

A Study of Attitude and Awareness of Pupil Teachers towards Environmental Pollution

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ABSTRACT

Teachers can play a significant role in making our environment pollution free by changing the attitude of students and society towards the environment. The pupil teachers are the prospective teachers of the nation. So it is the time for the great concern for protection and preservation of natural resources which can only be possible if we have a right type of attitude towards proper awareness in the related matters. Teachers can bring awareness and attitude which can be possible through environmental education. The goal of environmental education in schools and colleges is to acquaint and sensitize the students towards environmental problems and concerns, to inculcate in them healthy personal and social attitude and behaviour towards environment. Hence, it is necessary to know how far the Pupil Teachers are aware about environment and environmental problems. A pilot study was carried out selecting 120 pupil teachers studying in teacher education colleges located at Faridabad district of Haryana. "Environmental pollution Attitude Scale" developed by Dr. M. Rajamanickam and "Environmental awareness ability measures (EAAM)" developed by Praveen Jha were used for the collection of data. The findings show that the female pupil teachers were found to be more positive in their attitude towards environmental awareness than the Male pupil teachers. Environment Education should enable students to analyze, evaluate and draw inferences about problems and issues related to environment.

KEY TERMS: *Environmental Attitude, Environmental Awareness, Pupil Teachers.*

INTRODUCTION

Environment is the combination of external physical conditions that affect and influence the growth, development and survival of organism. Environment is a term that comprises all living and non-living things that occur on earth including all plants, animals, rocks, etc. and natural phenomena that occur within their boundaries. It further includes universal natural resources and physical phenomena that lack clear-cut boundaries, such as air, water and climate as well as energy, radiation, electric charge and magnetism, not originating from human activity. According to Boring, "A person's environment consists of the sum total of the stimulation which he receives from his conception until his death." According to Paul Brooks, "Environment is the combination of external physical conditions that affect and influence the growth, development and survival of organism."

The most disastrous event of this century is rapid degradation of our natural resources. The population explosion has worsened this situation. The people started exhausting the natural resources on one side and on the other creating pollution on the earth affecting the ecological balance in the ecosystem. Lack of environmental awareness regarding the preservation of the species and conservation of the forests are responsible for degradation of the environmental procurement at gross root level. If it continues, the human civilization will face disastrous situation. Environmental awareness prepares human society to protect the ecological balance. Environmental education aims at developing in them the knowledge, attitude, skills and communication to protect our nature.

ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

Pollution is an undesirable change in the physical, chemical and biological characteristic of air, water and soil that may harmfully affect the life or create a potential health hazard for any living organism. Environment pollution means lowering of the quality of environment at local level caused by human activities for exploitation of resources. Environment pollution can be expressed as “the unfavorable alteration of our surrounding wholly or largely as a byproduct of man’s action through direct or indirect effect of changes in energy pattern, radiation level, chemical and physical constitutions abundances of organisms”. Environment pollution is increasing due to the industrialization and urbanization. Human being is himself responsible for the environment pollution because he has violated the laws of nature.

An attitude is a particular feeling about something. It therefore, involves a tendency to behave in a certain way in situations which involve something. Attitude provides pattern of behavior. These are Powerful source of motivation and are capable of arousing and sustaining concentration efforts towards protection of natural resources and reducing environmental pollution.

Thurston’s View, “Attitude denotes the sum total man’s inclinations and feelings, prejudice or bias, per-conceived notions, ideas, fears, threats about any specific topic”.

Allport’s view, “An attitude is a mental or neural set of readiness exerting directive dynamic influence upon the individual’s to all objects and situation with it is related”.

Environmental pollution is a problem both in developed as well as developing countries. Therefore, there is earnest need to aware people for environmental protection.

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Environment is a surrounding or conditions influencing development and growth of all the living beings. Awareness is essential to solve these problems as children are the future of our country, there is a necessity to incorporate not only knowledge about environment but also to acquaint and sensitize the young minds to the problems of environment and concerns. The term ‘environmental awareness’ refers to creating general awareness of environmental issues, their causes by bringing about changes in perception, attitude, values and necessary skills to solve environment related problems. To encourage students’ participation, it is necessary to create awareness among them about environment pollution and related adverse effects. This is the crucial time that environmental awareness and

environmental sensitivity should be cultivated among the masses particularly among youths and the pupil teachers of the teacher education colleges. For the awareness of society it is essential to work at a grass root level. So the whole society can work to save the environment.

NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The technological revolution in the twentieth century has generated many problems for human beings. Urbanization, industrialization, automation and population explosion are the result of technological revolution. Uncontrolled economic development, over use of ground water systems, and exploitation of natural resources has become the order of the day. So it is the need of the hour to implement Environmental Education in full swing. The problem of the environmental pollution is so cute that it is not possible to be tackled by government alone. It is the duty of all voluntary organizations, schools, and colleges to fight with the problem of environmental pollution. It is the duty of teachers that students from very beginning should be made aware of this menace. There is a dire need of building attitude of students, teachers and society towards this ticklish problem. It is felt by investigations to develop a positive attitude to make the environment free from any problem. Environmental Education is an organized effort to educate the masses about environment which helps us to know how unchecked and unplanned development pollutes air, water and soil and thereby threatening our subsistence and existence. A number of environmental problems related to use of water, electricity, detergents, chemicals, plastic, wood, etc. have just a local dimension both in urban and rural people. It is the duty of the teachers to provide factual information to students which will lead to the understanding of the intricate system of ecological balance and man's place in it. Faridabad district is situated in Haryana which is an industrial area where pollution problem is of great concern. This induced the investigator to make an attempt to do a pilot study to know the attitude and awareness of Pupil Teachers towards environmental pollution.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The title of the study is “**A Study of Attitude and Awareness of Pupil Teachers towards Environmental Pollution**”.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To find the difference in the environmental awareness of male and female Pupil Teachers.
2. To study the attitude of Pupil Teachers towards environmental pollution.
3. To find the difference in the attitude of male and female Pupil Teachers towards environmental pollution.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between environmental awareness of the male and female Pupil Teachers of teacher education colleges.
2. There is no significant difference between attitude of the male and female Pupil Teachers of teacher education colleges towards environmental pollution.

DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The present research work was a descriptive study. It is concerned with functional relationship between two or more variables. The results may suggest additional and competing hypotheses to be tested. For the present study descriptive survey method was used to assess attitude and awareness of Pupil Teachers towards environmental pollution.

Population: The present study was conducted in Faridabad district of Haryana. The Pupil Teachers of Teacher education colleges located at Faridabad district of Haryana constituted as the population of the study.

Sample: Simple random sampling technique was used for selection of 120 Pupil Teachers by visiting various teachers education colleges located of Faridabad district of Haryana. There were equal numbers of male and female pupil teachers.

TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION

1. “Environmental pollution Attitude Scale” developed by Dr. M. Rajamanickam.
2. “Environmental awareness ability measures (EAAM)” developed by Praveen Jha will be used for the present study.

PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION

The “Environmental awareness ability measures (EAAM)” developed by Praveen Jha and Environmental pollution Attitude Scale” developed by Dr. M. Rajamanickam were administered on the Pupil Teachers for the collection of data and the responses made by the Pupil Teachers was scored, tabulated and analyzed.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Comparison of Environmental Awareness among students of Male and female colleges: The mean and S.D of the test scores of environmental awareness of male and female pupil teachers were calculated and interpreted. The hypothesis was further examined by applying ‘t’- test as shown in table 1.

Students	N	Mean	S.D.	t- Ratio	Remarks
Male pupil teachers	60	48.35	4.21	1.21	Insignificant
Female pupil teachers	60	51.21	4.78		

Calculating t- ratio between the means scores of environmental awareness of students of male and female colleges was found to be 1.21 which is not significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. Therefore it is clear that there is no significance difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness of male and female pupil teachers. The female pupil teachers were found to be more aware than their counterpart the male pupil teachers towards environmental awareness. Both male and female pupil teachers are equally aware towards environment protection.

Comparison of Attitude between Male and Female pupil teachers towards Environmental Pollution

Mean, SD's and t values of Environmental Pollution Attitude between Male and female pupil teachers are presented in the following table-2.

Type of Colleges	Sample	Mean	S.D	t-ratio	Remarks
Male Pupil Teachers	60	58.76	6.84	2.79	Significant
Female Pupil Teachers	60	53.57	6.23		

The critical ratio between male and female pupil teachers' Attitude towards Environmental Pollution was calculated to be 2.79, which is significant at both 0.01 and 0.05 levels of significance. Thus it is concluded that mean score of attitude of male pupil teachers was found to be higher than the female pupil teachers' attitude towards environment pollution. The male pupil teachers were found to be more positively aware towards environment pollution than the female pupil teachers.

DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was conducted with the following delimitation:

1. The present study was delimited to Faridabad district only.
2. The present study was delimited to pupil teachers of teacher education colleges only.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Majority of the pupil teachers of the teacher education colleges were found to be aware about environmental pollution.
2. A significant difference was found between the male and female pupil teachers with reference to the environmental awareness.
3. The female pupil teachers' were found to be more aware than the male pupil teachers' towards environmental problems.
4. The male pupil teachers' were found to be significantly more positive than female pupil teachers' towards environmental pollution.

CONCLUSIONS

A significant difference was found between the attitudes of male and female pupil teachers' towards environmental pollution. Environment Education has great importance as our lives to a large extent depend on our response to emerging problems related to the environment. Male and female pupil teachers have no similar environmental awareness ability. Female pupil teachers' were found to be more aware towards the environmental issues than the male pupil teachers.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

On the basis of the findings of the study, the following implications emerge out:

1. To enhance the chances of creating more awareness about the environment, the education process has to play more a practical role.
2. The subject of environmental education should be included as compulsory subject in curriculum. It should be made more effective in institutions.
3. For creating environmental awareness among students various campaigns can be launched from time to time. In colleges, essay writing competition, painting competition, debates, on the topic of environment can be organized.
4. The causes of environmental pollution should be brought to the notice of the students so that remedial measure can be taken.
5. In teacher education colleges environmental education should be included.

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