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Awareness of Environmental legislation - A study among college students in Jagtiyal region

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ABSTRACT: The introduction of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization policies all over the world has brought the need to protect the environment. It is the duty of every individual of any society to protect nature. But the greed to have more pleasures in life and lead a luxurious life, man started exploiting limited natural resources to a maximum extent. That is the reason that the man is facing the worst problem of environmental degradation. Therefore, the governments of various countries have come out with Environmental legislation. India is one among them. It is quite obvious now to protect the nature through environmental legislation. In the present research paper an attempt has been made to assess the awareness of environmental legislation of college students in Jagtiyal region. A convenient sampling method is used to collect data through questionnaire on four different environmental legislations i.e. Wildlife protection Act, Forest Act, Water Act, Air Act from 60 college students in Jagtiyal region. The results show that they are poorly aware of Environmental Legislation.

Key Words: Wildlife protection Act, Forest Act, Water Act, Air Act

Introduction

Ancient people have always worshipped the objects of nature-Trees, water, land and animals. The nature was pure and uncontaminated. Therefore the environment/nature was best suitable to all life forms to live happily and peacefully. Though ancient texts tell that it is the Dharma of each individual in any society to protect nature, man ignored for the sake of his own pleasures. The impact of Liberalization, Privatization & Globalization have resulted in environmental issues, including all types of pollution-air, water & soil, climate change, biodiversity, industrial pollution, waste management, renewable & non renewable resources and so on. It is the duty of the State to protect the nature by enacting laws. There came a number of environmental legislation in India.

Environmental legislation is a collection of many laws and regulations aimed at protecting the environment from harmful actions. There are three constitutional provisions related to environment-

- Article 21 – “Right to pollution free environment”.
- Article 48-A “The state shall endeavor to protect & improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

- Article 51-A(g) “duty of every citizen of India to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife and to have compassion for living creatures.”

Environmental Legislations are covered under four different headings- 1. General 2. Forest and wildlife 3. Water 4. Air

The heading General covers a list of Environmental legislations which are as follows

- 1986 - The Environment (Protection) Act authorizes the central government to protect and improve environmental quality, control and reduce pollution from all sources, and prohibit or restrict the setting and /or operation of any industrial facility on environmental grounds.
- 1989 - The objective of Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules is to control the generation, collection, treatment, import, storage, and handling of hazardous waste.
- 1998 - The Biomedical waste (Management and Handling) Rules is a legal binding on the health care institutions to streamline the process of proper handling of hospital waste such as segregation, disposal, collection, and treatment.
- 2000 - The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 apply to every municipal authority responsible for the collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing, and disposal of municipal solid wastes.
- 2002 - The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Rules lay down such terms and conditions as are necessary to reduce noise pollution, permit use of loud speakers or public address systems during night hours on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion.

Forest and wildlife

- 1927 - The Indian Forest Act and Amendment, 1984, is one of the many surviving colonial statutes. It was enacted to ‘consolidate the law related to forest, the transit of forest produce, and the duty leviable on timber and other forest produce’.
- 1972 - The Wildlife Protection Act, Rules 1973 and Amendment 1991 provides for the protection of birds and animals and for all matters that are connected to it whether it be their habitat or the waterhole or the forests that sustain them.
- 1980 - The Forest (Conservation) Act and Rules, 1981, provides for the protection of and the conservation of the forests.
- 2002 - The Biological Diversity Act is an act to provide for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with it.

Water

- 1974 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act establishes an institutional structure for preventing and abating water pollution. It establishes standards for water quality and effluent. Polluting industries must seek permission to discharge waste into effluent bodies. The CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) was constituted under this act.

- 1977 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act provides for the levy and collection of cess or fees on water consuming industries and local authorities.
- 1978 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Rules contains the standard definitions and indicate the kind of and location of meters that every consumer of water is required to affix.
- 1991 - The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification puts regulations on various activities, including construction. It gives some protection to the backwaters and estuaries.
- 2010 – Wetland Rules

Air

- 1982 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules defines the procedures of the meetings of the Boards and the powers entrusted to them.
- 1987 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act empowers the central and state pollution control boards to meet with grave emergencies of air pollution.

