

## A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS ABILITY AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS OF GUNTUR STRICT

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### **ABSTRACT**

*We are living in a world where human beings, the most advanced creature, never hesitate to exploit their environment for the benefit of themselves without considering the effect it may have to humanity as a whole; where environmental protection and conservation is imperative. Man has always taken for granted what is a blessing which comes in the form of our physical and biological environment. Due to rapid development in industries, which leads to improvement in lifestyles and speeding up of resource utility, the natural resources have been massively exploited. The need of modern men keeps on increasing while the storehouse of nature is limited. This has led to a major environmental crisis that poses a great threat to humanity in every part of the world. Manufacturing human day-to-day needs has led to pollution of our environment. The irony lies in the fact that while trying to make our lives easy and better, we are plotting our own doom. Awareness about the pollution and protection of environment is crucial so that our resources may be used sparingly and wisely in order to make them last longer. Environmental issues and rectification for those issues have been included in the curriculum of schools and colleges in our country but we are still lagging behind in taking measures to revive the natural world that we live in. The area of environmental education has been discussed thoroughly at several national and international seminars, workshops and conferences. Most of the people have recognized the urgent need of environmental education, but only some have clear idea and understanding about the concept of environmental education that needs to be taught to the students (Gina et.al. 2020).*

**KEYWORDS:** *Environmental education, environmental crisis, Environmental issues*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Environmental education has been defined in different manner by various persons. The definition of environmental education in the draft of US Environmental Education Act is considered to be very authentic and is frequently quoted. It states: "Environmental Education is an integral process which deals with man's interrelationship with his natural and man-made surrounding, including the rate of population growth, pollution resource allocation and depletion, conservation technology and urban and rural planning to the total human environment. Environmental education is a study of the factors influencing eco systems, mental and physical health, living and working condition, decaying cities and population pressures. Environmental education is intended to promote among citizens the awareness and understanding of environment, our relation to it and the concern and responsible action necessary to assure our survival and to improve the quality of life." The present investigation intended to find out the level of environmental awareness ability among college students. It is also intended to find out their relation in respect of different variables like locality, Gender, different management and academic stream etc. The size and selection of sample, the variables and the controls employed the

sources of data, the tools and methods of gathering data, the reliability and validity of instruments selected were carefully described. This investigation is intended to find answers to the following questions.

#### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

- **Sharma (2014)** conducted a study on environmental awareness of college students in relation to sex, rural-urban background and academic streams wise in Himachal Pradesh. In the present research paper an attempt has been made to assess the environmental awareness of students of Govt. In urban female category, both in science and commerce 100 percent students were in high level of environmental awareness ability scale in comparison to 86 percent arts students. 73 With regards to effect of sex on environmental awareness, there was no significance difference in environmental awareness ability of male and female students and it was interpreted that male and female students possessed equal level of environmental awareness ability.
- **Nalini and Kumar (2013)** conducted a study on environmental awareness and practices among college students in Tamil Nadu. The sample comprised of 210 students. It was found in the study that vast majority of the students were having high environmental awareness that is 90.47 percent and only 9.52 had moderate and no student had low environmental awareness. Also there was no association between gender and environmental awareness. From this statistical data it was evident that irrespective of gender, students were aware about the environmental protection. Majority of students had moderate level of environment practice. It was seen that there was a significant difference between gender and environment practice.
- **Bhardwaj and Behal (2011)** carried out a study of environmental awareness and attitude among college students of Delhi. Population of the study comprised of all the boys and girls studying in five selected colleges of Delhi. A representative sample of 100 students was taken by using simple random sampling technique. The results revealed that overall environmental awareness was moderate while environmental attitude was high. There was no significant difference observed between gender towards environmental awareness and environmental attitude. The significant positive correlation between environmental awareness and environmental attitudes showed that students having more awareness towards environment were having proper attitude towards environment. There was significant difference observed between different academic stream of students as well as level of study towards environmental awareness and environmental attitude. Science students had more awareness as well had positive attitude towards environment. There were significant differences among different levels of study. There was found a significant difference in environmental awareness and attitude of undergraduate and postgraduate level of students. Thus, the study revealed that the level of study improves the level of awareness and attitude regarding environmental issues.
- **Kose et al. (2011)** tried to explore undergraduate students 'attitudes towards environment at the end of the course material —Environment, Human, and Society. To achieve this aim, environmental attitudes of university students were examined according to the gender and faculty type factors. The research was applied at Pamukkale University in School of Foreign Languages during the spring term of 2008-2009. The sample was convenient students who enrolled in the course of Environment, Human and Society during preparatory class. Data in this study were collected from a total number of 376 students. A questionnaire consisting of 2 parts titled personal information 'and measuring attitude towards environment' was utilized as the means of collecting data. It was

concluded that undergraduate students had positive attitudes toward the environment as regard to their gender and faculty types. It also made clear that female students were more sensitive toward environment than male students.

## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Operational Definitions of the Key Terms**

The operational definitions of the terms in this present study were:-

#### **Environmental Awareness ability**

Environmental awareness is a broad philosophy, ideology and social movement regarding concerns for environmental conservation and improvement of the health of the environment. Environmental awareness advocates the preservation, restoration and improvement of the natural environment, may be referred to as a movement to control pollution.

- **College students:** Students studying in college/School having classes from Intermediate Ist year and II nd year

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

The study aims to cover the following areas

1. To study the level of environmental awareness ability among college students and to classify them.
2. To study the difference in environmental awareness ability among college students with regard to locality.
3. To study the difference in environmental awareness ability among college students with regard to gender.
4. To study the difference in environmental awareness ability among college students with regard to their different management.
5. To study the difference in environmental awareness ability among college students with regard to their academic stream.

## **HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

The Null hypotheses for the present study are as follows:

1. There is no significant difference in environmental awareness ability between rural and urban college students.
2. There is no significant difference in environmental awareness ability between male and female college students
3. There is no significant difference in environmental awareness ability between Govt and private college students
4. There is no significant difference in environmental awareness ability between science and arts category of college students

## **METHOD OF THE STUDY**

The present investigation falls under the survey method and it deals with making a survey of “environmental awareness ability among + students”. As the present problem can be best studied by a test, and collected data from number of prospective teachers, survey method is found to be suitable George .J.Mouly has said “No category of educational research is more widely used than the type known variously as the survey the normative survey and descriptive research.

The compound adjective “Normative Survey “ is applied to this method in order to suggest the two closely related aspects of this kind of study. The word ‘survey’ indicates the gathering of data regarding correct conditions. The word ‘Normative’ is used because surveys are frequently made for the purpose of ascertaining which is the normative or typical condition or practice.

## **VARIABLE OF THE STUDY**

### **1. Dependent Variable**

- Environmental awareness ability

### **2. Independent Variable**

- a. Type of school
- b. Gender of student
- c. Location of student
- d. Academic stream of student

## **SELECTION OF SAMPLE**

- **Coverage of the Study:** It comprises the college students studying xi and xii classes in the Guntur District.
- **Sampling Technique:** The sample will be selected following stratified random sampling.
- **Sampling Size:** It is proposed 100 College students covering all the above mentioned variables.

## **DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

The investigator personally went to colleges in Guntur District and requested heads of the institutions to administer the tool. 100 college students both from rural and urban areas, male and female, and type of college was also taken into consideration prospective teachers. Before administering the questionnaire, the teachers were informed that their responses would be used only for research and would be treated as strictly confidential prospective teachers were asked to be frank in their responses and were asked to respond to all the items. After a day the data was collected from every prospective teacher.

## **TOOL OF THE STUDY**

### **Environmental Awareness Ability Scale**

The investigator made use of Environmental Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM) prepared by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha (2010) in order to study the environmental awareness of college students. It is a two point scale and has both positive and negative items and contains 51 questions. The scale purports to measure the extent and degree of awareness of people about environmental pollution and its protection.

- **Scoring of the Scale:** There are 51 items in EAAM. Each agreed item carries the value of 1mark and each disagree item zero but the negative items are scored inversely. Thus on the total scale the scores ranged between 0 – 51.

## DE-LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The study is limited to XI & XII Class students.
2. The study is limited to College students only.
3. The study is limited to Guntur district only.

