

A Study on Environmental Awareness among College Students with special reference to Male-Female and Rural-Urban Dichotomy

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ABSTRACT

The present investigation is carried out to study the Environmental Awareness in undergraduate students in relation to male /female, rural/urban dichotomy. The sample consisted of 200 college students of Central Kashmir. The investigator has used Environmental Awareness Ability Measures (EAAM) Scale, developed by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha to estimate Environmental Awareness among undergraduate students. The tool comprised of fifty one items with the five components viz a) Cause of Pollution; b) Conservation of Soil, Forest, Air etc.; c) Energy conservation; d) Conservation of Human Health; e) Conservation of Wild life & Animal Husbandry. The data collected was processed for statistical analysis through Mean, Median & t-test by applying SPSS(version 20).The results of the study revealed that in the Districts Budgam and Srinagar,66% were found to be high level,33% were found to be average level and only 1% were found to be at low level of Environmental Awareness. The results further revealed that there is no significant difference between the male and female college students on their Environmental Awareness moreover the results indicate that there is significant difference between rural and urban college students on their Environmental Awareness. This study also proposes some recommendations to safeguard the environment

Key words: *College Students, Environmental Awareness, Kashmir Valley*

I. INTRODUCTION

Environment is a broad concept. It means all natural and unnatural surroundings which laid impact on the growth and development of the individual. It starts influencing the child from the mother of the womb. Environment plays a very important role in the development of personality. Boring, Long -Feld & Weld (1961) stated that, "The environment in growth and development of an individual is well reflected in the statement made by Watson, one of prominent environmentalist that –"give me any child; I will make him whatever you desire" (Mangal, 2015). One of the best way of preserving the Environment is to develop the knowledge among the society through Formal and non-Formal Education. Environmental education is an avenue to learning. It create a way thinking requiring people to overcome the environmental problems. It helps providing learning experiences. The main focus of environmental education is to develop the understanding and concern about environment and its threats. Environmental awareness means awareness and sensitivity to the overall environment and its allied problems and conservation. Every year 5th June is celebrated as world Environment day in order to sensitize people about the Environmental problems and their prevention. The worthiness of Environment and Environmental awareness cannot be neglected. We must understand that to improve the quality of life there is an urgent need for proper administration of the environment.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Bhat Bilal, A. Bhalki, M.H (2016) found that the students due to problems of population explosion, exhaustion of natural resources and pollution of environment are not having enough awareness and skills for identifying and solving environmental problems. Singh Ranvir (2016) the findings of the study revealed that there is high level of environmental awareness among students residing in urban area as compared to students residing in rural area. A. Shailja, K. Divedi (2015) the results suggest that the level of environmental Awareness of male and female B. Ed. Student is almost same. The results further reveals that the level of environmental awareness of urban students is high as compared to rural B.Ed. Students. P. Mukesh, V. Preetam (2015) the findings of the study revealed that, boys have more Attitude than girls but there are significant difference found in boy and girls Attitude. And girls have more than boys Environmental awareness. There found no significant difference found in Boys and girls Environmental awareness. S. urmil (2015) The findings of this study revealed that there is no significant difference between the attitude of male students of degree and B.Ed. colleges, female students of degree and B.ED colleges, arts students of degree and B.Ed. colleges but significant difference was found out between science students of degree and B.Ed. colleges Usha, S. Roy, M. (2015) found that number of students with high level of awareness to be extremely low where was number of students with low level of awareness is found to be fairly high. This research suggested that measures should be taken to strengthen awareness towards environment. Sivamoorthy, M. Navilini, R. (2013) found that the level of awareness is high among the respondents irrespective of gender difference but in practice level there is difference level between genders that is males practicing more than females. This study recommends that environmental study should be included in their study by adding more practical oriented programmes. S. Neeraj kumar

Justification of the study

Today the environmental degradation is a matter of great concern before human society. Both Developing as well as developed countries are facing severe environmental problems. In the Developmental process man has been ruthlessly exploiting natural resources and polluting Natural environment. The major problem of our present world is environmental degradation. To solve this problem, we need environmentally sensitive and aware people.

Objectives of the study

1. To study the level of environmental awareness among college students
2. To compare male and female college students on their environmental awareness.
3. To compare the rural and urban college students on their environmental awareness.

Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference between male and female college students on their environmental awareness.
2. There is no significant difference between rural and urban college student on their environmental awareness.

