

A Study on Environmental Awareness among B.Ed. students in Kolkata District

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Abstract:

It is known to all that environment plays the most essential role in healthy living. But now the environment is under threat due to rapid industrialization, excessive use of non-environment friendly materials, urbanization and over exploitation of natural resources. Every human being living on this earth should be concerned about this situation. For this several campaigns are going on globally to create awareness amongst people to save our mother nature from destruction. B.Ed. trainees are the future makers of coming generations. So B.Ed. students should be properly aware about environment and environmental issues. They should have proper knowledge about environmental education only then they can inculcate environmental awareness amongst their students. The present study aims to assess the level of environmental awareness among B.Ed. students of Kolkata. The researcher selected 100 samples of B.Ed. students giving representation to gender (Female/Male), type of college (Self-financed/Government) they belong and type of trainees (In-service/Pre-service) they are. Environmental Awareness Test (EAWT) developed by Dr. K. Yeshodhara (2003) was used as the tool to measure the level of environmental awareness among B.Ed. students of Kolkata. Collected data were analysed with the help of Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test. The result revealed that there is no significant difference in awareness regarding environment between male and female B.Ed. students of Kolkata. There is no significant difference in awareness regarding environment between self-financed and government B.Ed. college students. But there is significant difference in awareness regarding environment between in-service and pre-service teachers.

Key words: Environmental awareness, Environmental education, In-service teachers, Pre-service teachers

Introduction

The environment is the natural world which is surrounded by several biotic factors like plants, animals, human beings, microbes and abiotic factors like water, light, soil, air etc. Imbalance in any factor can cause harm to our environment. But today due to rapid industrialization and unplanned urbanization, over exploitation of natural resources, over usage of non-environment friendly substances are causing environmental degradation. Global warming, deforestation, ozone depletion, soil erosion, drought, and pollutions which have brought our mother nature to the path of destruction.

Most of these environmental issues are caused by human activities mainly. Human beings are over exploiting natural resources without any planning. People should be aware of environmental sustainability.

Therefore, educating the present generation who are the future of our nation about the environment and making them aware about environmental issues became very essential today. Teachers should have proper environmental education

so that they can inculcate the knowledge regarding environment amongst the students. Environmental education is the process of building knowledge, attitude, understanding, values and awareness among people about the environment and its conservation. Along with other countries, India also made environmental education compulsory at all levels of formal education.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study restrained to:

- (1) To assess the level of environmental awareness among B.Ed. students of Kolkata.
- (2) To find out the significant difference in awareness regarding environment between female and male B.Ed. students in Kolkata.
- (3) To find out the significant difference in awareness regarding environment between self-financed and B.Ed. college students in Kolkata.
- (4) To find out the significant difference in awareness regarding environment between pre-service and in-service B.Ed. trainees of Kolkata.

Hypothesis

- There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between female and male B.Ed. students of Kolkata.
- There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between B.Ed. students of self-financed college and government college of Kolkata.
- There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between pre-service and in-service teacher trainees of Kolkata.

Methodology

1) Sample

Random sampling method was used for sample selection. A total of 100 B.Ed. students of Kolkata studying in self-financed and government colleges were selected. Out of which the students were classified in 3 types - 50 students are female, 50 are male; 50 students belong to self-financed colleges, 50 students belong to government school and 50 students are pre-service teacher trainees, 50 are in-service teacher trainee.

2) Tools

To test the formulated hypotheses for the study, data was collected with the help of Environmental Awareness Test (EAWT) developed by Dr. K. Yeshodhara (2003).

3) Statistical techniques used

The statistical techniques used for data analysis were Mean, Standard Deviation (Descriptive Statistics) from the raw data. Then t-test (parametric test) was used to find out the significant mean difference between two groups gender (female & male), type of college (self-financed/private) and type of trainee (pre-service/in-service) regarding environmental awareness.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

- **Hypothesis 1** - There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between female and male B.Ed. students of Kolkata.

Table 1 – Table showing the difference in environmental awareness among B.Ed. students with respect to their Gender (Female/Male)

Gender	No. of sample	Mean	SD	t -value	Significant level (0.01 level)
Female	50	19.62	4.04	0.29	Not Significant
Male	50	18.97	4.93		

It is found that the computed 't' value at 1% level of significance is smaller than the critical table value and is not significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

The above table shows that mean score of female regarding environmental awareness is higher than that of male but the difference is negligible and not significant. So, the hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, it may be concluded that there is no significant difference in awareness regarding environment between female and male B.Ed. students in Kolkata.

- **Hypothesis 2** - There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between B.Ed. students of self-financed college and government college of Kolkata.

Table 2 - Table showing the difference in environmental awareness among B.Ed. students with respect to type of college (self-financed/government) they belong

Type of college	No. of sample	Mean	SD	t -value	Significant level (0.01 level)
Self-financed college	50	21.24	5.07	0.86	Not Significant
Government college	50	20.37	5.12		

It is found that the computed 't' value at 1% level of significance is smaller than the critical table value and is not significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis is accepted.

The above table shows that mean score of B.Ed. students of self-financed college regarding environmental awareness is higher than that of B.Ed. students of government college but the difference is negligible and not significant. So, the hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, it may be concluded that there is no significant difference in awareness regarding environment between B.Ed. students of self-financed and government college of Kolkata.

- **Hypothesis 3** - There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between pre-service and in-service teacher trainees of Kolkata.

Table 3 - Table showing the difference in environmental awareness among B.Ed. students with respect to type of trainee (in-service/pre-service)

Type of trainee	No. of sample	Mean	SD	t -value	Significant level (0.01 level)
In-service trainee	50	25.31	3.09	3.17	Significant
Pre-service trainee	50	22.44	3.82		

It is found that the computed 't' value at 1% level of significance is greater than the critical table value and is significant. Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected.

The above table shows that mean score of in-service trainee regarding environmental awareness is higher than that of pre-service trainee but the difference is significant. So, the hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, it may be concluded that there is significant difference in awareness regarding environment between in-service and pre-service teacher trainee of Kolkata.

Conclusion

Findings are substantial and relevant on the line of hypotheses. The findings are mentioned in brief-

- There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between female and male B.Ed. students of Kolkata.
- There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between B.Ed. students of self-financed college and government college of Kolkata.
- There is significant difference in environmental awareness between pre-service and in-service teacher trainees of Kolkata.

Suggestions

It is very important to incorporate environmental education at every level of teaching-learning process to make students and teachers aware about environment and related issues. Seminars, orientation programmes, workshops, debates, poster making, symposium, quiz, booster programs, interactive programmes should be conducted for developing environmental awareness amongst teacher training students. Community activities like cleaning, planting trees, campaigns for creating awareness among rural population and illiterate people through teacher trainees will increase the awareness and attitude towards the environment. Trainee teachers who will become the future teachers should take initiative in making the parents aware about environment by campaign, social dramas. Science club participation and activities must be increased in schools and colleges.

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