## DATA ANALYSIS

### Objective Wise Analysis

- **Objective: 1** To find out the Level of environmental awareness ability among college students and to classify them

**Table: 4.1 The Mean, Percentage of Mean, SD, And 1/5th of Mean of the Total Sample of the Environmental Awareness Ability of College Students.**

N	Mean	% of mean	SD	1/5th of mean
100	38.29	43.79	10.13	6.846

### Observations

From the above table it is observed that mean of attitude of yoga among college students is 38.29 and the % of mean is calculated as 43.79 the SD is 10.13 and the 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the mean is 6.846.

### Interpretation

From the above observation it is interpreted that the 1/5th of the mean is less than that of the SD so the observation is heterogeneous.

### Classification of Environmental Awareness Ability

It is done on the basis of level of environmental awareness ability of college students the maximum marks provided in the paper is 80. From the collected data the possible maximum score is 66, and the possible minimum score is 17, range is 49 and it is classified in to 3 levels as low, average and good in adjustment. And the class intervals are classified as 17- 33, 34 – 50, 51- 66.

**Table: 4.2 Classification of Students on the Basis of Their Level of Environmental Awareness Ability**

Category	Score Scale	No. of students	%
Low	17 – 33	52	52%
Average	34 – 50	43	43%
High	51 – 66	5	5%

### Observations

- From the above table it is observed that 52% of the students are under low environmental awareness, 43% of the students under average
- Environmental awareness, only 5% of the students had good environmental awareness criteria from the data.

### Interpretation

Table shows that there is general lack of awareness regarding environment. Percentage of students with high level of awareness is extremely low.

- **Objective 2:** To study the difference in environmental awareness ability with regard to locality.

**Table: 4.3 Showing the Mean S.D. and T- Value for the Environmental Awareness of Locality of College Students**

Locality	N	Mean	SD	S. Ed value	t-value
Rural	50	35.94	8.87	1.804	0.02NS
Urban	50	32.30	9.12		

NS: Not Significant: Table values for 1.98 at 0.05 level and 2.63 at 0.01 level (Garrett, Pg No.461)

### Observation

There are 50 rural students and 50 urban students participated in the study, The mean value of rural students were 35.94 and urban students is 32.30, S.Ed value between them is 1.804. t- value calculated as 0.102 which is not significant at both the levels.

### Interpretation

From the results it is interpreted that there is no significant difference between the rural and urban students on their environmental awareness. As the mean of the rural students is greater than that of the urban students they differ in their environmental awareness.

- **Objective 3:** To study the difference in environmental awareness with regard to gender.

**Table: 4.4 Showing the Variables Wise Distribution of Mean S.D. and T- Value for the Environmental Awareness of Gender of Students**

Gender	N	Mean	SD	S.Ed value	t-value
Boy	50	35.73	11.25	2.08	0.13
Girl	50	33.35	7.58		NS

NS: Not Significant: Table values for 1.98 at 0.05 level and 2.63 at 0.01 level (Garrett, Pg No.461)

### Observation

There are 50 boy students and 50 girl students participated in the study, no significant difference in the mean scores of both girl and boy Students, the S.Ed value between them is 2.08. t- value calculated as 0.13 which is not significant at both the levels.

### Interpretation

From the results it can be concluded that there is no significant difference in the environmental awareness of boy and girl Students. As the mean of the Boys is slightly greater than that of the girls students they are similar in their environmental awareness.

- **Objective: 4** To study the difference in environmental awareness with regard to their different management

**Table: 4.5 Showing The Mean S.D. and T- Value for the Environmental Awareness College Management**

School	N	Mean	SD	S.Ed value	t-value
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Govt.	52	36.05	8.78	1.79	0.018 NS
Private	48	32.25	9.18		

NS: Not Significant: Table values for 1.98 at 0.05 level and 2.63 at 0.01 level (Garrett, Pg No.461)

### Observation

There are 52 Govt. students and 48 private students participated in the study, the mean value of govt. students is 36.05 and the mean value of private students is 32.25 , the S.Ed value between them is 1.79. t- value calculated as 0.018 which is not significant at both the levels.

### Interpretation

From the results it can be concluded that there is no significant difference in the environmental awareness of Govt. and Private College Students. As the mean of the govt. students is greater than that of the private students it is find that they are similar in their environmental awareness.

