

## A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### Abstract

*Environment is the source of the needs for human development in all respect right from beginning but unfortunately human beings are deteriorating the environment in so many ways. So various fatal effects and changes are being seen since few decades. Even the international conference of the experts held in Indonesia has alarmed to the world that the world have to be very conscious regarding environment depletion and pollution otherwise by 2030 many disasters may occur.*

*Environmental awareness not only makes aware the world population about the natural environment and its problems, but also aims at developing in them the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to protect the natural balance in environment, besides working for its enrichment. Environmental awareness is nothing but teaching a man how to interact fully with the surrounding world, so as to improve his or her own inner world. Environmental awareness enables one to maintain his or her life. This,, in turn, helps in the preservation of human race. It channelizes man towards diminishing natural resources, environmental pollution and the problem of population explosion. Environmental awareness means the generation of widespread awareness of environmental problems.*

*Thus in the present study researcher has tried to find out the environmental awareness among the secondary school students.*

**Key words :** *Environment, Awareness, Secondary School Students, Ecology, Organisms, Pollution.*



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### Introduction

Environment means everything which exists around us and which can influence us in anyway. This may include living as well as non-living things.

According to the Indian Philosophy, all that exists in the universe, whether organic or inorganic, has five constituent elements; i.e. Air, Water, Fire, Earth and Sapce. Everything comes from varying combinations of these five elements, and ultimately returns to these, which together create nature. This relationship is explained by the Atharva Rishi to his disciples stating that earth is the mother and we are her children.

Environment etymologically means surroundings. It means all that is found around an individual. It includes interaction and relationship among the natural elements living, non-living and manmade. It is the sum total of external factors, substance and conditions which influence organisms without their intrinsic part. The environment though invisible has no geographical and ideological frontiers and it is common to all living organisms-man, animals and plants.

Environment is the sum of all external condition and influences affecting the organism. Environment may be divided into abiotic (non-living) and biotic (Living) components.

Thus in the above paragraphs meaning of environment and its component have been described which are very useful for human being for their survival but since last decades the natural piousness of environment is being disturbed that too due to pollution.

### **Environmental Pollution**

Pollution is an undesirable change in the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of any component of the environment which can cause harmful effects on various forms of life or property. Environmental Pollution of various types are :

- 1) Water Pollution
- 2) Air Pollution
- 3) Soil Pollution
- 4) Noise Pollution
- 5) Thermal Pollution
- 6) Radioactive Pollution
- 7) Marine Pollution
- 8) Solid Waste Pollution

Thus during the last three four decades, environment has been a major concern for humanity as a whole. Pressure from rapid population growth, uncontrolled and lavish consumption, urbanization, industrial expansion and advances in science and technology have caused serious problems associated with environment. It has been realized that the impact of human activities on environment has become more accelerated and pronounced. Impact of human activities causes disequilibria in the environmental set up resulting in various problems for today as well as for future.

In the changing modern social scenario there is a crisis of environmental awareness leading to a negative code of behavior towards the environment. This is not a problem at the local level, but is a great threat to the whole world. Alarming degradation and deterioration of environment endangers nature and its many habitats. A few environmental problems are pollution, biomagnifications, greenhouse effects and global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation, desertification, depletion of natural resources, natural degradation etc. The major challenge facing present day society is the need for developing environmental values to protect our environment.

Thus the above description provides clear idea that since the initiation of the world, environment is providing much to the human being but human being is not aware of our mother environment and gradually it is being destroyed which will be most fatal to human race. Now a days the fast rate of deteriorating environment shows the needs of environmental awareness among the school going children who in their turn will be a total person keeping the treasure of environmental awareness and thus will never destroy the environment.

### **Objective of the Study**

- 1) To study the environmental awareness of urban secondary school students.
- 2) To study the environmental awareness of rural secondary school students.
- 3) To compare environmental awareness among boys and girls of urban secondary schools.
- 4) To compare environmental awareness among boys and girls of rural secondary schools.
- 5) To compare environmental awareness in students of urban secondary schools and students of rural secondary schools.

### Hypothesis

- 1) There is a no significant difference of environmental awareness in boys and girls of urban secondary schools.
- 2) There is a no significant difference of environmental awareness in boys and girls of rural secondary schools.
- 3) There is a no significant difference of environmental awareness in urban and ruralsecondary schools students.

### Method of Research

The type of research used by researcher is descriptive and Survey Method.

### Sample

The sample of the study includes boys and girls students of class IX of secondary schools in urban and rural area of Gondia district in Maharashtra state. So researcher has to find out the environmental awareness of secondary school students so researcher has to include secondary school students in the sample. The nature of the sample is purposive and schools are selected at random 290 students are included from urban secondary schools and 293 students from rural area secondary schools partivularly from IXth classes. So total sample find 583 in the research.

### Sample from Urban and Rural Schools

**Table**

Urban Schols		Rural Schools	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
175	115	141	152
<b>Total = 290</b>		<b>Total = 293</b>	
<b>Total Sample = 583</b>			

### **Tool : Psychological Test**

Since researcher has to find out environmental awareness of secondary school student. The investigator used standard test of Dr. PraveenkumarJha, “Environment Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM)” in respect of environment awareness of secondary school students.

**Data Analysis**

The investigator first of all computed mean and SD of rural and urban secondary school girls and boys separately from their environmental awareness score which are being shown in the following tables.

