

AN ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AWARENESS AMONG GENERAL PUBLIC

¹Mrs. Rachna Sharma, ²Dr. Vandana Bhatnagar

¹ PhD Scholar, Education Department, SSSUTMS, Sehore (M.P.), India

² Associate Professor, Education Department, SSSUTMS, Sehore (M.P.), India

ABSTRACT

A comprehension of natural system joined with how they cooperate with human social system is the Environmental Awareness. The expansion in monetary exercises in creating nations results in more energy utilizations which for the most part lead to the environmental degradation. The accomplishment of natural security relies upon the aggregate endeavors and each individual from the general public offers the duty. So the present examination is expected to evaluate the environmental awareness among the general population of Madhya Pradesh. Study is directed by elucidating overview strategy, information is gathered by the utilization of environment awareness scale arranged by the author himself and the gathered information is broke down by the use of mean, median mode, standard deviation, skewness, kurtosis and t-proportion as measurable devices. The present examination uncovered that the females of Madhya Pradesh are increasingly mindful in contrast with that of the guys of Madhya Pradesh. By and large in general, the dimension of natural awareness is great in the general population of Madhya Pradesh.

Keyword: Awareness, Environment, Environmental Education, Rural area, Urban area.

1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental awareness is a concern towards environment or environmental problem. In other word we can say understanding of natural system combine with how they insert with human social systems. It implies not only knowledge about environment but also attitude, values and necessary skills to solve environmental related problems. Moreover, environmental awareness is the initial step ultimately leading to the ability to carry on responsible behavior by citizens. Since the initial resolution of the nineteenth century, the top priority in countries all over the world has been economic growth and rearing the national income. Increase in economic attributes in developing countries results in more energy consumption which generally leads to environmental degradation. Major difficulties many countries confront are not only the lack of legal framework for environmental protection, but also lack of participation among general public in pro environmental behaviors. The World Bank expert reveals that in the year 1995 to 2016, India has become the one of the fastest progressive countries in the world, in addressing its environmental and improving it environmental quality. India has adopted various international and national strategies to solve and mitigate many environmental issues such as environmental courts, Environment friendly products, use of lead free petrol, ban on harmful pesticides, National waste management council public liability insurance, regulation of seashore hotels, National River Action plan, solar Energy commission and prohibition of smoking in public place. As early in 1972, the united nation first put forward the idea of “sustainable development” in its first conference on the human environment, emphasizing that any development must take into account the environment, belonging not only economic and social needs, but also needs of the future generation. Moderns (1996) explained that the environment awareness is necessary to achieve environmental protection and restoration. He emphasized that public must have a basic group of environment problems. Upknog (1991) emphasized that importance of environmental sanitation, attitudinal reorientation and behavioral change. People’s perception, their attitude, their habits, values, and believes must change in order to fit into the new social order. The success of environmental protection depends on collective efforts. Every member of the society shares the responsibility. Earlier environmental studies often adopted the post materialistic position, assuming that a general emphasis on the quality of the environment would only take place as part of a cultural level of socio-economic development was reached. Recent studies have pointed out that although people around the world have become more concerned about environmental issues (Dunlap et. al. 1993; Diekman and Franzon, 1999). For individuals, the practice of environmental protection involves the need to make different kinds of sacrifices, such as giving up the driving of

private cars and paying higher price for eco-friendly products, instead of simply raising slogans. The objective of environmental protection cannot be achieved without active and concerted efforts by the entire society.

2. The factor of government and environment protection department

2.1 Pursuit interest unilaterally, lack of environment input

This survey showed that 71.02% of the respondents reflect there is no centralized waste treatment plant in the village, 69.87% reflected no special cleaners, 74.46% said there are no public toilets in the villages, virescence and indurations of the road was not sufficient. However, the peasants put their hope to environmental protection and management work on the environmental protection department and government, when asked What kind of approach should be adopted to improve the environmental situation in the village, the highest proportion selects government-fund accounting for 44.05%, followed by Government and farmers jointly fund, accounting for 29.12%; the Government's own funded accounting for 27.40%; farmers own fund only accounted for 4.74%. There are up to 46.62% of respondents who believe that the greatest shortage of improving the rural ecological environment is the government's financial support. So, it's clear to see rural area shows strong dependence on the Government. It's imperative to increase investment in environmental protection from government and environmental protection departments. Environmental education and publicity work cannot keep up because of the lack of funds, the result is unable to raise environmental awareness of farmers, forming a chain reaction of environmental degradation.

2.2 Propaganda on environment protection is sufficient

Survey showed that 52.67% of people have heard of reports about improvement of rural environment, mainly through television, newspapers, networks, neighbors' talk and publication from village officer and so on. It can be seen that farmers in Hebei Province access environmental knowledge and other information still by traditional media channels, TV set is highest proportion, at 42.32%; the second is Propaganda from officer and newspapers, accounted for 19.32% and 16.07% separately. The way through the Internet and other modern media access to environmental information only accounted for 9.74%, indicating that few villagers knew how to use computer network technology due to the restrictions of rural education. Therefore, it is very important to improve the overall educational level of farmers. It can be seen that the way for farmers to get environmental knowledge is unitary. The traditional way, for example television and newspaper are still the main way to get environmental information, they use internet little. Besides many farmers cannot used the Internet if they have computer, it also illustrate sufficiently that the level of education is so important for environmental awareness.