Source: [http://spa.ac.in/writereaddata/Day3\(NGT\).pdf](http://spa.ac.in/writereaddata/Day3(NGT).pdf)

Objectives of the study

- To assess the Awareness of Environmental Legislation among college students on the basis of four different environmental Acts- Wildlife protection Act, Forest Act, Water Act, Air Act.
- To suggest innovative measures in colleges in building awareness of environmental legislations.

Literature Review

Anirban D et al (2018) studied on the problem of environmental pollution and on several challenges including regulatory framework covering all aspects of environmental protection, modification of existing legislation for better achievement of its objectives, and establishment of governing boards for implementation of the framed and modified legislation. He concluded that, the Environmental Protection Act had led to enactment of different acts including Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974; the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977; the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981; the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991; the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995; the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972; and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Rama Mohana R. T et al (2020) observed the widening gap between expectations of environmental compliance and the concern for environmental governance in the country. He discussed three mechanisms to address the regulatory failures. The first is a greater emphasis on strengthening institutions and mechanisms that foster transparency and public disclosure on pollution. Second, the functioning of market-based regulatory mechanisms in addressing the problem. Third, the legal infrastructure to facilitate expedited hearing of environmental litigation is being created.

Suneet Kumar et al (2013) dealt with various aspects of environmental protection law and policy in India such as Causes, sources and effects of environmental pollution, various legislation for protection of environment, Role of Indian Judiciary in Environmental Protection etc. in his research paper.

Research Methodology

The research work aimed to assess the level of awareness of environmental legislations of college students with special reference to Jagtiyal region. The study is primarily based on the field level survey from the students in the predefined questionnaire on different environmental legislations- Wildlife protection Act, Forest Act, Water Act, Air Act. The study was based on random selection of data using convenient sampling. Sixty college students are given questionnaire using convenient sampling method.

Data Analysis & Interpretation

The data is analyzed using SPSS package. The below tables displays the demographic profile of the respondents -

		Gender		Valid	Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Percent	Percent
Valid	Male	33	55.0	55.0	55.0
	Female	27	45.0	45.0	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

Majority of the respondents are male i.e. 55 percent followed by females i.e. 45 percent. This shows that males are pursuing graduation studies in Jagtiyal region.

		Age		Valid	Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Percent	Percent
Valid	< 18 yrs	10	16.7	16.7	16.7
	18 yrs - 20 yrs	18	30.0	30.0	46.7
	20 yrs - 22 yrs	19	31.7	31.7	78.3
	>22 yrs	13	21.7	21.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

Majority of the respondents are between 20 yrs to 22 yrs i.e. 31.7 percent followed by 18 yrs to 20 yrs i.e. 30 percent, above 22 years constituting 21.7 per cent and lastly is respondents of below 18 years of age with 16.7 percent.

		College		Valid	Cumulative
		Frequency	Percent	Percent	Percent
Valid	Government	34	56.7	56.7	56.7
	Private	26	43.3	43.3	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

Most of the respondents are from Government colleges i.e. 56.7 percent followed by private i.e. 43.3 percent.

		Stream		Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
		Frequency	Percent		
Valid	Arts	19	31.7	31.7	31.7
	Science	17	28.3	28.3	60.0
	Commerce	24	40.0	40.0	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

Most of the college students in Jagtiyal are pursuing commerce i.e 40 percent followed by Arts i.e. 31.7 percent and science 28.3 percent.

