



## STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG X<sup>th</sup> CLASS MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

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### *Abstract*

*The aim of this research was to study the environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class male and female students of government and private schools. In this present study sample consisted of total 200 students, selected randomly from different schools of Tehsil Abohar. The data was collected by using Environment Awareness Ability Measure by Parveen Kumar Jha (1998). The study exposed that there was no significant difference in environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class male students of government and private schools, but significant difference found in environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class female students of government and private schools.*

**Keywords:** *Environmental Awareness, Government and Private Schools, Male and Female Students.*



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### 1. INTRODUCTION

Environment has influenced and shaped our lives since the time immemorial. It is from the environment that we get our food to eat, water to drink, air to breath and all the necessities of day to day life, thus constituting it as a life support system. Through the process of natural selection and elimination, it is environment only which has caused the evolution of biological spectrum, the biosphere as it exists today. Today environment has become the concern of all; the academicians, intellectuals, scientists, policymakers and government across the continents.

For the first time in his entire cultural history, man is facing one of the most horrible ecological crisis i.e., the problem of pollution of his environment which some time in past was so pure, virgin, undisturbed, uncontaminated and quite hospitable for all life forms to exist. Man's ignorance, greed and lack of respect for the 'Mother Earth' has drawn all of us into one of the very serious problems of today i.e., of over population, dwindling natural resources and environmental crisis that are threatening air, water and soil along with the vast

number of beautiful life forms which are the very foundation of life existence on this wonderful planet 'The Earth'.

Therefore, awareness and education of environment is the paramount concern of all the citizens of society. For the sake of blue planet, this is the crucial time that environmental awareness and Environmental sensitivity should be cultivated among the masses particularly among youths. Environment protection starts by creating awareness among the people so that it becomes a part of their life style. The key to achieving this goal lies in environment education and its related programmers. For the awareness of society it is essential to work at a grass root level, so the whole society can work to save the environment.

Polluted environment endangers the human race by threatening its survival on planet earth. Boundaries of any nation cannot limit these environmental problems to the particular and region, but its impact is global one. This large scale environmental degradation has caused a global concern about the conservation and protection of the earth's environment. Hence, efforts are being made for inculcating environmental consciousness or awareness among the masses. It is education which can make the human being conscious and knowledge about environment and environmental problems moreover, awareness is essential for the action. The main purpose of environmental education in schools is to acquaint and sensitize the young minds to the environmental problems and concerns to inculcate in them healthy personal and social attitude and behaviour towards environment. Thus, students must have awareness about environment and the problems associated with it so that they can play their role very effectively. Hence, it is necessary to know how far the school students are aware about environment and environmental problems.

## **2. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS**

Environmental awareness means to be conscious about environment by a variety of experiences and acquire a basic understanding of environment and its associated problem. Environmental awareness is to understand the fragility of our environment and the importance of its protection. Promoting environmental awareness is an easy way to become an environmental steward and participate in creating a brighter future for our children

Environmental awareness means to help social groups and individuals to acquire total environment and its problems. The importance of environmental awareness cannot be over emphasized. We must understand that environment protection helps us to improve the quality of life.

### **3. NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEM**

The world scenario has undergone great upheavals during the last century due to technological advancement in industrialization and the tendency of masses to settle down in urban area. Natural resources are depleted by excessive use. Fresh water scarcity on a global scale, deforestation, degradation of river areas, soil depletion and loss of biodiversity are some of the problems that have become a major concern. Air and water pollution have reached such levels that have already resulted in serious health problems, as well as negative impact on the environment and inevitably influencing prospects for long-term economic growth. This has resulted in environmental degradation thus this is crucial time to study environmental awareness and sensitivity among students, who are in charge of inculcating the same in the coming generations.

