A Comparative Study of Environmental Awareness of School Students in Relation to Standard and Sex

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Abstract

Inspite of many ordinances and rules framed by central and state government and innumerable environmental programmes for environmental security there is still a requirement to create environmental awareness in the society, specially for school going children. Lack of awareness towards environment will lead to destruction of the earth and living beings. Uttarakhand disaster can be taken as an example where society ignored all guide lines, disobeyed all the nature’s directives, lead to human lives. A study is conducted to know the environmental awareness of different standard and different sex and compared their environmental awareness. A sample of 300 students of Pathankot govt. and private schools were selected by random technique. Environment Awareness Scale prepared by Hanseen Taj was administered. The scores obtained from VIII, X & XII class were treated by Anova. The result shows that there exists a significant difference at .01 level of significance in the environmental awareness.

Introduction

One should remember that this earth has everything to satisfy the needs of animals and human beings but not greed of the living beings. Everyone on the earth should be aware that there is necessary to protect and improve the environment of the earth as human beings and environments are basically interdependent for their mutual survival and existence. Today’s environmental awareness is such in which the harmony and balance between the organism and environment is totally disturbed. Deforestation, pollution, construction of building and use of dynamite to make roads and tunnels disturbed the ecological in balance everywhere which has lead to a great disaster. The effect can be seen by cloud burst of Uttarakhand, where innumerable villages washed away and thousands of people are missing and countless people died because use of dynamite has shaken the soil and stones. It can be saved when awareness is brought in school campus as well as in our children and students. Teachers can only motivate and educate. Meinhold and Malkus (2005) emphasized the importance of environmental awareness to individuals about ecology and ecological balance and to combine the knowledge with values leading to action.
In spite of various ordinances, laws and guidelines, the seriousness is lacking towards environmental awareness through this research work, it is being tried to know whether there is any significant difference between VIII, X and XII class male and female students of school on the test of environmental awareness. The main objective of this study was to compare the environmental awareness of different classes and sex.

**Hypothesis**
There will be no significant impact of different sex and class students on environmental awareness.

**Sample**
The sample was selected from different private and govt. schools which were affiliated to Punjab Board of Secondary Education. The sample selected from VIII, X and XII were 100 from each class. The total sample was 300. The random method adopted for sample selection.

**Tool**
A test named as Haseen Taj Environmental Awareness Scale prepared by Haseen Taj was employed to get scores on environmental awareness. The test has three sections containing 66, 35 and 16 questions respectively.

**Analysis and Discussion**
The obtained scores from the employed test were analysed statistically to get Means, SDs and F-ratio which are displayed in the table I & II.

### Table I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Environmental Awareness</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>SD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>96.40</td>
<td>37.75</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>87.18</td>
<td>31.29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>87.92</td>
<td>31.57</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>77.24</td>
<td>24.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>112.67</td>
<td>37.87</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>111.31</td>
<td>34.62</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>SS</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>F</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSb</td>
<td>2493.63</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>498.726</td>
<td>2.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SSw</td>
<td>51149.27</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>173.977</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the observation of the mean scores, it is evident that the male students of class XII scored highest where as the female students of X class show lowest on environmental awareness. On the basis of sex category- male and female XII class students scored highest than any other class students.

The F ratio obtained in this study was 2.86 which was found significant at .01 level. It can be inferred from this analysis that the level of class/ standard and sex leave an impact on the environmental awareness of school students. The proposed hypothesis is not accepted.

Yount & Horton (1992) compared the students of science with that of environmental education and did not find any significant difference, however, students of environmental education prove themselves better. Kumar & Patil (2007) concluded that no significant difference was found between male & female on school environment. Dixit and Agarwal (2009) studied on environmental awareness of three DIETS of U.P. state and concluded that there is no significant difference on EA in relation to sex. Dubey et al (1998) found from their research that educational status produced significant differential effects on overall environmental awareness of women.

Conclusion

It is concluded from this data analysis collected from the sample that-

1. The higher the class, mean scores will be higher on environmental awareness.
2. There is a significant difference between male and females students of each class and males have scored higher mean than the female in each class.
3. There exist a significant difference between VIII, X and XII class male and female students on the test of environmental awareness.

Bibliography
