment and human health.

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