



DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG YOUTH: A REVIEW

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Abstract

The increasing population and changing lifestyles of the people will contribute tremendously towards increasing environmental issues at global, regional and local level. Today, people are not aware with regard to environmental problems and how it will badly impact on our environment. Environmental education plays significant role in the development of environmental awareness. In the present era, environmental awareness must be developed among the masses particularly among youths. The development and growth of understanding and awareness regarding the biophysical environment and understanding how human activities affect the environment is known as environmental awareness. The collective efforts of each and every person of the society bring success towards environmental protection. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to study the awareness regarding environment among youth.

Key Words: Environmental Awareness, Attitude, Environmental Protection and Sustainability.

Introduction

Environment comes from the French word “Environ”, it simply means surrounding conditions. It comprises of all the natural resources of the earth’s surface encompasses of all living things and non living things. Hence, environment includes all those elements which build up a designed ecosystem. Human activities strongly interact with environment as compared to the activities of other living beings and it also influences the environment. There are various measures which are undertaken for the purpose of sustainable development by the government of developing countries. Sustainable development includes both economic as well as social development (Sarma and Sharma, 2021). Sustainable development means fulfilling the requirements of present generation without conciliating the potential of next generation to fulfill their requirements. The survival of human societies is depends on sustainable development. It

increases the awareness among the general public and administrators as well to draw its attention to the issues having influence on growth. For better growth and development, steps have been taken to look over sustainable development. The foremost duty of every human being is to be conscious and aware towards the maintenance of the environment. To maintain of the quality of global life, a proper environmental attitude must be developed to save the environment (Sukhwinder, 2013).

Environmental degradation is the biggest problem in the 21st century. It leads to threatening the existence of people. As such environmental awareness is utmost essential for environment protection and its conservation for better future and makes this earth healthy and clean for a long period of time (Bala, 2016). Environmental awareness means broadening the knowledge of human beings in the areas like air, energy, water, natural resources and wild. Environmental education plays an important role in exploring environmental issues, engage in problem solving and take actions to protect the environment. In the process of environmental awareness, educationists are very much involved. India is giving its best in achieving the targets relating to environmental awareness.

In the present era, environmental awareness should be developed among the masses particularly among youths. For environmental awareness, it is necessary for the whole society to work at a grass root level for safeguarding the environment. To generate the environmental values among youth, it is important to know the responsibility towards environment and behave like eco-friendly. Environmental awareness is an integral part of any environmental curriculum (deep scientific understanding of environmental issues) encouraging masses particularly youth to participate in the protection of environment. So that men and environment may be preserved. Through it youth is more curious towards environmental awareness (Astalin, 2011). The ever increasing population and changing lifestyles of the people will contribute tremendously towards increasing environmental issues at global, regional and local level. Today, people are not aware about their role in the emergence of environmental problems and how it will badly impact on our environment. This implies that environmental awareness is essential among the school youth so that they should stop using the environmental resources extensively; protect our environment and helps in creating sustainable development (Meseret, 2016).

Review of Literature

Tripathi (2000) compared the awareness level of 12th class students of central and other schools regarding environment. The findings revealed that no significant difference has been observed between central schools and other schools possessing same and different syllabus whereas a significant difference has been noticed between females and males, science and arts stream students. **Astalin (2011)** observed the environmental awareness among higher secondary students. The findings revealed that Arts students are less environmentally aware than science students. CBSE board students have more environmental awareness than UP board students. Undergraduate, post graduate and Ph.d students are more aware towards

environment than high school and intermediate students. Boys are more aware towards environment as compared to girls. **Altin et al. (2013)** examined the environmental awareness level of the secondary school students and found that awareness level of girls towards environment was high. They participated actively in environmental programs. **Mahajan and darbari (2014)** studied environmental awareness of school students. The results of the study revealed that students of higher classes were aware about environment. A significant difference has been found in environment awareness on the basis of gender. Boys of each class were highly aware than girls. **Katoch (2016)** examined the attitude and awareness level of students regarding environment. It was observed that no significant difference exists among students of schools i.e. male as female regarding environmental awareness. Both boys and girls students possess equal environmental awareness. There exists a significant difference in the attitude of boys and girls towards environment. Girls had positive attitude regarding environment than boys. **Balaji and Anbalagan (2017)** observed the awareness level of rural and urban secondary school students regarding environment and found that male students have better environmental awareness than female students. English medium students showed better environmental awareness than Tamil medium student in rural areas whereas in urban area, Tamil medium students had better awareness towards environment than the students of English medium. **Deshmukh (2018)** examined environmental awareness among post graduate students of Amravati University. The results revealed that arts stream students have higher environmental awareness than science stream students and they are very much associated with environmental education as compared the students of Science streams.

