



A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS OF JALPAIGURI DISTRICT

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ABSTRACT

The unlimited rapacious exploitation of nature by man has disturbed delicate ecological balance existing between living and non-living components on the planet earth. Rapid industrialisation and urbanisation has left us polluted rivers, contaminated soil, depleted wild life and exhausted natural resources. Today, environment is contaminated and therefore harmful for the health of living organisms. Awareness among the masses is essential to curb environmental pollution.

Keywords: Environment, Awareness, Sustained development, Global warming.

Introduction :

There is nothing beyond nature behind and other than nature. Life does not occur in a vacuum as man is an integral part of natural environment and owes his existence to wisely utilize the resource for . Today the delicate eco-system of our planet is facing a danger of destruction on a scale as never before in the history of mankind. In the made race for development, man has been ruthlessly consuming natural resources and polluting the environment, several species of animal and plants have already vanished from the face of earth and many more on the verge of extinction. Land masses are getting eroded, climate in different parts of the world is undergoing a change due to global warming and clean air and water are increasing by becoming rare commodities.

According to International Working Meeting on Environment Education in the School Curriculum (1970), "Environment Education is the process of recognizing values and clarifying concepts in order to develop skill and attitudes necessary to understand and appreciate interrelatedness among man – his culture and bio-physical surroundings. Environmental education

also entails practice in decision making and self-formulating of a code of behavior about issues concerning environmental qualities.”

Thus, environmental education is a study of the factors, influencing eco-system, environmental and physical growth living and working condition decaying cities and pollution pressures.

Justification of the Study :

Today, the delicate eco-system of our planet is facing a danger of destruction on a scale as never before in the history of mankind. In the mad race for development, man has been ruthlessly consuming natural resources and polluting the environment. Several species of animals and plants have already vanished from the face of earth and many more are on the verge of extinction. Forests are diminishing at an alarming rate landmasses are getting eroded, climate in different part of the world is undergoing becoming rare commodities. The very survival of man depends on the solutions of these problems. Awareness is essential to solve these problems. That’s why the present topic has been made in this direction to study the awareness towards environment among the secondary school teachers.

Statement of the Problem :

“A Study of environmental awareness among secondary school teachers of Jalpaiguri district (West Bengal)”.

Definition :

According to C. C. Parch (1980), Environment is the sum of all social, economical, biological, physical or chemical factors which constitute factors that surround the man, who is both its creator and moulder.

Awareness :

Awareness means to create realization or having the knowledge for something.

Objectives of the Study :

1. To study the Environmental Awareness among secondary school teachers in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.
2. To find out the differences regarding Environmental Awareness among the urban and rural secondary school teachers in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.
3. To find out the differences regarding Environmental Awareness among the Arts and Science secondary school teachers in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.
4. To find out the differences regarding Environmental Awareness among the male and female

secondary school teachers in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.

Hypotheses :

1. There exists no significant difference regarding Environmental Awareness among the rural and urban secondary school teachers.
2. There exists no significant difference regarding Environmental Awareness among the Science and Arts secondary school teachers.
3. There exists no significant difference regarding Environmental Awareness among the male and female secondary school teachers.

Methodology :

As per the requirement of the study and to achieve the above mentioned objectives, the survey method was applied.

Sample :

For the present study, the investigator selected randomly, male and female students of ten schools from Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal. In total, investigator selected 110 teachers out of which 40 were Science teachers and 70 were Arts teachers.

Tools :

For the study, the investigator will use the Environmental Awareness Test (EAT) developed by Sarangi and Saha Chaudhuri. The test consists of 2 components viz., General knowledge, pollution regarding air, water, land, soil and noise. The items are of multiple choice type. There are 40 items in this test.

Statistical Techniques :

1. Mean, median and mode.
2. Standard Deviation.
3. Skewness and Kurtosis
4. Critical Ratio to compare the groups.

Delimitation of the Study :

- The present study was limited to the secondary school teachers of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.
- The study was confined within a sample of only 110 out of 70 sample from Arts and 40 sample

from Science teachers.

- Only three variables were considered for this study, viz. sex, locality and subjects.

Analysis and Interpretation :

Table – 1 : Mean, Median, Mode, SD, Skewness, Kurtosis of Environmental Awareness Score of Secondary School Teachers of Jalpaiguri District

N	110
Mean	30.63
Median	27.34
Mode	27.25
Standard Deviation	5.71
Skewness	0.485
Kurtosis	0.218

Table-1 shows that the Mean, Median, Mode, Standard Deviation, Skewness, Kurtosis of environmental awareness score of secondary school teachers of Jalpaiguri district are 30.63, 27.34, 27.25, 5.71, 0.485 and 0.218 respectively.