Cross tabulation between Gender & Awareness of Environmental Legislation

Count

		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
	Poorly aware of Environmental Legislations	9	13	22
	Moderately aware of Environmental Legislations	21	13	34
	Highly aware of Environmental Legislations	3	1	4
Total		33	27	60

Majority of the male respondents are moderately aware of Environmental Legislations i.e. 34 percent followed by poorly aware i.e. 22 percent. Hardly 4 respondents are aware of Environmental Legislations

Cross tabulation between Age & Awareness of Environmental Legislation

Count

		Age				Total
		< 18 yrs	18 yrs - 20 yrs	20 yrs - 22 yrs	>22 yrs	
	Poorly aware of Environmental Legislations	3	4	8	7	22
	Moderately aware of Environmental Legislations	6	13	9	6	34
	Highly aware of Environmental Legislations	1	1	2	0	4
Total		10	18	19	13	60

Majority of the respondents who are between 18 years to 20 years of age group are moderately aware of Environmental Legislations. This may be due to the introduction of Environmental Studies subject in their graduation studies by Telangana State.

Cross tabulation between College & Awareness of Environmental Legislation

Count

		College		Total
		Government	Private	
Poorly aware of Environmental Legislations		16	6	22
Moderately aware of Environmental Legislations		16	18	34
Highly aware of Environmental Legislations		2	2	4
Total		34	26	60

Majority of the college students of private institutions are moderately aware of Environmental Legislations. Hardly 4 respondents are highly aware of Environmental Legislations.

Cross tabulation between Stream & Awareness of Environmental Legislation

Count

		Stream			Total
		Arts	Science	Commerce	
Poorly aware of Environmental Legislations		6	7	9	22
Moderately aware of Environmental Legislations		12	10	12	34
Highly aware of Environmental Legislations		1	0	3	4
Total		19	17	24	60

Majority of the commerce and Arts students are moderately aware of Environmental Legislations.

Awareness of Wild life Protection Act

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Poorly aware of Wild life Protection Act	22	36.7	36.7	36.7
	Moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act	28	46.7	46.7	83.3
	Highly aware of Wild life Protection Act	10	16.7	16.7	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

Majority of the respondents are moderately aware of Wildlife Protection Act i.e. 83.3 percent.

Cross tabulation between Gender & Wildlife Protection Act

Count

		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
WLPASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Wild life Protection Act	6	5	11
	Moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act	16	18	34
	Highly aware of Wild life Protection Act	11	4	15
Total		33	27	60

Majority of the respondents are moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act. Of the respondents females are more in number who are moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act.

Cross tabulation between Gender & Wildlife Protection Act

Count

		Age				Total
		< 18 yrs	18 yrs - 20 yrs	20 yrs - 22 yrs	>22 yrs	
WLPASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Wild life Protection Act	2	1	5	3	11
	Moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act	5	11	9	9	34
	Highly aware of Wild life Protection Act	3	6	5	1	15
Total		10	18	19	13	60

Majority of the college students who belong to the age group 18 to 20 years are moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act.

Cross tabulation between College & Wildlife Protection Act

Count

		College		Total
		Government	Private	
WLPASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Wild life Protection Act	7	4	11
	Moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act	19	15	34
	Highly aware of Wild life Protection Act	8	7	15
Total		34	26	60

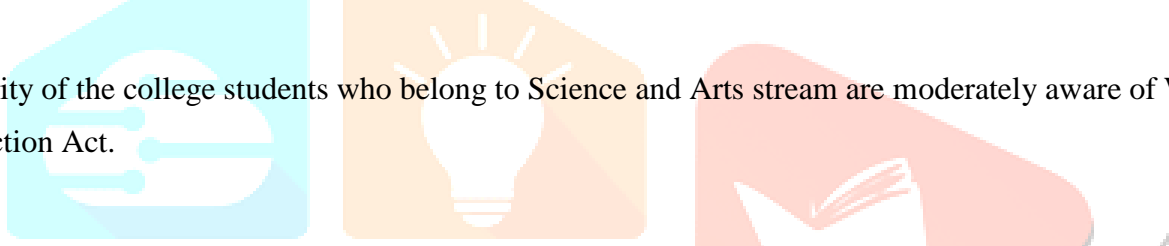
Majority of the college students who are studying in Government institutions are moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act.

