

An Interventional Approach to Enhance the Attitude and Participation of School Going Children towards Environmental Awareness in Prayagraj

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Abstract: The present study attempts to survey the level of attitude and participation towards environmental awareness among School going children of Prayagraj District, of Uttar Pradesh. The sample consisted of 300 students which includes 150 Boys and Girls from Rural and Urban areas and 150 Boys and Girls from Rural and Urban area. The Descriptive Survey and random sampling Method were procured for the present study. Environmental attitude and participation scale were developed and standardized. The data was statistically analysed by using pre-test/t'-test and Taj Environmental Attitude Scale (TEAS). The attitude and participation towards Environmental awareness among school going children was found no difference (not significant) also in case of Urban and Rural students the attitude and Participation towards environmental awareness was not significant.

Keywords: Attitude, Environmental awareness, Participation, Secondary School.

1. Introduction

The relationship between environment and human being is as old as the human existence. Since the evolution of man on the earth he has been dependent on the environment. Initially need of man was limited and small; therefore, the activities of man did not affect the environment. But slowly human being settled down and civilized himself and learnt to cultivate. Over recent decades, global problems relating to degradation of natural resources and pollution have increased drastically. Natural resources are depleted by excessive use, not only for need but for greed as well. Environmental degradation is not something very new, but man has realized it too late his zeal for scientific

advancement and material prosperity at any cost is harmful. Environmental Education emerged as a result of Man's consciousness about environment protection and conservation.

Environment is the sum total of all conditions and influences of the development of the life of human being and other organisms. It includes air, water, land dynamically the interrelationship that exists between these and human beings; other living creatures, plants, microorganisms and property. The word environment embraces the conditions or influences under which any organism or thing exists, lives or develops. All these may be placed into three divisions such as the set of physical conditions affecting and influencing the growth and development of an individual and community; the social and cultural conditions affecting the nature of an individual or community; and the surroundings of an inanimate object of intrinsic social value. Therefore, environment includes all the conditions, circumstances and influences surrounding and affecting an organism or a group of organisms (Trivedi and Raj, 1992). So, it may be stated that the concept of environment in its totality is a complex one, far ranging in its implications and challenging to our understanding.

Thus, environmental education and awareness as well as induced public participation in environmental protection become paramount to attaining environmental sustainability. Therefore, this paper attempted a micro study on enhancement of attitude and participation amongst students of Schools of urban and rural areas of Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, which provide the good avenue to investigate the student's attitude and

participation towards environment. Environmental degradation comes out to be the biggest challenges in the 21st century. In order to solve the problem Environmental education should play an effective role with recent development and advances educationists are very much involved in the process of Environments awareness. In this regard India is putting up great efforts to achieve better participation and right attitude towards Environmental awareness.

2. Objectives of the Study

- The main objective of the study is to enhance the Attitude and Participation of School going children towards environmental awareness.
- To find out the attitude and analyze the rate of Participation of school going children towards environmental awareness in Urban and Rural areas.
- To plan and implement the intervention package and the efficacy to develop an intervention package to enhance the attitude and participation level of school going children toward environmental awareness.

3. Hypothesis of the Study

- The Hypothesis were formulated as: - There is no difference in the attitude and participation of school going children towards environmental awareness of Prayagraj city.
- There is no significant difference between the attitude and participation of Boys and girls of rural and urban areas of Prayagraj city.

4. Method and Sample

Purposive sampling and Random method sampling will be adopted. A purposive sample of 150 students were selected from 10 senior secondary schools of both Male and Female. The schools included in the sample were located in Rural and Urban areas of Prayagraj District.

1) *Test used*

Standardized test ‘Environmental Awareness Scale’ developed by Haseen Taj was used in the study for collecting the data.

2) *Statistical techniques*

Mean, S.D were calculated and the “t”, test was procured to find out the significant difference between attitude and participation in Environmental awareness amongst school going children.

5. Result and Discussion

Environmental awareness score of Rural Before school students

Stream	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	‘T’ Value
Rural Male	75	110.15	34.75	t = 1.1125
Rural Female	75	107.72	39.49	

Degree of freedom 74

Not significant at 0.2695 level.

P value and statistical significance:

The two-tailed P value equals 0.2695

By conventional criteria, this difference is considered to be not statistically significant respectively. Confidence interval: The mean of MALE minus FEMALE equals 2.43. 95% confidence interval of this difference:

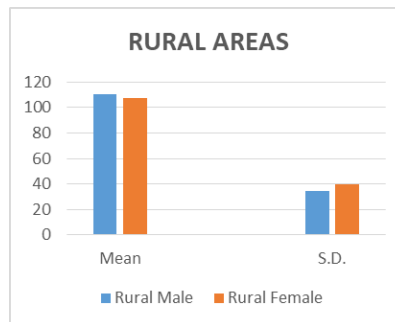


Fig. 1. Graphical Representation of table -1

Table 2
Environmental awareness score of Urban Before intervention of student

Stream	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	‘T’ Value
Urban Male	75	107.76	40.66	1.0826
Urban Girls	75	105.68	33.84	

Degree of freedom 74

P value and statistical significance:

The two-tailed P value equals 0.2825

By conventional criteria, this difference is considered to be not statistically significant.

