



Environmental Awareness among College Students of Ranchi District

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Abstract

Purpose: The Purpose of the Present Study was to find out the Level of Environmental Awareness and the Impact of Gender and Stream on Environmental Awareness among College Students. The Study based on Cross Sectional and Quasi Experimental design. **Sample:** The Study was conducted on 120 respondents aged between 18-25 years using Stratified Random Sampling Method based on two levels of Gender (Boys and Girls) and Stream (Science and Arts) from different Colleges of Ranchi District. Environmental Awareness Scale developed by Praveen Kumar Jha were used. **Result:** The findings Showed that Most of the Students have High level of Environmental Awareness. There is no Significant Impact of Gender on Environmental Awareness but there is Significant Impact of Stream on Environmental Awareness. Boys and Girls both have Similar level of Environmental Awareness. Science Stream College Student's Environmental Awareness is higher than Arts Stream College Students. **Discussion:** Boys and Girls both have Similar level of Environmental Awareness because Boys and Girls get Similar education in educational Institutions. People belonging to Specific area, face same environmental related issue. Science College Students have Significantly higher Environmental Awareness as compare to Arts College Students because their Curriculum directly exposes them to the Scientific Principles behind environmental issues, like Ecology, Biology and Chemistry, allowing them to understand the complex interactions within ecosystems and the impacts of human activity on the environment, which is not as deeply covered in most Arts courses.

Keywords: Environmental Awareness, College Students, Gender, Stream

Introduction

Every living thing on the planet interacts with its surroundings. As they go about their daily lives, living things are impacted by their surrounds, which are referred to as their habitat or environment (Alim, 2006). However, according to Ozmen, Cetinkaya, and Nehir (2005), the environment can also be described as all of the elements that influence a person's or a society's biological, sociopsychological, socioeconomic, and cultural well-being. The environment has a critical role in building trustworthy human relationships, which are necessary for a

thriving community and guarantee the preservation of the natural, cultural, and aesthetic environment. Raising competent people who receive environmental education is the only way to increase environmental knowledge and sensitivity, which will help people live in a safer and healthier environment.

Environmental Awareness

Being aware of environmental issues and actively participating in environmental groups are two aspects of environmental awareness. Nevertheless, positive attitudes and appreciation for environmentally friendly behavior are fostered by environmental awareness (Karatekin, 2014). Therefore, in order to measure environmental awareness, it is vital to include the causes, negative effects, and awareness and concern of environmental issues (Karatekin, 2014). Intentional environmental behavior increases with an individual's level of awareness of environmental issues and cause-and-effect theories. Lack of environmental consciousness in the face of severe environmental issues, urbanization, industrialization, deforestation, global warming, and degradation. Policymakers' attempts to address environmental pressures are hampered by biodiversity (Keles, 2012). Consequently, it leads to a decline in life quality (Keles, 2012).

Review of Literature

Sengupta et.al. (2010) to examine Environmental awareness and environment related behaviour of twelfth grade students in Kolkata: Effects of stream and gender. A total of 360 (180 Boys and 180 Girls) students under West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education in Kolkata were randomly chosen as sample. Two 5-point Likert type questionnaires (Environmental Awareness 27 items and Environment Related Behaviour 21 items) were used for this study and were standardized by the researchers. The findings revealed that gender is not a significant source of variation in case of environmental awareness. But stream is observed to be significant source of variation in case of environmental awareness.

Panth et.al (2015) to examine The role of attitude in environmental awareness of under graduate students. The study was conducted on 100 Boys and 100 Girls Students of N.M.V. Lalitpur (U.P.). The data was divided into two groups on the basis of Environmental Awareness and Environmental Attitude. A standardized Environmental Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM) by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha and Attitude Scale by Dr. N.S. Chauhan and Dr. L. Singh were used to collect data. Data were analyzed by using analysis of variance (ANOVA). The findings revealed that there is no significant difference found in Boys and girls Environmental awareness.

Shivakumara et.al. (2015) to examine Effect of Gender on Environmental Awareness of Post-graduate students. The Study was conducted on 605 Post-graduate students comprising from science and social-science discipline aged between 22 to 24 years from Karnatak and Bangalore Universities of Karnataka State. The findings revealed that no significant difference between Gender and Stream on environmental awareness.

