

**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN RELATION TO THEIR GENDER AND TYPE OF SCHOOLS**

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**ABSTRACT**

The paper aimed to explore environmental awareness among senior secondary school students in relation to their gender and type of schools. The purpose of the the study was to compare the mean scores of environmental awareness of government and private senior secondary school students ,to compare the mean scores of environmental awareness among male and female students of government senior secondary schools and to compare the mean scores of environmental awareness among male and female students of private senior secondary schools. The present study used descriptive survey method. A Study related to environmental awareness. The sample for the present study was selected from school students studying. The sample for the present study was selected from school students studying in XI class. Sampling is a process by which relatively a small number of individuals are selected and analyzed in order to find out something about an entire population. Findings reveal that There was found a significant difference between government and Private secondary school girl students on the variable environmental awareness.

Key words- Environmental Awareness and Type of schools

**INTRODUCTION**

The word ‘environment’ is originated from “environ” which means the surroundings may be the concrete of abstract thing around us which affect our behavior time to time or place to place. It refers to sum total of all conditions which surround a man at a given point of space and time. The environment is a general term which designates all the objects, forces and conditions that effect the individual through such stimuli as a human is able to receive and perceive. Thus, the environment is a term which refers all

physically fortifiable things at a particular time. It is the interaction between the living and in a particular area to perform various important activities of life. Webster's Pocket Dictionary (2001) defines 'Environment' as "The aggregate of all condition affecting the existence, growth and welfare of an organism or a group of organisms". Environment cover all outside factors that have acted on the individual since he began life on earth. Environment is defined as the surroundings in which the organism lives. The environment may be the physical environment, the chemical environment or the biological environment. Thus, the environment has two components abiotic and biotic. The abiotic environment includes the air (atmosphere), water (hydrosphere) and land (lithosphere). The biotic environment includes the plants, animals and the microbes. Organisms are dependent on the environment to fulfill their needs; man is also constantly interacting with the environment in order to fulfill his needs. These needs include the basic needs of oxygen, food and shelter in addition to the social needs like entertainment, medicines, etc. At the Belgrade International Workshop (1957) working documents were provided by the trend papers that described the state of the art of the environmental education in all parts of the world and provisions to extend and explore the environmental awareness. It also states Environmental Awareness may provide power and understanding. To recognize the interdependence among materials into physical environment, plant and animal life for survival, growth and development. To take decisions individually and collectively and initiate action for social culture and economic survival, growth and development and for conservation of nature and natural resources. To identify human, material, space and time resources in the environment. To recognize ways of making effective use of environmental resources for social, economic and cultural survival, growth and development. To take decisions for the effective use of resources ,to recognize the special significance of conservation of natural resources and initiate or support community efforts for the purpose.

### **ROLE OF EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

Several seminars and conferences have been organized at national and international level on 'environment'. Most of the experts and scientists of different disciplines have

realized the importance of 'environmental awareness' but it will not serve the purpose. So the recognized the urgent need for introduction of 'environmental education'. Under the environmental education theoretical and practical aspects are emphasized. The awareness confines to cognitive level whereas environmental education includes cognitive, psychomotor and affective level.

In order to help children grow in knowledge, skills, values, attitudes and awareness relevant to environment, teacher is expected to be not only dispenser of information and knowledge, but also manager of teaching learning situation. The way of classroom organization has also to be drastically changed. For the purpose, taking care of the interests of children, teacher should resort to group activities and bear with a certain amount of active involvement and talking in classroom. Therefore the concept of discipline in the classroom has also to be changed. This necessarily means that the education officers and other supervisory staff engaged in supervision of classroom towards the environmental approach to teaching learning strategies in the classroom should look for the positive development in the children rather than the acquisition of bookish information.

### **Types of schools – 1. Government School 2. Private School**

**Government school:** Government schools are fully controlled by the governmental machinery. It includes government schools, military schools, kendriya vidyalas (central school).

**Private School:** Private schools are managed by private managing committees under the supervision of district inspector of schools or some other government officer. It includes public schools.

On the basis of above classification of the type of schools the present study will aim to measure level of academic stress in Government and private secondary school students.

### **JUSTIFICATION OF THE PROBLEM**

Motivation for awareness about nature should begin at a very early level in schools. It is essential that for this to be implemented a proper educational approach be initiated in

schools. Now the liability lies on the next generation and I am sure that environmental awareness among the senior secondary students will lead the next generation towards restraining the unstoppable environment changes.

### **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

To compare the mean scores of environmental awareness of government and private senior secondary school students.

To compare the mean scores of environmental awareness among male and female students of government senior secondary schools.

To compare the mean scores of environmental awareness among male and female students of private senior secondary schools.

### **HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

1. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness of government and private senior secondary school students.
2. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness among male and female students of government senior secondary schools.
3. There will be no significant difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness among male and female students of private senior secondary schools.

### **DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

1. The study will be delimited to the government and private senior secondary schools of Barnala district only.
2. The study will be delimited to 200 students only.