1) *Confidence interval*

The mean of MALE minus FEMALE equals 2.08

95% confidence interval of this difference: From -1.75 to 5.91

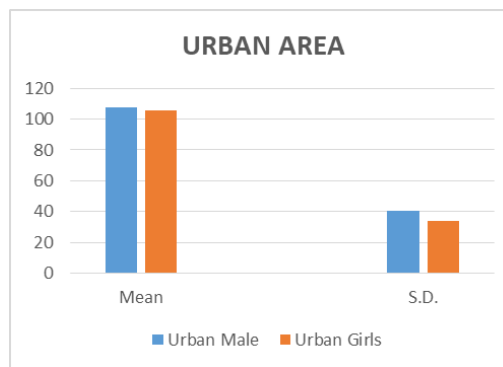


Fig. 2. Graphical Representation of table -2

Table 3
Environmental awareness score of Rural After intervention of school student

Stream	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	‘T’ Value
Rural Male	75	182.35	30.42	3.9873
Rural Female	75	188.16	27.22	

Degree of freedom 74

P value and statistical significance:

The two-tailed P value equals 0.0002

By conventional criteria, this difference is considered to be extremely statistically significant.

2) *Confidence interval*

The mean of MALE minus FEMALE equals -5.81

95% confidence interval of this difference: From -8.72 to -2.91

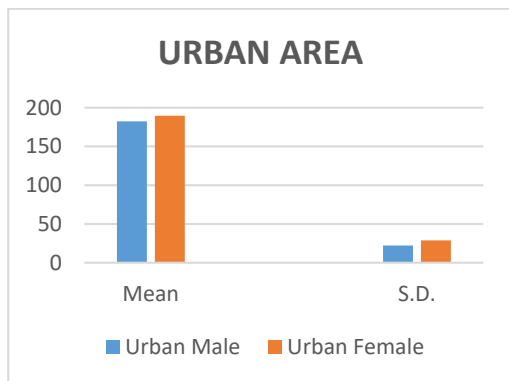


Fig. 3. Graphical Representation of table -3

Table 4

Environmental awareness score of Urban After intervention of school student

Stream	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	'T' Value
Urban Male	75	182.31	22.29	5.5491
Urban Female	75	189.60	28.79	

Degree of freedom 74

P value and statistical significance:

The two-tailed P value is less than 0.0001

By conventional criteria, this difference is considered to be extremely statistically significant.

3) Confidence interval

The mean of MALE minus FEMALE equals -7.29

95% confidence interval of this difference: From -9.91 to -4.67

Intermediate values used in calculations:

$t = 5.5491$

$df = 74$

Standard error of difference = 1.314

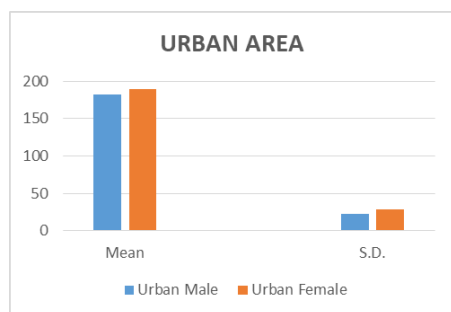


Fig. 4. Graphical Representation of table -4

6. Conclusion

The statistical analysis of data present in table and diagram helped in testing the various hypotheses formulated to realize the objectives of study and concluded that there was no significant difference in the attitude and participation of Environmental awareness among school going children of Prayagraj city. sAnd also, there was no significant difference in the attitude and Participation in Environmental awareness among Urban and Rural boys and girls. Hence, we can conclude that by enhancing the attitude and participation of the school going children in Environmental awareness is very necessary

for all the individuals for the sake of the nature and survival of the universe. All the students at every level should have positive attitude regarding environmental awareness and active participation to protect it.

1) Educational Implications

To achieve a good quality of life on earth for all living beings, it is essential to educate humankind and spread awareness about environment and sustainable development. Teacher is an effective tool in this regard. If the teacher is well informed, then only s/he can make the students the saviors and warriors of environmental issues. The teachers themselves can participate and show right attitude in environmental awareness issues and their solutions; can also collect a lot of information by reading and through information technology to increase their knowledge about global and local environmental concepts. The government must restructure and enrich both in-service and pre- service teacher education programmes with environmental awareness activities. More and more lectures, seminars, courses, debates, declamations, posters and painting, essay writing competitions, innovation from disposed items, or reciting environment related poetry, celebrating environmental days or week can be introduced in this regard. The results of this study also suggest that sound environmental attitude and participation may be inculcated in the secondary school students through suitable course content, methodology, practical exercises and various co-curricular activities. There should be a graded part of syllabus in the schools related to environment and its problems and this knowledge should be reinforced through various practical modes of learning and co-curricular activities such as debate, social work, group participation, etc.

This study proves that the school students possess a certain level of environmental attitude and participation which can be enhanced by a cumulative effect of both the school and of parent themselves. It is the fundamental duty of every human person to develop an awareness of protection and preservation of the environment. Empowering students to raise the level of environmental awareness, raises the educational benchmark. More efforts on part of administrators, parents and teachers are needed to enhance positive attitude and participation of students towards their environmental awareness; therefore, environmental education should compulsorily be included in syllabi of school if one wants to develop an environmentally sound society and a better environment for the future.

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