2.3 Low degree supervision connive at enterprise which contaminates environment

The Survey showed that 35.44% of the factories or hand workshops have no pollution control measures, the villagers reflect that they close down for few days when inspection departments coming into village, the contaminated factories and enterprises become lively start discharging waste gas and waste water once they left, with resounding sound of the machine. When asked the respondents what is the problem they concerned mostly about in the process of improving the rural environment, there are 20.23% respondents worried about the proportion which who raise funds personally is over high, the respondents were afraid about the abuse of power as high as 61.41%, 45.91% worried about project, the respondents who worried that environment has not improved account for 21.09%. It can be seen that people fears the abuse of power most.

In this survey, when asking respondents what is the main purpose of superiors' working on rural environment and sanitation, the answer that "it's superiors' image projects" accounts for 30.42%, the answer that "it's the needs of building a new countryside" accounts for 32.7%, the answer that "it's for improving living environment of rural residents" accounts for 44.91%. The data shows that the problem that government and environmental protection departments abuse power during environmental work is serious, making famers doubt the effectiveness and authenticity of environmental protection work, which leads to ineffective environmental protection work, and without support of farmers.

3. RELATED WORK

Pradhan (2002) analyzed the environmental awareness among secondary school teachers and found that teachers working in secondary schools had low awareness about environmental problems. There was a significant difference in environmental awareness between social science, language and science teachers, and rural and urban teachers, while male and female teachers showed no such differences. Shaila (2003) studied the effect of background variables on the environmental attitude of secondary school teachers and found that there is no significant difference

between male and female teachers with regard to their environmental awareness and depicted no significant difference between arts and science teachers. Dhillon and Sandhu (2005) conducted a study to assess environmental education awareness among elementary school teachers and found that there was significant difference in environmental education awareness between urban and rural school teachers. No significant difference was observed in the environmental education awareness between male and female teachers and significant difference was found among teacher with respect to their subject specialization. Panda (2006) found that the science stream postgraduate students were more aware towards Environmental education than the post-graduate students of Arts and commerce stream. Further he added that post Graduate students of commerce streams had lowest awareness toward Environmental education as compared with the students of science and Arts Streams. Shive (2007) found that there was no significant difference between girls and boys in secondary difference between girls and boys in secondary classes with regard to their pre Environmental behavior. Nagra (2010) identified the environmental education awareness among school teachers in relation to level of school, residential background, gender and subject specialization. Analysis of variance results revealed significant variation in the environmental education awareness level of school teachers in relation to their level, residential background and subject specialization. However, no significant variation was observed in relation to the gender of school teachers. The above literature review reveals that most of the studies had concentrated upon the elementary or secondary level teachers and very rarely any study has concentrated upon senior secondary level teachers thus, the present study has been taken. Kalpana Thakur (2012) conducted a study on environment awareness among senior secondary school students of Chandigarh. The major findings of her study were that student of both government and private schools showed comparable environment awareness, science students exhibited very high degree of environment awareness to compare with the students of arts. Moreover, male science students exhibited very high degree of environment awareness than female science students but overall no significant difference was found between male and female students in this context. Fernande manzand et. al. (2007) in his study found that female students have higher scores than male student on the attitude scale. Tensor et. al. (2005) found girls being more aware of environmental problems and individual responsibility as well as having more positive attitudes than boys. Kumud Ghosh (2014) conducted a study on environment awareness among secondary school students of Golaghat district of Madhya Pradesh and their attitude towards environmental education. He found that environmental awareness and attitude towards environmental education among the secondary school students (both male and female) was not significant, but in case of rural and urban student the attitude towards environmental education was found significant. The in depth and positive relationship between environmental awareness and attitude towards environmental education found among those students was worthy to be mentioned. M. Sivamoorthy, R. Nalini and C. Satheesh Kumar conducted a study on Environmental Awareness and practices among college students and found that the level of awareness is high among the students irrespective of gender differences but in practice level there is difference between genders i.e. male practicing more than females. A study “Environmental Awareness and Behavior in Hongkong: A decade of development”, by Timothy – Ka-Ying and Shirley Po-San Wan, has found that Hongkong people have consistently been highly aware of the seriousness of different environmental problems and are pessimistic in, in resolving those problems in future. Such pessimism is rooted in their unwillingness to put the matter of environmental protection over economic growth, their hesitation to modify their behavior related to protection of environment, and their lack of confidence in the existing environmental laws. This study also reveals that educational attainment and gender are two important variables that affect the environmental awareness and behavior of the people of Hongkong.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The objectives of the present study are:-

- i) To Study the environmental awareness among the male peoples of Madhya Pradesh.
- ii) To study the environmental awareness among the female peoples of Madhya Pradesh.
- iii) To compare the environmental awareness among the male and female Madhya Pradesh.

