



## A STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was aimed to find out the environmental awareness among secondary school students. The researcher made a detailed study on the various facets of environment and their impact on the life of mankind, plants and animals. The researcher also studied on the various factors affecting the environment such as pollution, deforestation etc. This paved the way for a better study by the researcher on the environmental awareness prevalent among secondary school students.

**KEYWORDS:** Environmental Awareness, Secondary School Students.

### INTRODUCTION

The nature of environment is the pivotal phenomenon for understanding the level of environmental awareness prevalent among secondary school students. "Man is a social Animal". This can be aptly attributed to the awareness acquired on environment. The knowledge on environment is very essential not only to safeguard the environment but also to effectively utilize the resources that are abundantly available in the environment for human welfare and the prosperity of the society.

### ENVIRONMENT

As per Oxford English Dictionary, "Environment" is defined as the surroundings or conditions in which a person, animal, or plant lives or operates. Environment and human beings cannot be separated from each other since they are interdependent. Environment plays a vital role in the prosperity of the life of mankind.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Environmental awareness refers to the knowledge on the Environment and its impact on our day-to-day life. This also caters to know about the functionality of natural environment and the interaction of human beings and its impact on their behaviour.

### OBJECTIVES OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- According to UNESCO (1971), the objectives of environmental education are:
- Creating the awareness about environmental problems among people.
- Imparting basic knowledge about the environment and its allied problems.
- Developing an attitude of concern for the environment.
- Motivating public to participate in environment protection and environment improvement.
- Acquiring skills to help the concerned individuals in identifying and solving environmental problems.
- Striving to attain harmony with Nature.

## POLLUTION

Pollution is defined as the presence in or introduction into the environment of a substance which has harmful or poisonous effects. The prosperity of the environment is very much affected by pollution, thereby affecting the relationship of mankind, plants and animals. This results in spread of various diseases to mankind, plants and animals. Hence pollution needs to be eradicated fully for the prosperity of environment. The researcher made a detailed study on the following salient types of pollution encountered by the environment.

1. Air Pollution
2. Water Pollution
3. Land Pollution
4. Noise Pollution

## FOOD CYCLE

In environment, the dependency of mankind, plants and animals is of paramount importance. The life of mankind and animals is based on the resources available in the environment. "Food Cycle" is the finest example for this. Food Cycle is a system of natural relationships by which organisms in a community depend on each other for food.

## DEFORESTATION

The process of cutting down of trees from wild forests. The process may happen due to urbanization, social utility purposes etc. However, this act has an alarming ill effect upon the environment by way of loss rain, loss of housing for birds and animals etc. This process results in non-synchronization among human beings, plants and animals. This affects the entire food cycle thereby resulting in starvation.

## AFFORESTATION

Afforestation is the process of planting large number of trees on land which has few or no trees on it. By the process of afforestation, the ill effects of deforestation are nullified.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To study the significant difference in environmental awareness among secondary school students with respect to gender.
- To study the significant difference in environmental awareness scores of boys and girls of government schools.
- To study the significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of government aided schools.
- To study the significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of corporation schools.
- To study the significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of matriculation schools.

## HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference between the total scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls.
2. There is no significant difference between the environmental awareness scores of boys and girls of government school students.
3. There is no significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of government aided school.
4. There is no significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of corporation school.

5. There is no significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of matriculation school.

### METHODOLOGY

Survey method was used to study the environmental awareness among secondary students of Government, Govt. Aided, Corporation and Matric Schools in Coimbatore educational district. Standardized tool consisting of 50 questions of Likert's five point scale was used in this study.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table 1: Analysis of Total Scores of Environmental Awareness of Boys and Girls**

Category	N	Mean	SD	SE	't' value
Boys	189	153.97	8.37	0.8718	0.4132
Girls	273	153.61	10.31		

Table-1 shows that the calculated t-value is 0.4132 which is less than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Thus there is no significant difference between the total scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls. Hence the hypothesis-1 is accepted.

**Table 2: Analysis of the Scores of Environmental Awareness of Boys and Girls of Government School Students**

Government School	N	Mean	SD	SE	't' value
Boys	17	160.53	6.89	2.5158	2.55
Girls	44	154.11	12.47		

Table-2 depicts that the calculated t-value is 2.55 which is greater than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Thus there is significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of government schools. Hence the hypothesis-2 is rejected.

**Table 3: Analysis of the Scores of Environmental Awareness of Boys and Girls of Government Aided Schools**

Government Aided School	N	Mean	SD	SE	't' value
Boys	65	152.49	8.18	1.53	0.7051
Girls	79	153.57	10.15		

From Table-3, the calculated t-value is 0.7051 which is less than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Thus there is no significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of government aided school. Hence the hypothesis-3 is accepted.

**Table 4: Analysis of the Scores of Environmental Awareness of Boys and Girls of Corporation School Students**

Corporation School	N	Mean	SD	SE	't' value
Boys	19	143.6	15.32	3.7102	5.889
Girls	83	165.45	10.83		

Table-4 shows that the calculated t-value is 5.889 which is greater than the table value of 1.96 at 0.01 level of significance. Thus there is significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of corporation school students. Hence the hypothesis-4 is rejected.

**Table 5: Analysis of the Scores of Environmental Awareness of Boys and Girls of Matriculation School Students**

Matriculation School	N	Mean	SD	SE	't' value
Boys	88	152.68	12.86	3.102	6.718
Girls	67	173.52	8.73		

From Table-5, the calculated t-value is 6.718 which is greater than the table value of 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Thus there is significant difference between the scores of environmental awareness of boys and girls of matriculation school students. Hence the hypothesis-5 is rejected.

### CONCLUSION

Knowledge on environment and possessing adequate level of environmental awareness is mandatory for leading peaceful life by human beings. The result obtained on the study conducted by the researcher laid importance of environmental awareness and its impact on secondary school students.

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