Bozoglu el.al. (2016) to examine Factors affecting the students' environmental awareness, attitudes and behaviors in Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey. The Study was Conducted on 621 graduate students of

Ondokuz Mayıs University. The study revealed that Gender has Significant impact on students' environmental awareness.

Novotný et.al. (2021) to investigate Evaluation of environmental awareness of university students: The Study was conducted on university of Presov, Slovakia. The findings showed that students of the University of Presov achieved high environmental awareness. There were no significant differences in the level of environmental awareness between male and female students but there is Significant difference between Arts and Science Stream Students in Environmental Awareness. Science Stream Students Environmental Awareness is higher than Arts stream Students.

Statement of the Problem

The Present study has been taken to find out the level of Environmental Awareness among College Students. It has also studied the Impact of Gender and Stream on Environmental Awareness of College Students.

Methodology

Objectives

Following were objective of the present research.

- To measure the level of Environmental Awareness among different sub-groups of College students.
- To determine the Impact of Gender (Boys and Girls) on Environmental Awareness
- To find out the Impact of Stream (Science and Arts) on Environmental Awareness.

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated the proposed research.

- The level of Environmental Awareness will vary among different sub-groups of College students.
- There will be Significant Impact of Gender (Boys and Girls) on Environmental Awareness.
- There will be Significant Impact of Stream (Science and Arts) on Environmental Awareness.

Sample

Sample for the present study consisted of 120 students of Ranchi, who were selected by Stratified Random Sampling technique.

The stratification was based on :

- Gender-2 : Boys and Girls.
- Stream -2 : Science and Arts

Thus, there were four strata from each stratum 30 students were selected randomly therefore sample was based on 2x2 factorial design.

Sample Design

Gender		Boys	Girls	Total
Stream	Science	30	30	60
	Arts	30	30	60
Total		60	60	120

Tools

Personal Data Questionnaire (PDQ):

The Personal data questionnaire was prepared by the researcher. This questionnaire was used to elicit information about respondents' Name, Age, Gender, Stream, Class, College Name etc.

Environmental Awareness Scale

It is self- administered Scale developed by Praveen Kumar Jha. This Scale Consist of 51 items, Out of which 43 items are Positive and 08 items are Negative. Each agreed items carries 1 marks and each disagree items carries 0 marks but the negative items scored inversely. The split-half and test retest Reliability of this Scale is 0.61 and 0.74 respectively. The Validity of this Scale is 0.83.

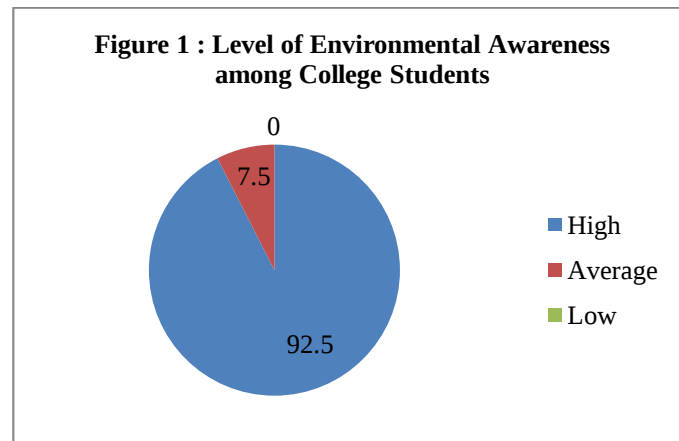
Plan of Analysis

In the pursuance of the objective of the research, data were analyzed using suitable statistical measures such as percentage of scores, Mean and Standard Deviation and t-test. Percentage of scores was calculated to find out the level of Environmental Awareness among the sample groups. t-test was applied to see the Significant Impact of Gender and Stream on Environmental Awareness.