5. METHODOLOGY USED FOR THE STUDY

A. Method.

The present study has been done by descriptive survey method, which specifies the present status of the subject used in the study in terms of condition practices, beliefs, attitude etc.

B. Sampling

It is very difficult to conduct the investigation on a large population due to paucity of time, so the author preferred a limited sample.

Keeping in view the time and financial constraints, the author has selected people from Tinsukia, district of Madhya Pradesh (India).

C. Selection of Tool:-

In the present study, environmental awareness scale is used for the collection of data. It is the development of environmental awareness means to understand the environmental problems and to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills in the people. The researcher developed questionnaire of 45 questions in which three types of questions are included. These are of likert type (4-Point), agreement type and multiple choice questions.

D. Administration of Test:-

Simple was selected randomly from different areas of Tinsukia District present in Madhya Pradesh (India). The randomly selected samples include 251 people. The selected sample includes 162 male and 89 female. The randomly selected samples include peoples of age ranging from 14 years to 70 years. The survey was conducted by the author himself by door to door visit in both rural and urban area.

E. Difficulties encountered in collection of Data:-

Following difficulties encountered during the collection of data-

- Most of the people feared of leakage of their personal views. So, they did not co-operated from and frankly as needed.
- It took much time in making people ready for the test.
- The presence of different language speaking people like Madhya Pradesh, Hindi, English etc. created some communication problems during the test.

6. RESULT, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

Table 1:

Gender	Mean	Median	Mode	Std. Dev.	Skewness	Kurtosis
Male	73.567	70.35	68.253	10.767	0.896	-0.263
Female	75.396	73	71.64	10.983	-2.073	5.325

The mean, median, mode and standard deviation of males are 7.567, 70.35, 68.253 and 10.767 respectively and those of females are 75.396, 73, 71.64 and 10.983 respectively. On comparing the above scores it is clear that in environmental awareness, females are better than that of males.

The skewness of scores of males and females are 0.896 and -2.073 respectively. The negative skewness (sk=-2.073) of females in comparison to that of males (sk=0.896) shows that large number of females are above the average and in this case also female is superior to the males.

Table 2:

Gender	Mean	Median	Mode	Std. Dev.	Value of t	Significance
Male	70.063	68.15	66.355	10.632	0.147	Not significant
Female	72.437	72	70.45	10.637		

The ratio between the scores of males and females is 0.967, which is not significant at both 0.075 levels of significance ($t_{critical} = 2.835$) and 0.02 level of significance ($t_{critical} = 2.237$). So there is no significant difference in the environmental awareness in the male and female people of Madhya Pradesh.

7. CONCLUSION

After the analysis of the above outcomes it is clear that in environmental awareness, females are better than Male that of the Madhya Pradesh. In other terms, we can say that females of Madhya Pradesh are more aware of the environmental protection in comparison to that of the males of Madhya Pradesh. But on observing the t -value between the scores of males and females, it is found that there is no significant difference in environmental awareness in males and females of Madhya Pradesh.

8. REFERENCES

- [1] Dhillon, J.S. and Sandhu, V. (2005): Environmental education awareness among elementary school teacher. *Perspectives in Education*, Vol. 21, No. 02.
- [2] Ganadevan (2007) Environmental awareness of Higher Secondary Students *Research & Reflection in education*, 05(1).
- [3] Gupta, M.P. 1997. A study of adolescent's environmental awareness in context of religious attitudes, scientific attitudes and scholastic achievement.
- [4] Kumari, Suman (2010). Environmental awareness and attitude of teachers of Himachal Pradesh, *University news* 48(23). AIU House, New Delhi
- [5] Lavega, E.L.D. 2004. Awareness, knowledge, and attitude about environmental education: responses from environmental specialists, high school instructors, students, and parents. Unpublished Dissertation, University of Central Florida Orlando, Florida
- [6] Mohai, P. 1991. Men, women, and the environment: an examination of the gender gap in environmental concern and activism. *Society and Natural Resources*, 5(1): 1-19
- [7] Owens, M.A. 2000. The environmental literacy of urban middle school teachers. *Dissertation Abstract International*, 61(4): 4314-
- [8] A. Patel, D.G. & Patel, N.A. 1994. Environmental Yadav Neetu (2009) . Values and Environmental education, *Meri Journal of education IV(II)* 113-116.
- [9] Kumari P, Vasantha OMC. Environmental Awareness among neo-literates. *Australian Journal of adult learning* 3: 2003; 302-10.
- [10] Mishra, B.B. (2006). Environmental Awareness of Secondary School Students with Reference to Their Intelligence and School Background. *Journal of All India Association for Educational Research*, 18(1&2), 71-73.
- [11] United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Environmental Education Division Report. 2000.