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A STUDY ON AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AMONG B.ED. STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

This study was explored to assess the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students in Coimbatore district. Survey method was used in this study. A sample of 240 B.Ed. students is taken for the study. Findings indicated that the gender and type of college influences in attitude of B.Ed. students towards environmental sustainability; and there is no significant association in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students with respect to father's qualification and mother's qualification.

KEYWORDS: Environmental Sustainability, process of acquisition, assimilation and communication of information.

INTRODUCTION

Education, in the present day context, is perhaps the single most important means for individuals to improve personal endowments, build capability levels, overcome constraints and in the process, enlarge their available set of opportunities and choices for a sustained improvement in wellbeing. It is not only a means to enhance human capital, productivity and, hence, the compensation to labour, but it is equally important for enabling the process of acquisition, assimilation and communication of information and knowledge, all of which augments a person's quality of life. Education is important not merely as means to other ends, but it is an attribute that is valued in itself, by most individuals. More importantly, it is a critical invasive instrument for bringing about social, economic and political inclusion and a durable integration of people, particularly those 'excluded', from the mainstream of any society. Creation, application and adaptation of new technologies, lower fertility, infant and child mortality rates, better nutritional, hygiene and health status of children, reproductive health and empowerment of women, social mobility and political freedom, all have visible linkages with educational attainments of people. It is, undoubtedly, a basic component of human development. Education plays a critical and most important role in our lives. We must dedicate most of our time to education in order to have a stable and a better future. Education not only comes from the books and school teachers, but most importantly we gain knowledge and experience by socializing in life. Education is the set of knowledge and skills required to survive in life. Educational organization plays the crucial role in promoting education it also prepares the individual to enter the more sophisticated life.



OBJECTIVES

- To find out the level of awareness of sustainability among B. Ed. students.
- To study the significant difference in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students due to gender and type of college.
- To study the significant association in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students in terms of father's qualification, and mother's qualification.

HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students with respect to gender.
2. There is no significant difference in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students with respect to type of college.
3. There is no significant association in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students with respect to father's qualification.
4. There is no significant association in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students with respect to mother's qualification.

Sample

A sample of 240 B.Ed. students from 6 colleges in Coimbatore District is selected by using stratified random sampling technique. Among the samples 71 students were from government colleges, 28 students were from govt. aided colleges and 141 students were from private colleges.

Tool

- Awareness of Environmental Sustainability Inventory developed by the investigators.

Data Analysis

Table 1: Level of Awareness of Environmental Sustainability of B.Ed. Students

| | N | Level | Percentage |
|---|-----|----------|------------|
| Awareness of Environmental Sustainability | 31 | Low | 12.92 |
| | 166 | Moderate | 69.17 |
| | 43 | High | 17.92 |

From Table-1, 12.92% of B.Ed. students have low, 69.17% of B.Ed. students have moderate and 17.92% of B.Ed. students have high level awareness of environmental sustainability.

Table 2: Awareness of Environmental Sustainability of Male and Female B.Ed. Students

| Gender | N | Mean | SD | t-value | Remark |
|--------|-----|-------|------|---------|-------------|
| Male | 56 | 26.78 | 8.11 | 2.42 | Significant |
| Female | 184 | 29.71 | 7.14 | | |

Table-2 shows that the calculated t-value 2.42 is significant at 0.05 level. Therefore the hypothesis-1 is rejected. This may be due to female daily activities are mostly related with environment. But male mainly concentrate on outdoor activities. Hence, there is a significant difference between male and female B.Ed. students in their awareness of environmental sustainability.

Table 3: Awareness of Environmental Sustainability of B.Ed. Students based on Type of College

| Source of Variation | Sum of Square | df | MS | F | Remark |
|---------------------|---------------|-----|--------|-------|-------------|
| Between groups | 1873.28 | 2 | 936.64 | 19.42 | Significant |
| Within groups | 11428.65 | 237 | 48.22 | | |

Table-3 depicts that the F-value 19.42 is significant at 0.05 level. Hence, the hypothesis-2 is rejected. Therefore, there is a significant difference in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students with regard to type of college.

Table 4: Awareness of Environmental Sustainability of B.Ed. Students based on Father's Qualification

| Father's Qualification | Low | Moderate | High | df | Chi-square Value | Remark |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|----|------------------|-------------|
| Uneducated | 8 (5.43) | 27 (29.05) | 7 (7.50) | 6 | 30.94 | Significant |
| School Level | 9 (6.00) | 100 (85.76) | 15 (22.20) | | | |
| Diploma | 6 (3.35) | 11 (17.98) | 9 (4.70) | | | |
| College Level | 8 (6.20) | 28 (33.20) | 12 (8.60) | | | |

From Table-4, it is inferred that the calculated chi-square value (30.94) is higher than the table value (12.59) at 5% level of significance. Therefore the hypothesis-3 is rejected. This may be due to the fact that people know the importance of environmental protection and will cultivate the habit of environmental awareness in their children. Hence, there is a significant association in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students with respect to father's qualification.

Table 5: Awareness of Environmental Sustainability of B.Ed. Students based on Mother's Qualification

| Mother's Qualification | Low | Moderate | High | df | Chi-square Value | Remark |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------|----|------------------|-------------|
| Uneducated | 10 (7.20) | 40 (38.73) | 6 (10.03) | 6 | 20.37 | Significant |
| School Level | 11 (19.25) | 111 (103.05) | 27 (26.70) | | | |
| Diploma | 5 (4.94) | 5 (10.37) | 5 (2.69) | | | |
| College Level | 5 (2.58) | 10 (13.83) | 5 (3.58) | | | |

Table-5 reveals that the calculated chi-square value (20.37) is higher than the table value (12.59) at 5% level of significance. Therefore the hypothesis-4 is rejected. This may be due to the reason that educated mother will teach their children about environment protection and sustainability. She can inculcate the habit of environmental protection and awareness right from the childhood in day to day activities which at last becomes a habit. Hence, there is a significant association in the awareness of environmental sustainability of B.Ed. students in terms of mother's qualification.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- In order to create awareness among the students about world Environmental day (June 5th) can be

celebrated in all levels of Educational Institutions.

- The students should be made to inculcate the habit of planting more trees and create a green revolution.
- Many programmes can be conducted to create knowledge about green technology.
- Every college and school should take steps to develop knowledge in environmental sustainability.
- Many field trips may be arranged by the educational institutions regarding environment oriented.
- Everyone should take care in keeping their surroundings clean and hygiene.

CONCLUSION

This study focuses on the awareness of environmental sustainability which may help in motivating the habit of social, personal and educational responsibility among the prospective teachers towards environment. It also emphasizes that the teacher training program must take steps to measuring the level of awareness of environmental sustainability among teacher trainees and planning remedial strategies in promoting environmental sustainability among them. Results and findings of this study can provide important insights into the development of knowledge of environmental sustainability among future teachers because they are the builders of the society. It also shows that most of the prospective teachers have a great concern towards environmental sustainability and positive attitude towards promoting environmental sustainability.

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