The environment which sustains life is in peril at present. Human activities are responsible for this. Rapid industrialization, further advancement in science and technology and the abuse of this advancement in an arbitrary way as well as the fast growth of urbanization have posed danger to human himself. Generally people are indifferent to their environment. Newton's third law states, "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction". This also applies to human's relationship with nature as it relates to application of force on inanimate objects. While man sought domination over nature in five thousand years of recorded history, he has begun to realize that his welfare and his every existence are deeply intertwined with the natural cycles and systems. The main obstacle in protecting the environment in India today is that there is a lack of environment awareness. In which a position society needs to be convinced of the importance of environment and we have to realize the fact that the way we live, will determine our future. Therefore, the awareness regarding the environment and proper awareness towards the worsening of the environmental

condition of the world is imperative. After review of related literature, it was felt that environment awareness among government and private school level is not well covered area. Therefore it is imperative to study the environment awareness among government and private school students and to compare the position of both.

#### **4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Study of environmental awareness among x<sup>th</sup> class male and female students of government and private schools.

#### **5. OBJECTIVES**

1. To study the environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class male students of government and private schools.

2. To study the environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class female students of government and private schools.

#### **6. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

1. There exists no significant difference in the environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class male students of government and private schools.

2. There exists no significant difference in the environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class female students of government and private schools.

#### **7. DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

1. The present study was delimited to government and private schools of Abohar Tehsil only.

2. Sample was delimited to 200 students (100male and 100 female) of X<sup>th</sup> class only.

#### **8. DESIGN OF THE STUDY**

The descriptive survey method of research was employed to investigate the environmental awareness of Government and Private School Students.

#### **9. SAMPLE**

For the present study, sample of 200 students of X<sup>th</sup> class were selected randomly from Government and Private Schools of Tehsil Abohar.

#### **10. TOOL USED**

“Environment Awareness Ability Measure” by Parveen Kumar Jha (1998) was used for the investigation.

### 11. PROCEDURE FOR DATA COLLECTION

Investigator selected the sample and collected the data from different government and private schools. The questionnaire consists of 51 questions which gives the information about environmental awareness. The subject had to simply respond by ticking in the box whether they agree or disagree. No time limit was imposed and the questions were easy to respond.

### 12. ANALYSIS OF DATA:

For the analysis of data Mean, Standard Deviation & ratio were calculated:

### RESULT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF X<sup>th</sup> CLASS MALE STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Table 1.1 given below provides the summary of statistical calculation for obtaining t-ratio with regards to comparison of environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class male students of government and private schools.

**Table 1: Showing t- Ratio of Environmental Awareness of X<sup>th</sup> Class Male Students of Government and Private Schools**

Sr. No.	Group	N	Mean	S.D.	SE <sub>D</sub>	df	t-ratio	Level of Significance at 0.05 and 0.01
1	Government Schools	50	36.16	5.19	1.21	98	1.14	Not Significant
2	Private Schools	50	34.78	6.80				

Table 1 indicates that calculated t-ratio (1.14) is no significant at 0.05(1.98) and 0.01(2.63) level of significance. Therefore, from the table it may be concluded that there is no significant difference between the environmental awareness of male students of government and private schools. Hence, our null hypothesis that there exists no significant difference in the environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class male students of government and private schools is accepted.

**RESULT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF X<sup>th</sup> CLASS FEMALE STUDENTS OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS.**

Table 2 given below provides the summary of statistical calculation for obtaining t-ratio with regards to comparison of environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class female students of government and private schools.

**Table 2: Showing t- Ratio of Environmental Awareness of X<sup>th</sup> Class Female Students of Government and Private Schools**

Sr. No.	Group	N	Mean	S.D.	SE <sub>D</sub>	df	t-ratio	Level of Significance at 0.05 and 0.01
1	Government Schools	50	38.30	4.80	1.52	98	3.85	Significant
2	Private Schools	50	32.44	9.63				

Table 2 indicates that calculated t-ratio (3.85) is significant at 0.05(1.98) and 0.01(2.63) level of significance. Therefore, from the table it may be concluded that there is significant difference between the environmental awareness of female students of government and private school. Hence, our null hypothesis that there exists no significant difference in the environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class female students of government and private schools is not accepted.

**13. CONCLUSIONS**

1. Insignificant difference was found between environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class male students of government and private schools.

2. Significant difference was found between environmental awareness of X<sup>th</sup> class female students of government and private schools.

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