Cross tabulation between Stream & Wildlife Protection Act

Count

		Stream			Total
		Arts	Science	Commerce	
WLPASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Wild life Protection Act	6	3	2	11
	Moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act	10	12	12	34
	Highly aware of Wild life Protection Act	3	2	10	15
Total		19	17	24	60

Majority of the college students who belong to Science and Arts stream are moderately aware of Wild life Protection Act.



Awareness of Forest Conservation Act

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Poorly aware of Forest Conservation Act	8	13.3	13.3	13.3
	Moderately aware of Forest Conservation Act	24	40.0	40.0	53.3
	Highly aware of Forest Conservation Act	28	46.7	46.7	100.0
Total		60	100.0	100.0	

Majority of the college students are moderately aware of Forest Conservation Act.

Cross tabulation between Gender & Forest Conservation Act

Count

		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
FCASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Forest Conservation Act	5	3	8
	Moderately aware of Forest Conservation Act	9	8	17
	Highly aware of Forest Conservation Act	13	7	20
	4.00	6	9	15
Total		33	27	60

Majority of the college students are moderately aware of Forest Conservation Act. Among them male respondents are more in number.

Cross tabulation between Age & Forest Conservation Act

Count

		Age				Total
		< 18 yrs	18 yrs - 20 yrs	20 yrs - 22 yrs	>22 yrs	
FCASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Forest Conservation Act	1	1	3	3	8
	Moderately aware of Forest Conservation Act	3	8	4	2	17
	Highly aware of Forest Conservation Act	4	6	7	3	20
	4.00	2	3	5	5	15
Total		10	18	19	13	60

Majority of the college students who belong to the age group 18 to 20 years are moderately aware of Forest Conservation Act..

Cross tabulation between College & Forest Conservation Act

Count

		College		Total
		Government	Private	
FCASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Forest Conservation Act	6	2	8
	Moderately aware of Forest Conservation Act	9	8	17
	Highly aware of Forest Conservation Act	11	9	20
	4.00	8	7	15

Total	34	26	60
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Majority of the college students who belong to Government institutions are highly aware of Forest Conservation Act..

Cross tabulation between Stream & Forest Conservation Act

Count

		Stream			Total
		Arts	Science	Commerce	
FCASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Forest Conservation Act	5	1	2	8
	Moderately aware of Forest Conservation Act	7	5	5	17
	Highly aware of Forest Conservation Act	4	5	11	20
	4.00	3	6	6	15
Total		19	17	24	60

Majority of the college students who belong to commerce stream are highly aware Forest Conservation Act. This may be due to Harita Haram initiative of planting trees by Telangana Government every year.

Water Act

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Poorly aware of Water Act	5	8.3	8.3	8.3
	Moderately aware of Water Act	35	58.3	58.3	66.7
	Highly aware of Water Act	20	33.3	33.3	100.0
	Total	60	100.0	100.0	

Majority of the respondents are moderately aware of Water Act i.e. 58.3 percent.

Cross tabulation between Gender & Water Act

Count

		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
WASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Water Act	2	3	5
	Moderately aware of Water Act	20	15	35
	Highly aware of Water Act	11	9	20

Total	33	27	60
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Majority of the college students are moderately aware of Water Act. Among them, male students are more in number.

Cross tabulation between Age & Water Act

Count

		Age				Total
		< 18 yrs	18 yrs - 20 yrs	20 yrs - 22 yrs	>22 yrs	
WASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Water Act	1	0	2	2	5
	Moderately aware of Water Act	5	11	12	7	35
	Highly aware of Water Act	4	7	5	4	20
Total		10	18	19	13	60

Majority of the college students who belong to age group 20 years to 22 years are moderately aware of Water Act.