- **Objective: 5** To study the difference in environmental awareness with regard to their academic stream

**Table: 4.6 showing the mean S.D. and t- value for the environmental awareness of different academic stream of college students.**

Academic stream	N	Mean	SD	S.Ed value	t-value
Science	50	39.35	10.24	2.28	0.04NS
Arts	50	33.09	9.32		

NS: Not Significant: Table values for 1.98 at 0.05 level and 2.63 at 0.01 level (Garrett, Pg No.461)

### Observation

There are 50 science students and 50 arts category students participated in the study, The mean value of un reserved students is 39.35 and reserved students is 33.09,S.Ed value between them is 2.28 . t- value calculated as 0.04 which is not significant at both the levels.

### Interpretation

From the results it is interpreted that there is no significant difference between the science and arts category students on their environmental awareness. As the mean of the science students is greater than that of the arts students it is clear that the differ in their environmental awareness.

- **Objective: 1** To find out the level of environmental awareness of college Students and to classify them.

### Findings

There is general lack of awareness regarding environment. Percentage of students with high level of awareness is extremely low.

### Discussions

From this study it is found that the level of environmental awareness of the college students found to be good, by the help of teachers and parents it may have the chance to improve some more environmental awareness for the better happy life. If

the environmental awareness doesn't happen in the earlier stage it is very hard to built in future. If they guided by the teachers and parents definitely they will be succeeded in the every step of the life.

- **Objective: 2** To find out the influence of following variable on the environmental awareness of college Students

#### **VARIABLE – GENDER (BOY/GIRL)**

##### **Findings**

There is no significant difference between the girls and boys on their environmental awareness

##### **Discussions**

Girls and Boys have some are differences in their nature cause of differences in the environmental awareness . But here it is good there is no significant difference in the environmental awareness of boy and girl Students. As the mean of the Boys is slightly greater than that of the girls students they are similar in their environmental awareness.

#### **VARIABLE – LOCALITY (URBAN AND RURAL)**

##### **Findings**

There is no significant difference between the rural and urban students on their environmental awareness.

##### **Discussions**

Rural and Urban areas have some differences in their environment according to the facilities, academics etc. So there must be a difference between urban and rural students. But here in this study it is found that

There is no significant difference between rural and urban students on their environmental awareness.

#### **VARIABLE – SOCIAL STATUS (SCIENCE/ARTS)**

##### **Findings**

It is found that there is no significant difference between the science and arts students on their environmental awareness.

##### **Discussions**

Arts students have lesser chances in the general competition whether the science students have more chances to get benefits from the government. But it is not effect on the environmental awareness of college students.

#### **VARIABLE – SCHOOL MANAGEMENT (GOVT. AND PRIVATE)**

##### **Findings**

From this study it is found that there is no significant difference between Govt. and Private college students on their environmental awareness.

##### **Discussions**

From this part of the study Govt. students and private students found to have no significant difference on their environmental awareness. From this we get to know that there is no effect of management on the students environmental awareness

#### **SUGGESTION FOR FURTHER STUDIES**



- 1 Similar studies can be conducted by taking larger sample from other part of the country.
- 2 Similar studies can be done at various levels of education in India.
- 3 Similar studies can be under taken in different state of India.
- 4 Similar studies can be done in different socioeconomic status.
- 5 In-depth students may be conducted in order to know real attitude of the subject. A team work may be required for the purpose.

### EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

1. The present study helps to understand student's ability of environmental awareness.
2. The present study may help to educational policy making as well as planning.
3. This study is very much essential for the development of student's interest attitude, knowledge, motivation towards environmental awareness.
4. This study is very much essential for students self development.

### CONCLUSIONS

The importance of environment has been recognized in India since long. This is also reflected in our Constitution wherein it is stated that it shall be the duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, wildlife and to have compassion for all living creatures. According to National Policy of Education, "There is paramount need to create a consciousness of environment. It must permeate all ages and all sections of society; beginning with the child, environmental consciousness should inform teaching in schools and colleges. This aspect be integrated in entire educational process." The importance of environmental awareness cannot be over emphasized. We must understand that to improve the environment is to improve quality of life. It is not only a question of air and water pollution. It includes elimination of disease, hunger, malnutrition and poverty, destruction of forests, extermination of wildlife, aversion of soil and accumulation of waste. Hence there is an urgent need for proper management of the environment. Each and everyone needs to be made aware that we need to curb certain actions that lead to environmental degradation for the betterment of humanity since awareness can bring about desirable attitude and change in the actions of human being.

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