Objectives

- To study the environmental awareness among youth.

Research Methodology

This paper is descriptive in nature. Secondary data has been used in this study. Data was collected from books, websites and journals.

Analysis

Table 1: Review of Studies on Development of Environmental Awareness among Youth

Author	Geographical area	Sampling	Methodology	Findings
Sarma and Sharma (2021)	College students of Guwahati city	Simple random sampling	Mean, standard deviation and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students of commerce stream are more aware as compared to the students of arts stream. The stream has influence on environmental awareness of undergraduate students.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There exists no significant difference in environmental awareness of the students of Arts and Commerce stream. • Students of both stream i.e. commerce and arts differ in awareness towards environment.
Astalin (2011)	School students of Varanasi city	Simple random sampling	Mean, standard deviation and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students of Arts stream are less environmentally aware than the students of science stream. • Students of UP board are less environmentally aware than the students of CBSE board. • Students belonging to undergraduate, post graduate and Ph.d are more aware towards environment than intermediate and high school students. • Girls were less aware towards environment than boys.
Sivamoorthy et al. (2013)	College students of Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu.	Multi stage sampling	Mean, standard deviation and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College students found to be more aware towards environmental protection irrespective of gender. • A significant difference has been found between gender and environmental practices. • There is no relationship exists among environmental practices and environmental awareness.
Bala (2016)	School students of	Simple random	Mean, standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There exists a significant difference among rural and

	Ludhiana District	sampling	deviation and t-test	<p>urban senior secondary school students regarding environmental awareness.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant difference has been found in attitude of students of senior secondary school residing in urban and rural areas towards environmental awareness. • There exists a significant difference in the environmental awareness of government and private schools. • There exists a significant relationship between environment awareness and attitude towards environment of senior secondary school students.
Bhartiya (2017)	People of Tinsukia district of Assam	Stratified random sampling	Mean, Standard deviation and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Females of Assam are more aware towards environmental protection than males. • No significant difference has been found in environmental awareness on the basis of gender in Assam.
Shobeiri et al. (2007)	School students of India (Mysore city) and Iran (Tehran city).	Stratified random sampling	Mean, standard deviation and Two way ANOVA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant difference has been found in environmental awareness level of students of India and Iran. • Iranian students had high level of environment awareness than Indian students.
Biswas (2017)	School students of	Simple random	Mean, standard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls of secondary school of urban Areas and Bengali

	Murshidabad district, West Bengal	sampling	deviation and t-test	<p>medium were more aware towards environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A significant difference has been found in the environmental awareness level among secondary school students of rural and urban area. • Bengali medium students are more aware than English medium students towards environment. • Boys were less environmentally aware than girls.
Sandhu (2015)	School students of Ludhiana	Multi-stage random sampling	Mean, Standard deviation and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls had more awareness with regard to environment than Boys. • Urban school students were found to be more environmentally aware in comparison to rural secondary school students.
Bhatia and Bhatia (2013)	College students of Yamuna Nagar District, Haryana	Simple random sampling	Mean, standard deviation and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no significant difference between boys and girls of post graduate courses with regard to environmental awareness. • No significant difference has been observed between arts and science stream students at post graduate level towards environmental awareness. • A significant difference has been observed between rural

				and urban students towards environmental awareness.
Barman (2018)	School students of Kamrup district of Assam	Simple random sampling	Mean, standard deviation and z- test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Male students of private school, English medium school and rural areas found to be more aware than female students regarding environmental problems. • Urban area female students, Govt. School students and Assamese medium school students were found to be more environmentally aware than male students.
Sindhu and Singh (2014)	School students of Gurgaon District	Normative survey method	Mean, Standard deviation, Standard error and t- test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant difference has been found between male and female students towards environmental awareness. • There is no significant difference exists between boys and girls of secondary school towards environmental education. • There is no significant difference exists among urban and rural secondary school boys with regards to environmental education awareness. • There is no difference exist among rural and urban secondary school girls with regards to environmental education awareness.