**1 - Difference of Environmental Awareness between urban boys and girls**

**Table - 1**

Sr. No.	Urban Students	N	Environmental Awareness (E.A.) Mean	S.D.	Value of 't'
1	Boys	175	40.41	4.62	1.68 NS
2	Girls	115	41.31	4.37	

**NS- not significant**

In the table no. 1 the investigator analyzed the data in order to find out the difference of environmental awareness among boys and girls of urban secondary schools. There are 175 boys of IXth class of urban area and 115 girls. The mean of their environmental awareness were separately calculated. For boys it is 40.41 and their S.D.is 4.62.

Similarly the mean of Environmental awareness for girls is 41.31 and their S.D. is 4.37. These values were put in the formula and t- value was calculated which is 1.68. This value is compared with t- value from the table for the DF = 288 which is 1.97 at 0.05 level. It is seen that the calculated which is 1.68. This value is compared with t- value from the table for the DF = 288 which is 1.97 at 0.05 level. it is seen that the calculated t- value is less than the t- value from the table. So this value is not significant at 0.05 level. Hence it is revealed that there is no difference among urban secondary school boys and girls on the basis of their environmental awareness. It means they are having the equal environmental awareness.

**2 - Difference of Environmental Awareness between rural boys and girls**

**Table - 2**

Sr. No.	Rural Students	N	Environmental Awareness (E.A.) Mean	S.D.	Value of 't'
1	Boys	141	27.77	7.61	2.17
2	Girls	152	25.52	10	

**- significant at 0.05 level.**

Table No. 2 show the analyzed data in order to find the difference of environmental awareness among boys and girls of rural secondary schools. There are 141 boys of IXth class of rural area and 152 girls. The mean of their environmental awareness were separately calculated. For boys it is 27.77 and their S.D. is 7.61. Similarly the mean of environmental awareness for girls is 25.52 and their S.D. is 10. These values were put in the formula and t-value was calculated which is 2.17. This value is compared with the t- value from the table for DF = 291 which is 1.97 at 0.05 level and 2.60 at 0.01 level. it is seen that the calculated t-value is less than the t- value from the table for 0.01 level but it is more than the value of t- from the table for 0.05 level. So this value is significant at 0.05 level but not significant at 0.01 level. This show that there is slight difference among rural secondary school boys and girls on the basis of their secondary school boys and girls on the basis of their environmental awareness. Mean of environmental awareness of rural boys is more than that of rural girls. This show that environmental awareness of rural boys is more than that of rural girls.

**3 - Difference of Environmental Awareness between urban and rural students**

**Table -3**

Sr. No.	Students	N	Environmental Awareness (E.A.) Mean	S.D.	Value of 't'
1	Urban	290	40.77	4.53	24.07
2	Rural	293	26.60	8.99	

**- significant at 0.01 level.**

Table No. 3 shows the analyzed data in order to find out the difference of environmental awareness among urban and rural students of IX class. There are 290 urban students and 293 rural students of IX class. The mean of their environmental awareness were separately calculated For urban students it is 40.77 and their S.D. is 4.53 Similarly mean of environmental awareness for rural students is 26.60 and their S.D. is 8.99. By putting these values in the formula t- value was calculated which is 24.07. This value is compared with the t- value from the table for DF = 581 which is 1.96 at 0.05 level and 2.59 at 0.01 level. It is seen that calculated value is more than the t- value from the table at both the levels. So this value is significant at both the levels. Hence there is significant difference in environmental

awareness of urban and rural students. Mean of Environmental Awareness of Urban students is more than that of rural students. This shows that environmental awareness of urban students is more than that of rural students.

### **Conclusions**

- There is no significant difference in environmental awareness of urban boys and girls. Hence there environmental awareness is equal.
- There is a low significant difference in environmental awareness of rural boys and girls. Looking at the mean of environmental awareness, mean of rural boys is slight more than the mean of rural girls. It reveals that rural boys have some what more environmental awareness than rural girls.
- There is a high significant difference in environmental awareness of urban and rural students. Looking at the value of mean of environmental awareness, mean of urban students is more than the mean of rural students, It reveals that environmental awareness of urban students is more than the environmental awareness of rural students.

### **Suggestions**

- Rural girls have low environmental awareness than rural boys so to increase the environmental awareness of rural girls their parents should be educated and they should be make aware of importance of education of girls. It can be done by adult education, seminars, posters, charts and by meeting their parents and by suggesting them.
- Urban boys are more aware of environment than rural boys so to increase the environmental awareness of rural boys, they should be taught with the help of posters, charts, nukkadnatak etc. Rural teachres should be aware of environment, for which pre-service, in-service training should be organized. In the rural schools environmental day should be celebrated which is on 5 June. On this day school should organize prabhatferi, vrakshdindi in order to educate themselves and society.
- Maximum IXth class students either girls, boys rural or urban possess average environmental awareness. To enhance the environmental awareness of them debate competition, essay competition should be arranged. Environmental awareness can be

increased by excursion tour, lectures of experts, posters, charts, exhibition, nukkadnatk etc. To enhance the environmental awareness films on environmental awareness should be shown. Plantation should be done. Hand written book on environment can be prepared with the help of students and staff. Environmental day should be celebrated.

Thus these are some suggestions which are if follow, they will change the scenario of environment in near future and make the society happy and satisfied in all respect.

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