Cross tabulation between College & Water Act

Count

		College		Total
		Government	Private	
WASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Water Act	4	1	5
	Moderately aware of Water Act	20	15	35
	Highly aware of Water Act	10	10	20
Total		34	26	60

Majority of college students who belongs to Government institutions are moderately aware of Water Act.

Air Act

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Poorly aware of Air Act	5	8.3	8.3	8.3
	Moderately aware of Air Act	35	58.3	58.3	66.7
	Highly aware of Air Act	20	33.3	33.3	100.0
Total		60	100.0	100.0	

Majority of the respondents are moderately aware of Air Act i.e. 58.3 percent.

Cross tabulation between Gender & Air Act

Count

		Gender		Total
		Male	Female	
AASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Air Act	3	4	7
	Moderately aware of Air Act	26	20	46
	Highly aware of Air Act	4	3	7
Total		33	27	60

Majority of the college students are moderately aware of Air Act. Among them male students are more in number.

Cross tabulation between Age & Air Act

Count

		Age				Total
		< 18 yrs	18 yrs - 20 yrs	20 yrs - 22 yrs	>22 yrs	
AASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Air Act	2	0	3	2	7
	Moderately aware of Air Act	7	15	13	11	46
	Highly aware of Air Act	1	3	3	0	7
Total		10	18	19	13	60

Majority of the college students who belongs to the age group 18 years to 20 years are moderately aware of Air Act.

Cross tabulation between College & Air Act

Count

		College		Total
		Government	Private	
AASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Air Act	5	2	7
	Moderately aware of Air Act	26	20	46
	Highly aware of Air Act	3	4	7
Total		34	26	60

Majority of the college students who belongs to Government institutions are moderately aware of Air Act.

Cross tabulation between Stream & Air Act

Count

		Stream			Total
		Arts	Science	Commerce	
AASUM.CAT	Poorly aware of Air Act	3	4	0	7
	Moderately aware of Air Act	14	12	20	46
	Highly aware of Air Act	2	1	4	7
Total		19	17	24	60

Majority of the college students who belongs to Commerce stream are moderately aware of Air Act.

Conclusions & Suggestions

With the increased industrialization due to LPG and ready-to-use/instant culture approach to our life, the rich but limited natural resources are depleting greatly. The imbalance between nature and Ecosystem has posed many serious challenges and problems like climate change, diseases, decay in wildlife, shortage of food and water, air pollution and so on. To maintain a balance between nature and ecosystem, effective legislation is needed especially to prevent misuse and degradation of the environment. To curb the destructive practices of unscrupulous people, forest mafia groups, poachers, polluters and over exploitation of environmental resources, effective legislation is necessary. Though many Acts were enacted since Independence, the imbalances do exist. The study on awareness of Environmental Legislations among college students depicts that they are moderately aware of the Acts- General, Wildlife, Water and Air. They are highly aware of Forest Conservation Act. There is a lot of work to be done to create awareness on Environmental protection and Environmental Legislations.

The Government should take active steps to protect our environment by bringing awareness of Environmental protection and Environmental Legislations among citizens of the country especially youth. They should lay new policies and implement them successfully. Follow up of the policies be regularly taken up by Government. A well designed system must be formulated to update the policies from time to time. Provision of rewards that adhere to the rules of protecting the Environment must be strengthened. In the same manner, if they break the rules, the punishments must be severe and harsh.

Regular awareness camps/ activities must be organized in which Environmentalists and Environmental Lawyers must be invited to enlighten on Legislations related to Environment.

The Educational Institutions should celebrate of world environment day/ week/ month as a regular practice .They should also organize educational camps for rural and illiterate people regarding benefits of protecting environment. Competitions on various Environmental Legislations must be organized and provide awards and recognition for students who show good work in this regard. Seminars/ Conferences and workshops on Environmental Legislations should be organized.

The Government through print and electronic media should bring awareness on Environmental Legislations. The courses on Environmental Legislations must be introduced.

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