
A Study on Environmental Awareness and Ecological Behaviour among Arts and Science College Students in Kanyakumari District

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Environmental education is learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment. Environmental awareness helps the individuals to acquire an awareness of total environment and its allied problems. Behavioural consequences such as levels of pollution, resource savings, and energy quantities, rather than human behaviour, should be the prime targets in the environmental domain. This study examines the relationship between the environmental awareness and ecological behaviour of arts and science college students. Survey research was conducted on 300 female arts and science college students. Results shows that a positive correlation was found between environmental awareness and ecological behaviour.

Keywords: Knowledge, Understanding, Environment and Problems.

Introduction

Environmental education deals with man's relationship with his natural and man-made surroundings. It also deals with the dynamics of the physical, biological, socio economic, political and technological dimensions. Environmental Awareness is a state of being conscious about environment. It may be defined as to help the individual to gain variety of information and experiences to acquire basic knowledge and understanding of environment and problems associated within. The environmental consequences of a behaviour either go unnoticed or are not taken into account by a person, to what extent can subjective measures, such as environmental concern, values, and attitude, be predictive of whether or not that behaviour is performed. Behaviour measures in the environmental domain have to address issues that go well beyond the quality indicators psychologists commonly use, such as construct, concurrent, predictive, discriminates, and external validity.

Need and Significance of the Study

Environmental Awareness is the ability to understand the problems of environment through the relevant to the society and its individuals to solve these environmental problems. The Government and Various non-Government organizations are adopting different strategies to promote awareness on different strategies should be established as an integral part of any major programmer of environmental awareness. The study is primarily concerned with us to what extent that the students have the knowledge and involvement in the environmental issues and environmental situations. The Scope of the study is also concerned with the improvement of quality of life of students. So, the investigator wants to find out the relationship between Environmental Awareness and Ecological Behaviour of Arts and Science College students.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study are

- To find out the significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness based on gender.
- To find out the significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour based on locality.
- To find out the significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour based on gender.
- To find out the significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour based on the locality of college.
- To find the significant relationship between environmental awareness and ecological behaviour of Arts and Science College students.

Hypotheses of the Study

- There is no significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness based on gender.
- There is no significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness based on locality of college.
- There is no significant difference among the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour based on gender.
- There is no significant difference among the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour based on their locality of college.
- There is no significant relationship between environmental awareness and ecological behaviour of Arts and Science College students.

Method Used for the Present Study

The investigator has used survey method to study the relationship between the environmental awareness and ecological behaviour of Arts and Science College Students.

Population and Sample

Population for the present study comprises of arts and science college students from various Colleges in Kanyakumari District. The sample of the present study consists of 300 Arts and science college students from ten Colleges.

Description of the Tool and Data Collection

Environmental Awareness Scale consists of 61 items of multiple-choice type statements seeking the College student's response. Ecological Behaviour Scale consists of 46 items of statements seeking an alternative among three from the college students. For the purpose of collecting data the investigator has selected 10 colleges in Kanyakumari District.
analysis of data

H1: There is no significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness based on Gender.

Table – 1
Environmental Awareness of Arts and Science College Students Based on Gender

Gender	Number	Mean	SD	't'	P	Remark
Male	43	173.16	15.175	0.008	0.014	S
Female	257	173.15	11.371			

The obtained 't' value (0.008) is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. This shows that there is significant difference between the Environmental Awareness on Arts and Science college students based on gender.

H2: There is no significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness, based on Locality of college.

Table –2
Environmental Awareness of Arts and Science College Students Based on Locality

Locality	Number	Mean	SD	't'	P	Remark
Rural	270	173.29	12.286	0.603	0.040	S
Urban	30	171.90	8.535			

The obtained 't' value (0.603) is significant at 0.05 level. Hence the null hypothesis is rejected. This shows that there is significant difference between the Environmental Awareness on Arts and Science college students based on locality.

H3: There is no significant difference among the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour based on Gender.

Table – 3

Ecological Behaviour of Arts and Science College Students Based on Gender

Gender	Number	Mean	SD	't'	P	Remark
Male	43	163.70	21.739	-0.297	0.940	NS
Female	257	164.79	22.498			

The obtained 't' value (-0.297) is significant at 0.05 levels. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. This shows that there is no significant difference between the Ecological Behaviour on Arts and Science college students based on gender.

H4: There is no significant difference among the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour based on Locality of the college.

Table – 4

Ecological Behaviour of Arts and Science College Students Based on Locality

Locality	Number	Mean	SD	't'	P	Remark
Rural	270	163.76	22.852	0.284	0.068	NS
Urban	30	163.53	17.573			

The obtained 't' value (0.284) is significant at 0.05 levels. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. This shows that there is no significant difference between the Ecological Behaviour on Arts and Science college students based on locality.

H5: There is no significant relationship between Environmental Awareness and Ecological Behaviour among the Arts and Science college students.

Table-5

Relationship between Environmental Awareness and Ecological Behaviour of Arts and Science College Students

Variables	Number	'r'	Level of Significance
Environmental Awareness Ecological Behaviour	300	0.243	0.01 level

As it is shown in the above table Environmental Awareness and Ecological Behaviour of Arts and Science College Students are positively correlated and significant at 0.01 levels. The relationship between the variables may be described as ‘low’.

Findings

- There is significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness based on gender.
- There is significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness, based on Locality of college.
- There is no significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour, based on gender.
- There is significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Ecological Behaviour based on locality.
- There is no significant relationship between Environmental Awareness and Ecological Behaviour among the Arts and Science college students.

Interpretation of the Study

On comparing the level of Environmental Awareness of Arts and Science College Students based on Gender it is found that more percentage of Female Students possesses “High Level” of environmental awareness. There is significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness, based on Gender. On comparing the level of Environmental Awareness of Arts and Science College Students based on Locality of college it is found that more percentage of rural Arts and Science College Students possess “High Level” of environmental awareness. It is observed that Arts and Science college students from rural colleges have more dealing with their environment as their parents engage in agriculture. Hence the rural Arts and Science college students tend to develop more Environmental Awareness than the urban Arts and Science College students. There is significant difference between the Arts and Science college students in their Environmental Awareness, based on Locality of college.

Educational Implication

From the analysis of the present study the investigator wishes to recommend the following.

- The educational planners and administrators have to take necessary steps to improve the environmental awareness and ecological behavior among the Arts and Science College Students.
- To conduct awareness programmes to develop ecological behavior among the Arts and Science College Students.
- Awards may be given to the innovative practices by the Arts and Science College Students.

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- Orientation programmes can be conducted to improve environmental awareness and ecological behavior among Arts and Science College Students.

Conclusion

Environmental Awareness is necessary to know the importance of keeping the environment clean and protecting the earth. It is a state being conscious about environment. It may be defined as to help the individual to gain variety of information and experiences to acquire basic knowledge and understanding of environment and problems associated with it. Environmental degradation in the form of pollution is unimaginable. As a result of deforestation, there is a change in the global warmth and annual rainfall. All these call for environmental awareness and it is necessary to know the awareness and behavior of the students.

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