

## ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN RELATION TO THEIR GENDER AND LOCATION

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### ABSTRACT

The present study was undertaken to study the environmental awareness among the primary school teachers in district Mandi of Himachal Pradesh in relation to their Gender and locale. In order to achieve the objectives of the present investigation a sample of 80 Primary school teachers was randomly selected from district Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. The questionnaire was developed by Dr. Y K Sharma and Suman Kumari was used for the present study. It included 7 components of environmental awareness response to these items in the form of yes and no. A right response was assigned a score of one and wrong response the score of zero. The obtained data was analyzed by statistical methods of using mean, SD and t -test. The finding of the study reported that male teachers are more aware towards environment awareness as compared to female counterparts.

**KEY WORDS:** Environmental Awareness, Primary School Teachers.....

### INTRODUCTION

Nature is capable of providing man with everything that he needs not only for self-substance but also for making his life fully comfortable. Environment is an essential and integral part of national development. It was the generosity of Mother Nature to allow man free access to his valuable resources. Availability of these resources enable man to accomplish an arduous journey from the stone age, living in the Jungle or caves to the man of modern civilization living in the apartment and cities with all the amenities at his command which is required to make life fully comfortable. However, men's desire for joy and comfort led him to exploit nature.

In almost all societies and countries man has been continuously and indiscriminately manipulating the environment and nature to achieve his requirements and in this process he has almost left the environment badly and mutilated which has proved dangerous for his own survival. Greed directed acts of man have already made many species of flora and Fiona extinct.

No human right and freedom would be possible without the right to a livable environment. Equal protection of the law is diminished if everyone is harmed from environment pollution equal opportunity is diminished. In other words, all basic human rights presuppose a livable environment. A livable environment is a necessary condition for recognition of all other human rights. Having a livable environment means not nearly that we survive but then we have an enriched full life with adequate educational, cultural, recreational and spiritual opportunities.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

Environment is any force, substance or condition which affects the life of an organism. The word "Environment" encompasses everything that is around us. The concept of environment can be understood a totality of all components surrounding the man the sum of all social biological historical political physiology physical and chemical factor which compose is the surrounding of man is known as the environment each component of days surrounding constitute resource on which man draw with a view of promoting human welfare and like all other form of life man is capable of exciting great influence upon the environment which intern effect almost all the life process and form of organism.

## **ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION**

Environmental education means education about environment that is the various aspects of nature and their importance in the life of a man mental education is oriented toward development of values that are translated into action awareness appreciation and understanding of the environment are only first step and do not necessary lead to effective action and environmental education so the result in the knowledge desire and ability to direct once conduct toward improving the quality of life it's six to make people fully aware of the problems connected with their environment so that they will be able to tackle this problem with the sense of responsibility and with the technical skills which will enable them to contribute to the solution of environmental problems along with other member of the community.

## **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

**Wong (2003)** found that students were quite conscious of environmental issues and able to rank issues from most to least threatening. However, many students were not optimistic about the future of the environment. Moreover, studies among students younger

than college level indicated that students were gaining most of their environmental knowledge from television.

**MacMillan et al. (2004)** in his study reported that an introductory class about the environment had positive results in moving students toward more eco-centric mindsets and more sustainable lifestyles. In another study, conducted in China.

**Sharma, M. (2009)** Conducted a study on "A study of environment awareness of prospective primary school teachers of Himachal Pradesh in relation to their sex and stream " and conclusion were (1) The prospective Primary school teachers of HP are well aware about their environment. (2) There is a significant difference in the environment among prospective school teachers with science stream rather than prospective secondary school with arts stream.

**Nagra, V. (2010)** the study found that there was significant variation in the environmental education awareness level of school teachers in relation to their level of residential background and subject but no significant variation was observed in relation to the gender of school teachers.

**Sivamoorthy (2013)** studied environmental awareness and conservation practices among college students. The findings revealed that the level of awareness is high among all the respondents but at practice level there is difference between genders i.e., males practicing more than females.

**Aziz, S. (2015)** conducted a Study of Environmental Awareness and Environmental Ethics among the Primary and Secondary School Teachers of Allahabad It can be concluded that the teachers having environmental ethics have favourable awareness towards the environment. It also indicates that there is a significant and positive relationship between the environmental ethics and environmental awareness of primary as well secondary teachers of Allahabad.