## **PLAN OF RESEARCH REPORT**

The plan of research reports has been framed under four chapters. Chapter-1 gives the introduction of the problem taken for study & deals with the review of related studies and hypothesis. Chapter-2 deals with method and procedure employed in the collection of data. Chapter-3 describes the analysis, interpretation of data and discussion of the result, deals with the summary, finding and suggestions further research. References and appendices have been given at end of research report.

## **METHOD AND PROCEDURE**

The methodology makes the most important contribution towards the conduct of the study. A procedure to the researcher is as tools are the, carpenter. It helps to achieve economy in time and coordinating of efforts. After selecting and formulating the statement of the problem, the major task, which the research worker has to do is to decide about the methods, procedure and techniques to be used for collecting, analysis and interpretation of data needed for investigation. The researcher deals with the relationship between variables, the testing hypothesis and development of generalization that have universal reality. It explains the sample and also the tool used in the execution of the study. The present study used descriptive survey method. A Study related to environmental awareness.

## **SAMPLE OF STUDY**

The sample for the present study was selected from school students studying in XI class. Sampling is a process by which relatively a small number of individuals are selected and analyzed in order to find out something about an entire population. In the present study “Random Sampling Method” was used. The researcher took 4 schools in total of 20, out of which 2 were Government and 2 were private schools. The schools were randomly selected by lottery method. In the present study, the population 200 consisted of students of 12th class studying in school of Barnala District.

## **TOOL USED**

Environmental Awareness Ability Measures (EAAM) by Jha (2010)

### **PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTING OF DATA**

The data for the present study was collected from subjects belonging to various government & private schools of Barnala district. In all there were 200 students including both boys and girls studying at 9th class. Before collecting data conformation of the head of institution was sought and rapport with the students of 9th class established. Before distributing the test was readout. The students were encouraged to give correct information and were assured that these are to be used only for research purpose and will remain confidential.

At the time of data collection it was checked that they have answered all the statement. The scoring was done manually for each list as discussed under tools. Scores of each individual were obtained on the basis of the tests. The following type of data was obtained.

1. Responses of 50 Private Senior Secondary Schools girls.
2. Responses for 50 Private Senior Secondary Schools boys.
3. Responses for 50 Government Senior Secondary Schools girls.
4. Responses for 50 Government Senior Secondary Schools boys

### **STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED**

Following statistical technique were used for analysis of data.

1. **Descriptive Analysis:** Mean, Median, Standard Deviation, skewness & kurtosis were used ascertaining the nature of distribution of scores.
2. **Inferential Statistical:** Analysis of correlation among three variable and t-test to find the significant difference between Private and Government Schools.
3. Bar graphs and histograms were also plotted.

## RESULT & CONCLUSION

1. There was found an insignificant difference in government and private secondary school students on the variable environmental awareness.
2. There was found a significant difference between government and Private secondary school girl students on the variable environmental awareness.
3. There was found an insignificant difference in government and Private secondary school boy students on the variable environmental awareness.
4. There was found a significant difference between girls and boys of secondary school on the variable environmental awareness.
5. There was found a significant difference between girls and boys of government secondary school on the variable environmental awareness.
6. There was found a significant difference between girls and boys of private secondary school on the variable environmental awareness.

As per interpretation of result conclusion is as follow: The purpose of this study was to examine environmental awareness among secondary school students in relation to their gender and types of schools. 200 students from four secondary schools (private and government) of Barnala district were selected by random sampling technique. The assessment instruments used in the study was Environmental Awareness Ability Measures (EAAM) by Jha (2010). Result depicts an insignificant difference between mean scores of Private and Government school students on the variable of environmental awareness. There was found a significant difference between government and Private secondary school girl students on the variable environmental awareness. There was found an insignificant difference in government and Private secondary schoolboy students on the variable environmental awareness. Significant difference between mean scores of girls and boys of secondary school on the variable of environmental awareness. There was found a significant difference between girls and boys of government

secondary school on the variable environmental awareness. There was found a significant difference between girls and boys of private secondary school on the variable environmental awareness.

**Educational Implications** -The study may also be helpful in providing directions to the teachers and the parents to provide suitable facilities and congenial environment to promote environmental awareness level of the students.

1. To encourage non-governmental organizations, mass media and other concerned organizations for promoting awareness among the people at all levels.
2. Educational programs and curriculum should give attention in developing the individual's environment awareness.
3. The importance of designing special educational programs that raise the environment awareness for school students.
4. Programmers' under Formal Environmental Education are :
5. Environment Education in School System
6. Environmental Appreciation Courses
7. Environmental concepts in Management and Business Studies

#### **SUGGESTION FOR THE FURTHER STUDY**

Research is a continuous process. When one problem is solved, another problem crops up; when new problem is solved, it in turn to indicate still another problem needing scientific exploration. Moreover, after completing one's piece of work, every investigator feels tempted to suggest new problems for research. Presently the investigator would like to offer the following suggestions for further research:

1. To promote environment education through existing educational/ scientific/ research institutions.
2. The study can be extended beyond Barnala district.



3. A study can be made more comprehensive by extending it to state level which will make result more valid and reliable.
4. Effectively designed search strategies can be constructed and implemented.
5. Larger sample can be taken for the study.
6. A similar study can be done on college and university students.

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