Result and Discussion

Table 1: Level of Environmental Awareness among College Students

Sample Units		Low Level	Average Level	High Level
Total	N	0	09	111
	%	0%	7.5%	92.5%

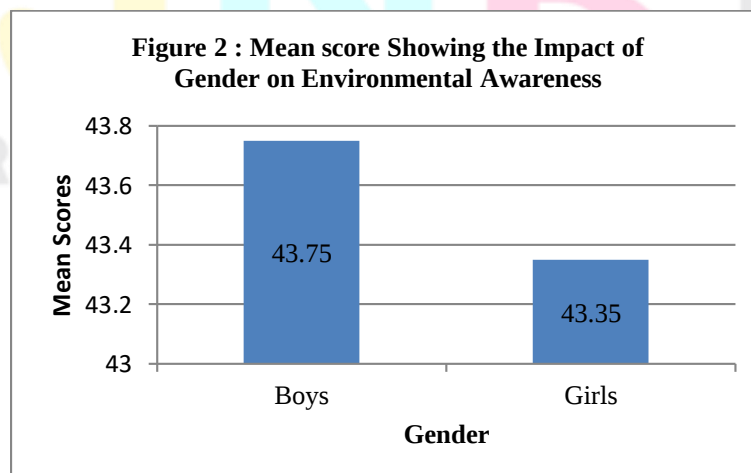


Above Table and Figure 1 Show that Higher Number i.e., 92.5 % Students have high and 7.5 % Students have Average Level of Environmental Awareness . While no one fall under Low Level of Environmental Awareness.

Impact of Gender on Environmental Awareness

Table 2 : Mean, Sd and t- values showing the Impact of Gender on Environmental Awareness.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t-Value	Level of Significant
Boys	60	43.75	3.87	0.3	N.S.
Girls	60	43.35	4.25		



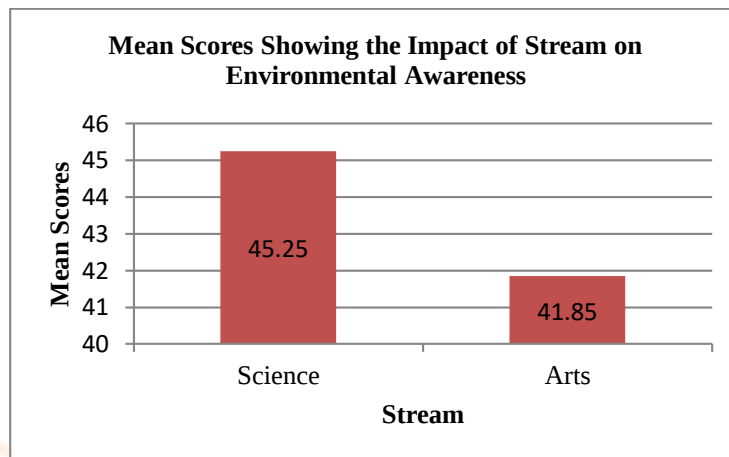
Above table and figure 2 Showing the Mean Score of Boys and Girls Students, there is no significant Mean difference between Boys and Girls Students. The t-ratio is 0.3, which is Statistically not Significant at any level.

Which means both groups didn't differ on the level of Environmental Awareness. So our hypotheses: There will be Significant Impact of Gender (Boys and Girls) on Environmental Awareness will be rejected.

Impact of Stream on Environmental Awareness

Table 3 : Mean, Sd and t- values showing the Impact of Stream on Environmental Awareness.

Stream	N	Mean	SD	t-Value	Level of Significant
Science	60	45.25	2.66	2.83	0.01
Arts	60	41.85	4.50		



Above table and figure 3 Showing the Mean Score of Science and Arts Students, where the mean Score of Science Students are higher than Arts Students on Environmental Awareness. The t-ratio is 2.83, which is Statistically Significant at 0.01 level. Which means both groups differ on the level of Environmental Awareness. So our hypotheses: There will be Significant Impact of Stream (Science and Arts) on Environmental Awareness will be Accepted.

Conclusion

To sum up, the Study examined all three hypotheses as Proposed. The level of Environmental Awareness of total Sample and Sample Sub groups were Vary. Most of the Students found high level of Environmental Awareness. Science Students had Comparatively better Environmental Awareness than Arts Students and there was no Significant difference between Boys and Girls on Environmental Awareness.

Implications for Future Research

A large Sample may Present better Picture. Taking into Consideration the Socio economic status of Students. The Study relies heavily on Quantitative data, the future research should incorporate both quantitative and qualitative data with emphasis on understanding of underlying factors that shape the Environmental Awareness of students.

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