



A STUDY OF ATTITUDE OF ADOLESCENTS TOWARDS THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

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Abstract

The purpose of the study was to understand the attitude of adolescents towards the environmental pollution. A sample of 200 adolescents selected from four schools of Ludhiana district in Punjab was used for the study. Environmental Pollution Scale by Rajamanickan (1998) was used. The study revealed that there is no difference in the attitude of the students of grade 9th and 11th. The study also revealed that students of urban & rural areas do not differ in their attitude. Study also revealed that boys and girls do not differ in their attitude.

Keywords: attitude, adolescent, environment, pollution.

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INTRODUCTION

Every organism passes through various modes of life from birth till death and lives in different surroundings on the earth. These surroundings include living and non-living things, which form the environment. For the survival of all the organisms on the earth, they need the system, which sustains life. The important system is the environment.

ENVIRONMENT

The word "environment" originates from the French word "environ" and "environer" which mean "around", "around about", "to surround". The words "viren" and "viron" which mean "to circle", "to turn about", "around" from this etymology, we conclude that environment means the thing or event that surrounds something.

The dictionary meaning of `environment` is a surrounding: external condition influencing development or of people, animals or plants, living or working conditions which surrounds man at a given point in space and time. This includes all the ingredients of the surrounding and circumstances growth and welfare of living beings

Douglass and Holland (1947), “ environment is a word which describes, in the aggregate all of the external forces, influences and conditions which effect the life, nature, behavior and growth, development and maturation of living beings.”

POLLUTION

Pollution can be define as undesirable change in the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of the air, water of land, that can harmfully effect health, Survival or activities of humans or other living organisms. Not only that, according to his definition pollution does not have to Cause physical harm. It may merely interfere with human activities.

The pollution is a necessary evil of development. Lack of development of a culture of pollution control has resulted in a heavy backlog of gaseous, liquid and solid pollution in our country. Thus, pollution control in our country is a recent environment concern. There is race in developed Countries to exploit every bit of natural resources to convert them into goods for their use and comfort and to export them to other needy countries.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

The present generation and the coming generations have to solve three grave problems, namely, population, poverty and pollution if they have to survive. Pollution is the most dangerous problem like cancer, in which death is sure but slow. Environment pollution is assuming dangerous proportions all through the globe and India is not free from this poisonous disease. This is the gift of modern living, industrialization and urbanization. Unless timely action is taken, we have a forbid and bleak future for the world. Oxford English Dictionary given the meaning of pollute and pollution as follows:

Pollute: - Destroy the purity or sanctity: make (water etc) foul or filthy.

Pollution: - The act of polluting

Environmental pollution may be defined as the unfavorable alternation of our men`s action through direct effect of changes in energy pattern, radiation levels, chemicals and physical constitution and abundance of organism.

Environment pollution is release of environmental contaminants, generally resulting from human activity. Carbon mono-oxide and Sulphur oxide produced by industry and motor vehicles are common air pollutants, sunlight convert nitrogen oxides and hydrocarbons into Ozone or smog water. Pollution may consist of a wide range of organic and inorganic chemicals such as heavy metals, petrochemicals, chloroform and bacteria. Water pollution may also occur in the form of thermal pollution and may also occur in the form of thermal pollution and oxygen depletion. Soil contamination is an important aspect of environment pollution, this phenomenon occurs when chemicals are released by spill or underground storage tank leakage. Hydro-carbons heavy metals, MTBE, herbicides, pesticides and chlorinated hydro-carbons are among the most significant soil contaminants.

ATTITUDE

Attitude is an important phenomenon or behavior. Attitude of the adolescents is affected by culture, familiar and personal system or structure. Attitude differs in degree as- well-as in kids.

An Attitude may be defined as a relatively enduring but modifiable tendency or readiness on the part of a person to behave in particular ways towards some person, objects or issues.

Attitude is such a complex affair that it cannot be completely described Thurston has used the concept of attitude to denote “the sum- total of a man’s inclinations and feelings, prejudice or bias, pre conceived notation, ideas, threats and connection about any specific topic.” Thus, a man’s attitude about pacifism means all that he feels and thinks about war and peace. It’s obviously a subjective and personal affair.

Kretch and Crutch Field (1984) have defined attitude as an enduring organization of motivational, emotional, perceptual and cognitive process with respect to some respect of the individual’s world.

Jackson (1990) conducted a study on environment awareness and environmental attitude of secondary

And higher secondary school teachers and students and trained and untrained teachers did not differ on environmental awareness. The girls possessed significantly more environmental awareness then boys.

Gakhar, Bindykaba and kiran (1993) Studied environmental pollution awareness among urban and rural school going children in relation to intelligence. Urban student showed more environmental awareness than rural students.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- (1) To study the difference of attitude towards environmental awareness between male and female adolescents.
- (2) To study the difference of attitude awareness environmental awareness between rural and urban adolescents.
- (3) To study the difference of attitude towards environmental awareness between 9th and 11th grade.