Table – 2 : Comparison of Mean, SD and CR between rural and urban Secondary School Teachers

Groups	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Sig.
Rural	50	23.00	4.24	0.72	13.89	0.01
Urban	60	31.42	3.03			

Table-2 indicates that the mean and SD of the awareness of secondary school teachers of rural group are 23 & 4.24 respectively and that of urban group are 31.42 & 3.03 respectively. The t-ratio between the mean scores of two groups is 13.89 which is significant at 0.01 level. It shows that the urban teachers have higher awareness than the rural teachers of secondary school. So Hypothesis-1 is rejected.

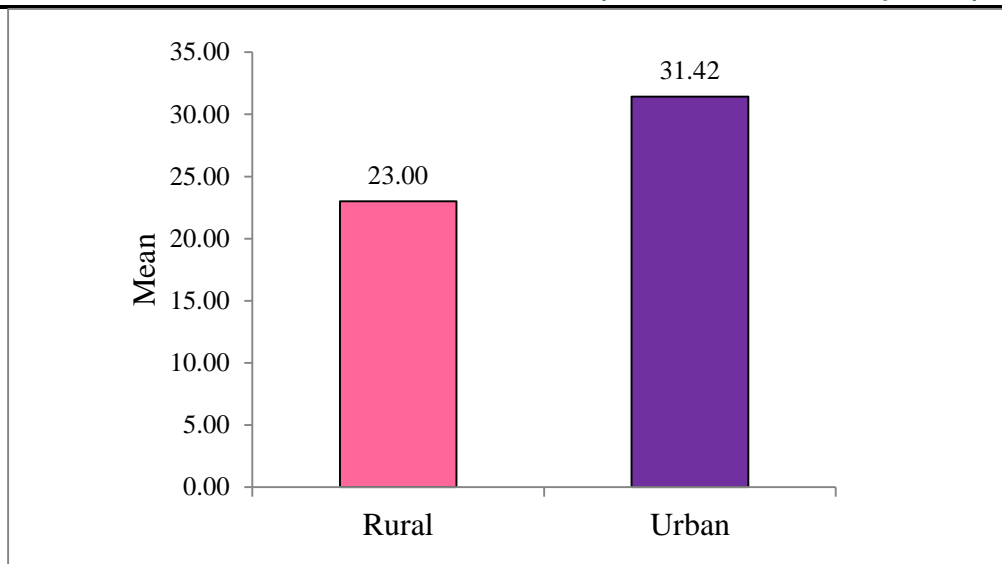


Fig. 1 : Graph showing mean scores of environmental awareness of rural and urban secondary school teachers

Table – 3 : Comparison of Mean, SD and CR between Science and Arts Secondary School Teachers

Groups	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Sig.
Science	40	32.00	3.25	0.78	38.46	0.01
Arts	70	24.08	4.89			

Table-3 indicates that the mean and SD of environmental awareness of secondary school teachers of Science group are 32 & 3.25 respectively and that of Arts group are 24.08 & 4.89 respectively. The t-ratio between the mean scores of two groups is 38.46 which is significant at 0.01 level. It reveals that the science teachers have higher awareness than the arts teachers of secondary school. So Hypothesis-2 is rejected.

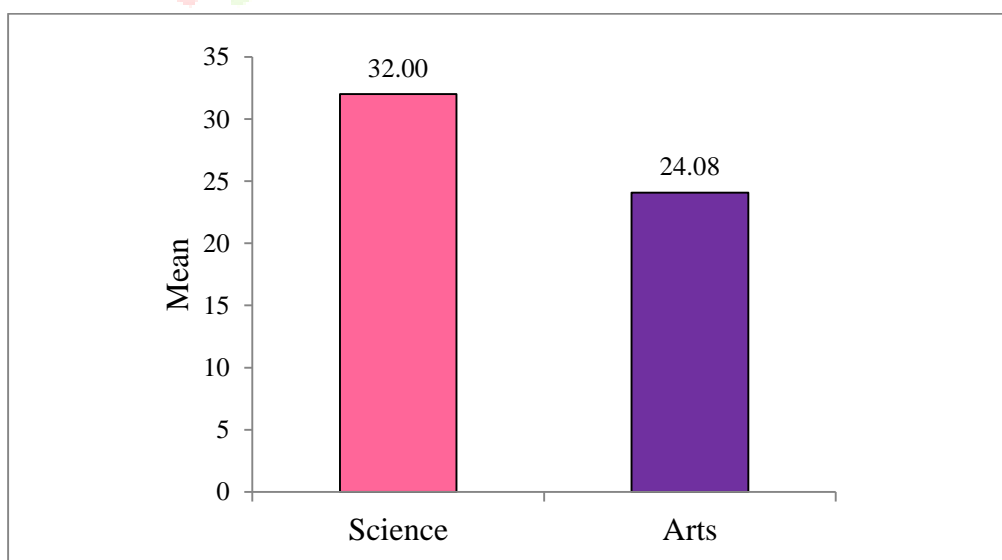


Fig. 2 : Graph showing mean scores of environmental awareness of Science and Arts secondary school teachers

