A Comparative Study of Environmental Awareness among Government and Private Secondary School Students

Poonam
Asstt. Professor,
Kshatriya College of Education, Kathgarh Road, Indora (H.P.)

ABSTRACT

Environmental Education in school education has been accorded high priority by the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2005. The country is trying to solve local and national issues and problems. Environmental Science as one of the subject has been included in the school subject. Inspite of that secondary school students of government and private schools of Gurdaspur district differ significantly on the test of Environmental Awareness and its different component. This study reveals that various steps taken for developing awareness for environment is not sufficient and various measures have to be taken to balance the ecology.

Introduction:
The most disastrous event of this century is rapid degradation of environment awareness in the secondary school students. The population explosion has worsen the 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 & culture etc. 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.

In order to achieve the objectives of environmental education, environmental
science as a paper has been included in the curriculum in spite of that no change has been observed. For this a study has been conducted in Gurdaspur district of Punjab. For this a comparative study on Environmental Awareness among Govt. & Private Secondary School Students was conducted.

Objectives :-
To compare the environmental awareness between Govt. and Private Secondary School Students along with the following dimensions.
1. Environmental Education
2. Environmental pollution
3. Air pollution
4. Soil pollution
5. Noise pollution
6. Water pollution
7. Industrial pollution

Though various studies have been conducted by Rajput (1988), Gupta (1986), Robinson (1996) & Surekha (2003), the conclusions indicate that they have environmental awareness but the attitude towards environmental protection is negatively related.

Hypothesis:-
There exists a significant difference on Environment Education and its components between Govt. and Private Senior Secondary School Students.

Sample:-
The present study aims at comparing the environmental awareness of Govt. Private senior secondary school students, 125 students from govt. & 125 students from private schools were randomly selected from 10 Govt. and 13 Private schools of Gurdaspur District of Punjab.

Tool:-
In order to access Environment Awareness test prepared by Sood (2003) was employed to get data for comparing.

Findings:-
After the collection of data from Govt. & Private schools of Gurdaspur district, mean, SD's and t values were calculated and are presented in the following table for comparison and statistical analysis.
A Comparative Study of Environmental Awareness

Table:- Showing Mean, SD's and t values on Different components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Govt.</th>
<th>Pvt.</th>
<th>'t' value</th>
<th>Level of significance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>SD</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Education</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental pollution</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2.04</td>
<td>.31</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air pollution</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>1.80</td>
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<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Soil-pollution</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>.28</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise pollution</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>1.39</td>
<td>.39</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water pollution</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>.50</td>
<td>.25</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial pollution</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>3.41</td>
<td>1.59</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above findings show that there exists a significant difference between government and private secondary school students on environmental awareness and its components. As per the table it is indicative that the mean on environmental education and industrial pollution is higher in the government school students than the private school students but on the other components the mean is higher in private school students and differ significantly.

References
