



## A STUDY OF ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

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### ABSTRACT

*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. Such awareness and attitude can be possible through environmental education. The main purpose of environmental education in colleges is to acquaint and sensitize the students to the 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 college students are aware about environment and environmental problems. A pilot study was carried out selecting 120 students studying in government and private colleges of Faridabad. "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 result shows that the students of private colleges were found to be more positive in their attitude towards environmental awareness than the students of Government colleges. Environment Education has great importance as our lives to a large extent depend on our response to emerging problems related to the environment. Environment Education should enable students to analyze, evaluate and draw inferences about problems and issues related to environment.*

**KEY TERMS:** Awareness, Environmental Attitude, Environmental Awareness, College Students.

### INTRODUCTION

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 education for environmental awareness will prepare human society to protect the ecological balance. Environmental education aims at developing in them the knowledge, attitude, skills and communication to protect our nature. Environmental education is nothing but to educate human society to perceive environment in totality.

### ENVIRONMENT

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 naturally on Earth or some part of it This term includes a few key components like Complete landscape units that function as natural systems without massive human intervention, including all plants, animals, rocks, etc. and natural phenomena that occur within their boundaries. It further include 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 Anastasi, "The environment is everything that affects the individual except his genes." According to Paul Brooks, "Environment is the combination of external physical conditions that affect and influence the growth, development and survival of organism.

### **ENVIRONMENT 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.

### **ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION**

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".

Awareness attitude among students is essential to solve the problem of environmental pollution as they are the future of our country, there is a necessity to incorporate not only knowledge about environment but also to acquaint and sensitize the minds to the problems of environment and concerns. The deterioration of environment quality refers to the magnitude and the intensity of the area covered. Environment pollution is a problem both in developed as well as developing countries. Burning of fossil fuels has increased the content of carbon-dioxide in the atmosphere thus creating a serious problem for sea level and polar ice caps.

### **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. For the awareness of society it is essential to work at a gross root level. So the whole society can work to save the environment.

### **NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The problem of the environment 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 environment pollution. Students from very beginning should be made aware of this menace. There is a dire need of building attitude of students towards this ticklish problem. It is felt by investigations to develop a positive attitude to make the environment free from any problem. The technological revolution in the twentieth century has generated many problems for human beings. It has prominence due to urbanization, industrialization, automation and population explosion. The environment problems are matter of common concern for the entire humanity. India faces environmental challenges on two fronts: poverty as well as economic development. Uncontrolled economic

development, over use of ground water systems, and pollution 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.

Environmental Education is an organized effort to educate the masses about environment, its functions, need, importance, and especially how human beings can manage their behaviour in order to live in a sustainable manner. It helps us as 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 situated in Haryana is an industrial area. This induced the investigator to make an attempt to study the attitude and awareness of college students towards environmental pollution.

### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The title of the study is "A Study of Attitude and Awareness of College Students towards Environmental Pollution".

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To study the level of Environmental Awareness of College students.
2. To find the difference in the environmental awareness of Government and private college students.
3. To study the attitude of College students towards environmental pollution.
4. To find the difference in the attitude of government and private College students towards environmental pollution.

### HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between environmental awareness of the college students studying in government and private degree colleges.
2. There is no significant difference between environmental pollution attitude of students studying in government and private degree colleges.

### DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The present research work was a descriptive study. Descriptive research sometimes is known as non-experimental research, deals with the relationship between variables, the testing of hypotheses, and the development of generalizations, principles, or theories that have universal validity (Best and Kahn, 2003). 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 college students towards environmental pollution.

**Population:** The present study was conducted in Faridabad district of Haryana. The college students' was considered as the population of the study.

**Sample:** Simple random sampling technique was used for selection of 120 college students by visiting various Governments and Private Colleges located of Faridabad district of Haryana. Out of which 60 students were selected from government colleges and 60 students from private degree colleges by random sampling technique.

### 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 College students for the collection of data and the responses made by the College students was scored, tabulated and analyzed.

### ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

#### Comparison of Environmental Awareness among students of Government and private colleges:

The mean and S.D of the test scores of students of government colleges and private colleges were calculated and interpreted. The hypothesis was further examined by applying 't'- test. The result of the analysis is being shown in table 1.

Students	N	Mean	S.D.	t- Ratio	Remarks
Government colleges	60	47.25	4.13	2.94	Significant
Private colleges	60	52.88	4.97		

Calculating t- ratio between the means scores of environmental awareness of students of government and private colleges was found to be 2.94 which is significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. Therefore it is clear that there is significance difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness of students of government and private colleges. The students of private

colleges were found to be more aware than their counterpart the students of Government colleges towards environmental awareness.

### **Comparison of Environmental Pollution Attitude between Government and private colleges' students:-**

Mean, SD's and t values of Environmental Pollution Attitude between Government and private colleges' students are presented in the following table-2.

Type of Colleges	Sample	Mean	S.D	t-ratio	Remarks
Private College	60	59.68	6.84	2.73	Significant
Government College	60	53.42	6.23		

The t-ratio turns-out to be 2.73, which is significant at both 0.01 and 0.05 levels of significance. Thus it is concluded that mean score of students of the Private college was found to be higher than the students of government colleges. Thus the private and government colleges' students differ significantly in their attitude towards environment pollution. The students of private college were found to be more positively aware towards environment pollution than the students of Government colleges.

### **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 college students only.

### **MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

1. Majority of the students of the colleges are aware of the consequence of environmental pollution.
2. A significant difference was found between the students of private and Government schools with reference to the environmental awareness.
3. The private colleges' students are significantly more positive than government colleges' students towards environmental problems.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

A significant difference was found between the attitudes of private and Government colleges' student of 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. Therefore, Environment Education should enable students to analyze, evaluate and draw inferences about problems and issues related to environment. Students of Government and private schools have no similar environmental awareness ability. Private colleges' students are more aware to the environmental issues than the government colleges' students.

### **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.

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY**

1. A similar study can be conducted on a larger sample selected from all the districts of the state of Haryana.
2. The study can also be undertaken on a sample at college and university level.

3. To verify the findings of the present study inter-state and cross cultural studies can be conducted.

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