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference in the attitude of adolescents towards environmental pollution on the basis of their grade level (**9th and 11th**).
2. There is no significant difference in the attitude of adolescents towards environmental pollution on the basis of area level (**urban and rural area**).
3. There is no significant difference in the attitude of adolescents towards environmental pollution on the basis of their gender difference (**boy and girl students**)

METHOD

Survey method of investigation was applied in the present study.

SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

A random sample of 100 students of 11th class and 100 students of 9th class studying in the rural and urban area schools of Ludhiana district were taken for conducting the present study.

TOOLS EMPLOYED

To test the above framed hypotheses the following tools was used:

ENVIORNMENTAL POLLUTION ATTITUDE SCALE by Rajamanickam (1998).

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

Raw score have no value unless they are all subjected to statistical treatment. For analyzing the data techniques of mean, standard deviation and t-ratio were employed.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM

No doubt, science has made a revolting contribution to add human happiness and progress, but in another way, it has become a threat to human survival. The biggest danger of industrialization is proving to be environmental degradation which has lead to suffocation and pollution all around. This dreamful problem calls for a wide awareness of the people and to make them realize the importance of having healthy and pollution free environment. In this respect, the educational institution can play a dominant role in bringing about healthy change in the attitude of the student by apprising them of the water, soil and noise pollution. That is why the researcher has been promoted to take up the present study.

ANALYSIS AND FINDING

HYPOTHESIS-1

There will be no significance difference in the attitude of the towards environmental pollution on the basis of their grade level (9th and 11th)

Table-1

Gender	Sample	Mean	S.D	Df	t-ratio	Level of Significance
9 th	100	100.4	11.14	198	0.145	Not significant
11 th	100	100.2	10.41			

For the verification of the above mentioned hypothesis, the mean, S.D. and t-ratio were calculated.

While looking at the table 1 it is clear that the mean score of 9th and 11th class student towards Environmental pollution are 100.39 and 100.22 respectively. Standard deviation of the 9th and 11th class students towards environmental pollution are 11.14 and 10.41 respectively. The t-ratio turns-out to be 0.145, which is significant at both the levels, which means the 9th and 11th students do not differ in their attitude.

HYPOTHESIS-2

There will be no significant difference in the attitude in the adolescents towards Environmental pollution on the basis of their gender differences.

Table-2

AREA	Sample	Mean	S.D	Df	t-ratio	Level of Significance
URBAN	100	99.47	11.41	198	1.095	Not Significant
RURAL	100	101.14	11.12			

For the verification of the above mentioned hypothesis, the mean, S.D. and t-ratio were calculated.

While looking at the table 2 it is clear that the mean score of urban and rural student towards environmental pollution is 99.47 and 101.14 respectively. Standard deviation of the urban and rural students comes out to be 10.41 and 11.12 respectively. The t-ratio turns-out to be 1.095, which is insignificant at both the levels, which means the urban and rural area students do not differ in their attitude.

HYPOTHESIS-3

There will be no significant difference in the attitude of adolescents towards Environment pollution on the basis of their gender differences.

Table-3

Gender	Sample	Mean	S.D	Df	t-ratio	Level of Significance
BOYS	100	99.99	11.41	168	0.412	Not Significant
GIRLS	100	100.62	10.51			

For the verification of the above mentioned hypothesis, the mean, S.D. and t-ratio were calculated.

While looking at the table 3 it is clear that the mean score of boys & girls student towards environment pollution is 99.99 and 1000.62 respectively. Standard deviation of boys & girls student comes out of to be 11.41 and 10.51 respectively. The t- ratio turns-out to be 0.412, which is insignificant at both the levels, which means boys & girls students do not differ in their attitude.

CONCLUSION

1. Grade level does not influence the attitude of adolescents towards environment pollution.

2. Area level does not have an impact on the attitude of adolescents towards environmental pollution.
3. Gender differences do not affect the attitude of adolescents towards environmental pollution.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION OF THE STUDY

1. It is clear from the study that 11th grade student deserves more attention and awareness to enable them to develop more favorable attitude towards environmental pollution.
2. Parents and teacher should create such an environment that may help the children to develop positive attitude towards environment pollution.
3. Parents-teacher has special responsibility in bringing awareness among the children on the environmental issues especially on the environmental pollution.
4. Counseling services should be provided in the school to help the student to bring awareness on environmental pollution.
5. Environmental pollution control board should take some constructive steps along with school that may help the pupils to develop the positive attitude to check and control environmental pollution.
6. Curriculum in the school should be framed in such a way which focuses on the environmental pollution issues especially on environmental pollution.
7. Mass Media should publish more articles on the environmental pollution so that people get awareness about environmental pollution.

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