III. METHODOLOGY

The details about the sample, the tools and their description, the statistical methods used to data analysis for the present study are given below:

Sample

The sample for the present study consisted of 200 undergraduate students of district Budgam and district Srinagar in which 100 students were selected from district Budgam and 100 from district Srinagar respectively among the 100 students 50 were from male and 50 female. The sample from the present study was selected randomly to ensure that each unit of population could get equal chance for selection.

Tool Used: The investigators aim was to study the environmental awareness among college students. For this purpose, Environment Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM) by Dr.Praveen Kumar Jha was used.

IV. FIGURES AND TABLES

The analysis of data has been arranged in tabular form in the following manner:

Table 1.1 Showing the overall percentage of college students on levels of Environmental Awareness

Levels of Environment Awareness	Score Range	College students	Percentage
High	37-51	132	66.0%
Average	15-36	66	33.0%
Low	0-15	2	1.0%
Total		200	100%

The above table shows the overall percentage of college students on levels of environmental awareness. From the data, it has been found that majority of the college students i.e. 66% show high environmental awareness, 33% show average and only 1% show low environmental awareness respectively.

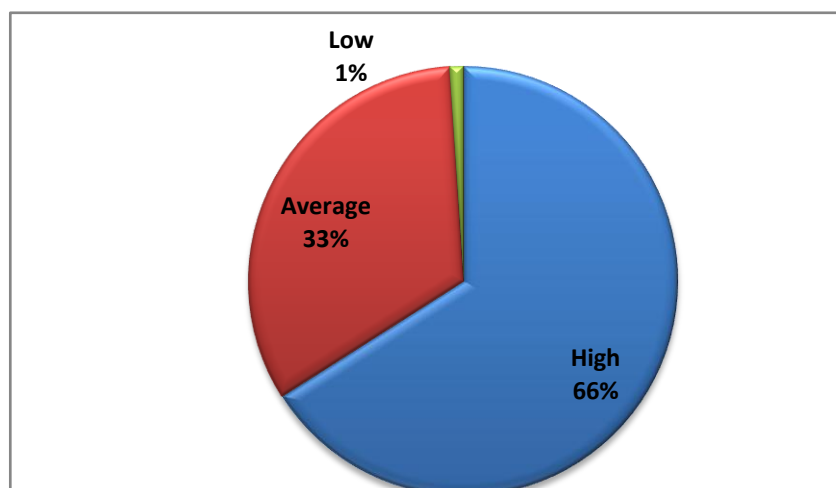


Figure 1.1: Showing the overall percentage of college students on levels of Environmental Awareness

Table 1.2 Showing the mean difference between male and female students on various dimensions of Environmental Awareness

Dimensions	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Level of Sig.
COP*	Male Students	100	12.22	2.688	0.125	Not significant
	Female Students	100	12.27	2.964		
COSFA**	Male Students	100	10.84	1.999	2.448	Significant at 0.05 levels
	Female Students	100	10.09	2.301		
EC***	Male Students	100	2.85	1.666	0.899	Not significant
	Female Students	100	2.64	1.636		
COHH****	Male Students	100	11.80	2.885	0.484	Not significant
	Female Students	100	11.58	3.511		
COWAAH*****	Male Students	100	2.15	1.321	0.694	Not significant
	Female Students	100	2.04	.875		
Overall Environments awareness	Male Students	100	39.75	6.456	1.197	Not significant
	Female Students	100	38.62	6.888		

*COP: cause of pollution

**COSFA: conservation of soil forest, air etc.

***EC: Energy conservation

****COHH: Conservation of Human Health

*****COWAAH: Conservation of Wild life and animal husbandry

The above table depicts the mean difference between male and female college students on various dimensions of Environmental Awareness. The result reveals that on the dimension of .COSFA there is significant difference between Male and female college students since the calculated t-value (2.448) is significant at 0.05 level. However the table further reveals that in the dimension COP, EC, COHH and, COWAAH there is no significant difference between Male and Female college students. On the basis of this evidence the hypothesis no. 1 which reads as “There is no significant difference between male and female college students on their environmental awareness” stands true and hence accepted.

