



## A STUDY ON AWARENESS ABOUT BIODIVERSITY AND ITS CONSERVATION AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT :

The present study on awareness about biodiversity and its conservation among higher secondary students does not deal with the global aspect of biodiversity. The section of biodiversity presents a less amount of information about conservation of plants and animals and therefore students have low level of awareness on biodiversity. In order to enhance their knowledge level in biodiversity, the investigator made an attempt to identify the awareness level of students in biodiversity and to promote the same, there is a significant difference in the awareness about biodiversity and its conservation of higher secondary students in respect to their gender, standard, group and medium of instruction. Hence it is necessary to conduct parent teacher meetings in schools to improve the development of students' awareness about biodiversity and its conservation.

**KEYWORDS :** Biodiversity and Conservation, Higher Secondary Students.

### INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity of a geographical area includes various kinds of trees, plants, animals, birds, insects and even micro-organisms. It has been estimated that in the great store house of the earth's biodiversity. The environmental science is being incorporated in the school curriculum in various countries all over the world. The environmental education curriculum and its implementation in different Asian countries and in India are also reported. Biodiversity and conservation is extremely complex, dynamic and varied like no other feature of the earth. Its innumerable plants, animals and microbes physically and chemically unite the atmosphere (the mixture of gases around the earth), geosphere (the solid part of the earth), and hydrosphere (the earth water, ice and water vapour) into the environmental system which makes it possible for millions of species, including people, to exist. Biodiversity plays a major role in many ecosystem services such as replenishing oxygen through photosynthesis, pollination through bees, bumble bees, birds and bats etc. regulation of global climate, storage and retention of rainwater in aquifers and reservoirs. Control of floods and soil erosion, nutrient cycling, microbial waste treatment, biological control of pests was documented.



### OBJECTIVES

- To find out the significant difference in the awareness about biodiversity and its conservation of higher secondary students based on gender, standard, group and medium of instruction.

## HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference in the awareness about biodiversity and its conservation of Higher secondary students in terms of gender, standard, group and medium of instruction

## METHODOLOGY

The present study attempts to find out the awareness about biodiversity and its conservation among higher secondary students. Since the problem is concerned with "Survey" type, the investigator has selected the normative survey method for conducting the study. The word 'survey' indicates the gathering of the data regarding current conditions. The word "normative" is used because surveys are frequently made for the purpose of ascertaining which is the normal or typical condition or practice. The descriptive or normative survey method of educational research is very common. It is that method of investigation which attempts to describe and interpret what exists at present in the form of conditions, practices, processes, attitudes, beliefs etc. It is an organized attempt to analyze, interpret and report the present status of social institution, group or area. 9 schools are selected through stratified random sampling technique. The sample for the present study consisted of 350 higher secondary students in Madurai District. 'Awareness on Biodiversity and its Conservation Scale' constructed and standardized by the researcher was used in the study. In order to measure biodiversity and its conservation of the 350 higher secondary students involved in this study. Reliability of the scale was established by the investigator using split-half method which found to be 0.76. The investigator also ensured the validity of the tool by using concurrent validity. There are 40 items in the biodiversity and its conservation. For this questionnaire, a score of 3, 2, and 1 was given to category Agree, Uncertain and Disagree. The maximum score for this scale is 120 and 40 is the minimum score. There is no time limit to complete the research tool but most of the students completed within 30 minutes.

## DATA ANALYSIS

**Table 1: Awareness about Biodiversity and its Conservation of Higher Secondary Students based on Gender, Standard, Group and Medium of Instruction**

Variable	Sub-sample	N	Mean	SD	t-value	Remark
Gender	Male	170	95.81	5.96	0.261	Not Significant
	Female	180	95.97	5.54		
Standard	11 <sup>th</sup>	185	95.72	5.45	0.581	Not Significant
	12 <sup>th</sup>	165	96.08	6.07		
Group	Science	268	96.25	5.78	2.203	Significant
	Arts	82	94.71	5.48		
Medium	Tamil	290	96.74	5.15	5.455	Significant
	English	60	91.77	6.66		

From Table-1, the calculated t-values 0.261 and 0.581 are less than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Hence it is found that, there is no significant difference in the awareness about biodiversity and its conservation of higher secondary students based on gender, standard.

Table-1 also shows that the calculated t-values 2.203 and 5.455 are greater than the table value 1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. Thus there is significant difference in the awareness about biodiversity and its conservation of higher secondary students with respect to group and medium of instruction.

## FINDINGS

- There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary students in respect of their awareness about biodiversity and its conservation.

- There is no significant difference between 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard students in respect of their awareness about biodiversity and its conservation.
- There is significant difference between science and arts group higher secondary students in respect of their awareness about biodiversity and its conservation.
- There is significant difference between Tamil and English medium higher secondary students of in respect of their awareness about biodiversity and its conservation.

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