Table – 4 : Comparison of Mean, SD and CR between Male and Female Secondary School Teachers

Groups	N	Mean	SD	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Sig.
Male	65	31.16	4.34	0.81	24.69	0.01
Female	45	22.67	4.03			

Table-4 reveals that the mean scores of environmental awareness of secondary school male and female teachers are 31.16 and 22.67 respectively with SD of 4.34 and 4.03 respectively. The t-ratio between the two groups is 24.69 which is significant at 0.01 level. It reveals that the male secondary school teachers have high awareness than the female secondary school teachers. Thus Hypothesis – 4 is rejected.

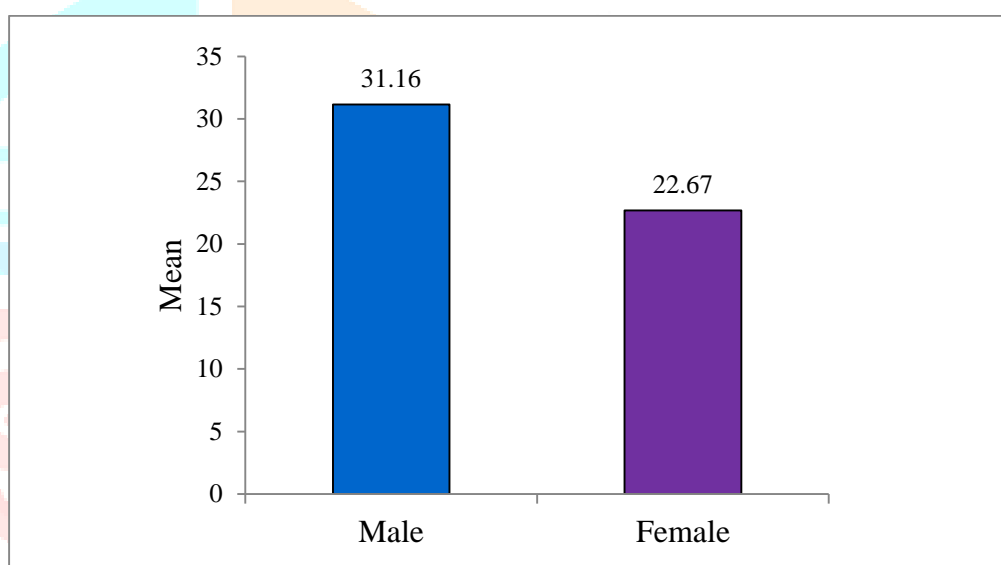


Fig. 3 : Graph showing mean scores of environmental awareness of male and female secondary school teachers

Main Findings :

From the analysis of the data, the following findings were drawn.

- While analyzing the Environmental Awareness among secondary school teachers, it was found that they were not normally distributed.
- While making comparison between the urban and rural secondary school teachers regarding Environmental Awareness, it was found that, the urban teachers have more Environmental Awareness than rural teachers.
- While making comparison between the Arts and Science secondary school teachers regarding Environmental Awareness, it was found that there are significant difference regarding Environmental Awareness among Arts and Science secondary school teachers.

- While making comparison between male and female secondary school teachers regarding Environmental Awareness. It was found that there exists significant difference regarding Environmental Awareness among the male and female secondary school teachers.

Educational Implication :

The present study has its implication for the teacher educators, educational planners, parents, educators and educational administrators. Environmental education should be provided to the teachers of Science and Arts faculties in order to preserve the delicate eco-system of our planet earth by imparting knowledge, understanding and skills about environmental and its allies problems. It will be very unfortunate for us to realize such a very low awareness towards environment among the secondary school teachers. Such an attitude towards environment can not be changed unless education consciously tries to develop environmental awareness among the students. Unless people have a sensitive and loving attitude towards nature, externally enforced laws and regulations will remain ineffective.

Suggestion for Further Research :

Environmental education is a vast relatively new subject. There are various field on which research can be conducted. Some of these are suggested below :

- Development of environmental education material for different classes.
- Research in appropriate technology for promoting environmental education.
- Survey of present attitude of people towards the environment.
- Development of curriculum in environmental education for different levels of education, pre-school to university level.
- Production of text-books, additional reading materials and audio-visual aids for different level of education.

Conclusion :

There is a necessity to make awareness in the areas – health and hygienic, pollution, protection of wildlife, population explosion, importance of environment and other aspects in environmental education. Study of environmental education helps the human life to be happy and contributes the quality of life suited to the present day situations. This promotes interaction between local and regional communities, conflict prevention and resolution in critical environmental situations. This has direct implications for policy development and implementation in order to develop strong links between research community, policy makers and environmental management experts.

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