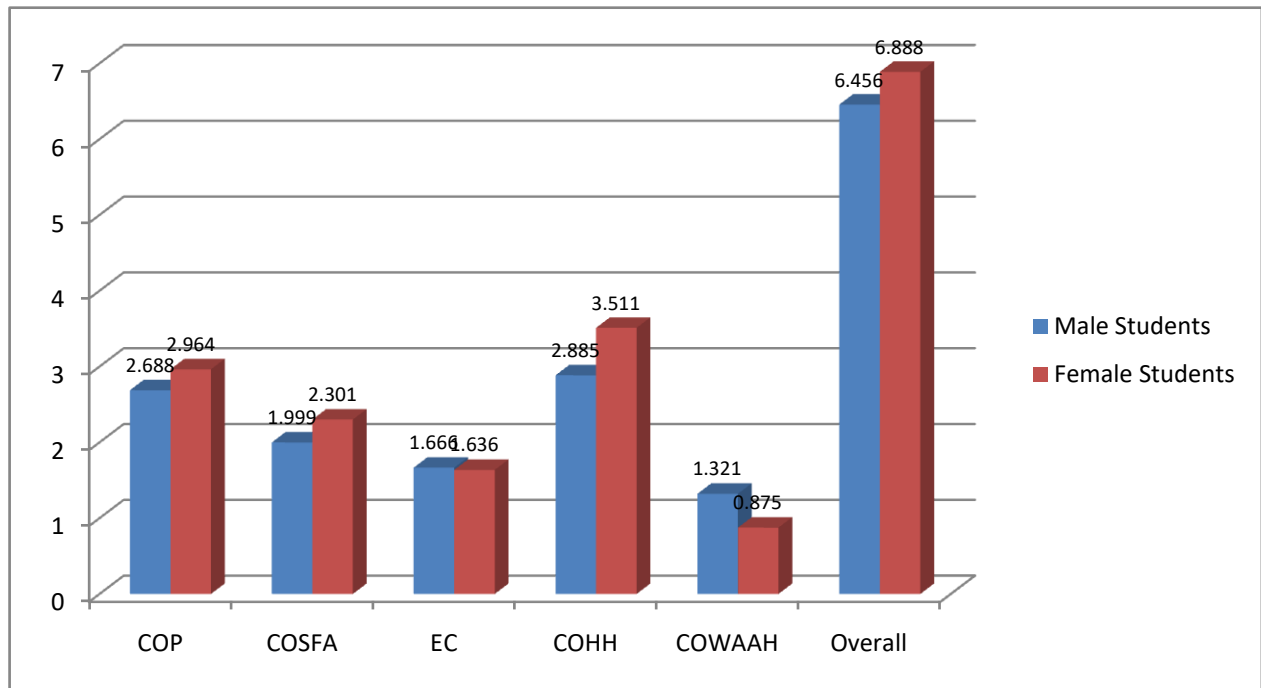


Figure 1.2 Showing the mean difference between male and female students on various dimensions of Environmental Awareness

Table 1.3 Showing the mean difference between rural and urban college students on various dimensions of Environmental Awareness

Dimensions	Group	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Level of Sig.
COP	Rural Students	100	11.24	2.937	5.378	Significant at 0.01 levels
	Urban Students	100	13.25	2.311		
COSFA	Rural Students	100	9.99	2.153	3.135	Significant at 0.01 levels
	Urban Students	100	10.94	2.118		
EC	Rural Students	100	2.66	1.622	0.728	Not significant
	Urban Students	100	2.83	1.682		
COHH	Rural Students	100	10.87	3.209	3.731	Significant at 0.01 levels
	Urban Students	100	12.51	3.003		
COWAAH	Rural Students	100	2.13	1.300	0.441	Not significant
	Urban Students	100	2.06	.908		
Overall Environments awareness	Rural Students	100	36.89	7.380	5.160	Significant at 0.01 levels
	Urban Students	100	41.48	4.968		

The above table shows the mean difference between the Rural and Urban College students on various dimensions of Environmental Awareness. The table shows that on the dimensions viz COP, COSFA, COHH

there is significant difference between Rural and Urban college students since the calculated t-values are significant at 0.01 level however the table further reveals in the dimensions viz EC and COWAAH there is no significant difference between Rural and Urban college students. On the basis of this evidence the hypothesis no 2 which reads as “there is no significant difference between rural and urban college students on their environmental awareness” stands false and hence rejected.