Sahidullah (2020)	School students of Assam	Simple random sampling	Mean, Standard deviation and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority of students of secondary school were more aware regarding environment. No significant difference has been observed between male and female students regarding environmental awareness.
Rathee and thakran (2017)	School students of Rohtak District, Haryana	Simple random sampling	Mean, standard deviation and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no difference significantly exists between boys and girls with regard to environmental awareness. There exists no significant difference between urban and rural areas students towards environmental awareness.
Bhat et al. (2016)	School students of Jammu and Kashmir	Simple random sampling	Standard deviation, Mean and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emotional maturity and environmental awareness of students of secondary school showed negative correlation. Secondary school students of rural area were more environmentally aware than students of urban area. Government high school students were highly aware towards environment as compared to private secondary school students. Rural secondary school students were emotionally more mature than urban. Girls were found to be more mature than boys. There exists no significant difference between private and

				government secondary school students on emotional maturity.
Ghosh (2014)	Students of Assam	Simple random sampling	Z-test and Karl Pearson's coefficient of correlation (r).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There exists no significant difference between female and male students of secondary school of Assam towards environmental awareness. • There is a significant difference exists among rural and urban students with regards to environmental awareness and environmental attitude. • There is no significant difference exists between boys and girls of school of Assam regarding environmental attitude. There is positive relationship between environmental awareness and attitude towards environmental education among secondary school students of Assam.
Jusoh et al. (2018)	University students of Malaysia	Simple random sampling	Mean, standard deviation and percentage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bachelor and master degree students were found to be less aware towards environment than Phd students. • There exists a significant difference between bachelor degree, master degree and PhD students regarding environmental attitude. • Student was more aware towards environment issues

				<p>and level of practices towards environment was moderate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There exists a significant relationship between knowledge, awareness and attitude towards environment but the relationship among the variables was low.
Katoch (2016)	Students of Shimla	Simple random sampling	Standard deviation, Mean and t-ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No significant difference exists among boys and girls of school towards environmental awareness. • Boys and girls students showed same environmental awareness. • There exists a significant difference in attitude of boys and girls regarding environment. • Girls had positive attitude towards environment as compared to boys.
Khan (2013)	Students of Aligarh City	Purposive Sampling	Standard deviation, mean and t-test	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There exists no significant difference between boys and girls of senior secondary school on environmental awareness. • There exists a significant difference among students of senior secondary school live in their own house or those live in rental house.

Discussion

The results revealed that mostly students of colleges and schools are environmentally aware but awareness level of the students of graduation and post graduation is high as compared to the awareness level of the students of schools. The awareness level is high because of environmental education. These findings are supported by Astalin (2011), Sivamoorthy et al. (2013), Jusoh et al. (2018), Barman (2018) and Sahidullah (2020). Students of science and commerce have more awareness regarding environment in comparison to the students of Arts stream. These findings are supported by Astalin (2011) and Sarma and Sharma (2021). No significant difference has been found between males and females towards environmental awareness. Here previous studies of Sivamoorthy et al. (2013), Khan (2013), Ghosh (2014), Sindhu and Singh (2014), Katoch (2016), Rathee and Thakran (2017), Bhartiya (2017), and Sahidullah (2020) support these findings.

Conclusion

Environmental awareness is essential for healthy environment and it plays important role in creating pollution free environment. Most of studies concluded that students of colleges and schools are environmentally aware but awareness level of the students of graduation and post graduation is high as compared to the awareness level of the students of schools. No significant difference has been observed between males and females towards environmental awareness. Students of science and commerce have more awareness regarding environment in comparison to the students of Arts stream. There exists no significant relationship between environmental awareness and environmental practices. Environmental education plays significant role in the development of environmental awareness among masses. Efforts are to be made incorporating environmental concepts into existing curriculum, making new strategies, and developing of instructional material to protect the environment at all levels in education system.

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