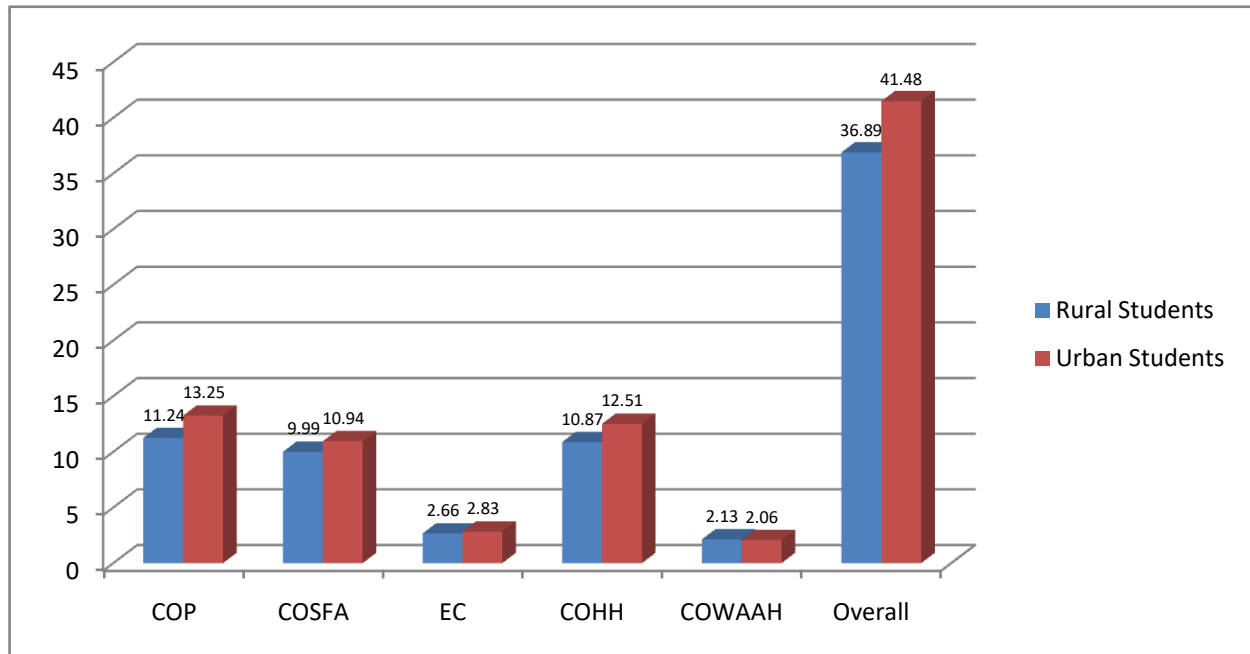


Figure 1.3 Showing the mean difference between rural and urban college students on various dimensions of Environmental Awareness

V. MAJOR FINDINGS

1. The results of the study revealed that in the Districts Budgam and Srinagar, 66% were found to be high level, 33% were found to be average level and only 1% were found to be low level of Environmental awareness.
2. Mean comparison between Male and female college students showed insignificant difference between male and female college students. This findings is in line with the findings of **K.H, LimHarun. (2014)** who found that Male and female don't differ significantly on the levels of Environmental Awareness.
3. Mean comparison between the rural and urban college students showed significant difference between rural and urban college students. This findings is in line with the findings of **S. Ranvir (2016) & A.Shailja, K.Divedi (2015)** who found that there is significant difference between rural and urban college students on various dimensions of Environmental Awareness.

VI.RECOMMENDATION & CONCLUSION

The researcher concludes this paper with following recommendation. The researcher recommends that environmental science should be made compulsory in colleges & should be taught to all students irrespective of their gender. The teachers should play a key role in promoting environmental awareness among students.

Further the students can be sensitized by adding the more practical programmes like symposium's, seminars, conferences, workshops and also lectures about environment and its importance. The present study attempted to describe how environmental awareness can be used to sensitize the youth about environmental protection. The findings of the study revealed that the students possess good level of environmental awareness. It depicts that the steps taken by the Government and Nongovernmental towards the environmental protection is providing fruitful. This paper concludes with relationship between gender and level of environmental awareness and also between rural and urban dichotomy. There is no significant difference between male and female college students on environmental awareness however there is significant difference between rural and urban college students, the urban college students are found to be more aware as compared to rural college students. The researcher is of the view that this difference may be due to use of electronic media that is more available to urban students & hence urban students become more aware about the environmental issues.

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