**Bhatnagar, P. (2018)** conducted an Evaluation of the Awareness Level among College Students towards Environment and found significant difference of awareness among the college student.

**Kumar, S. (2019)** Environmental education awareness among senior secondary school students in relation to their gender on the basis of gender of senior secondary school students they were found to differ significantly in their awareness about environmental

education. The higher mean score of female students in comparison to male students shows their better awareness about environmental education.

**Sharma, A. & Singh, S. (2019)** reveal the facts related to environmental awareness and its relationship with environmental cognition. The study suggests that by practicing practical and theoretical approaches in teaching environmental studies, we can develop the sense of caring and consciousness in children towards their local surroundings.

**Patel, V. (2023)** conducted a stratified sample of 1800 school teachers to investigate their level of environmental education awareness on the basis of gender and it shows significant difference in environmental awareness.

**Dutta, J. (2024)** It found that no significant difference exist in the awareness among the male and female elementary school going students towards environmental education; There is similar variability exist between male and female elementary school students; There is significant difference between in the awareness among the urban/rural and government/private students towards environmental education and It also seen that urban area and private school students are exhibit high level of environmental aware then the rural area and government school students.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1 To study the environmental awareness among male and female primary school teachers
- 2 To study the environmental awareness among primary and school teachers working in rural and urban schools.

### HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- 1 There will be no significant difference in the environmental awareness among male and female primary school teachers.
- 2 There will be no significant difference in environmental awareness among primary school teachers working in rural and urban schools.

### RESEARCH METHOD

The present study is descriptive in nature. So, a descriptive survey method of research is used for this study.

## SAMPLE

In order to achieve the objectives of the present investigation a sample of 80 primary school teachers was randomly selected from rural and urban primary schools of district Mandi Himachal Pradesh.

## RESEARCH TOOL USED

In the present study a questionnaire was used to obtain the information about environmental awareness the questionnaire developed by Dr Y K Sharma and Suman Kumari was used for the present study. It included 7 components of environment awareness.

## STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

In the present study the statistical techniques of Mean, SD and 't'-test were employed for data analysis.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The table-1 presents the calculated statistics of environment awareness among primary school teachers on their gender

**Table-1**

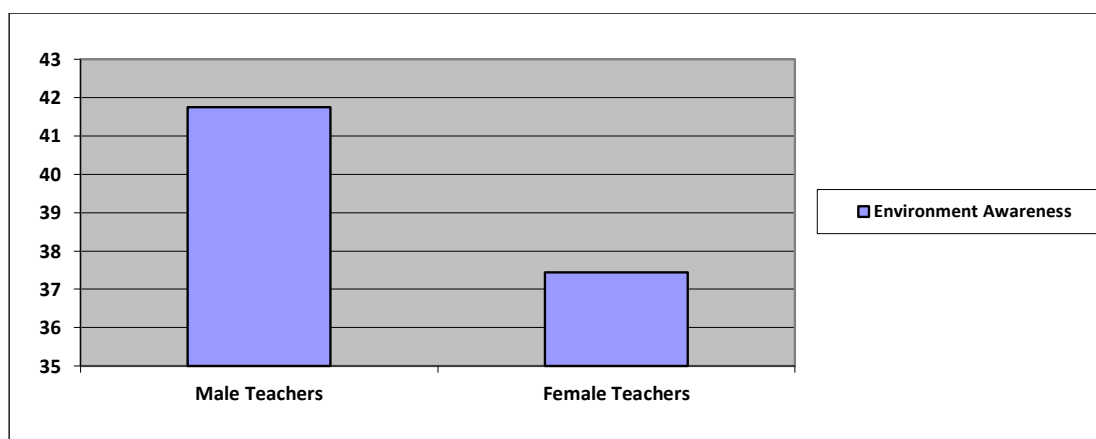
**Significance of mean difference in the Environment Awareness among Primary School Teachers based on their Gender**

Environment Awareness	N		M		SD		df	t- value	Significance
	Male Teachers	Female Teachers	Male Teachers	Female Teachers	Male Teachers	Female Teachers			
	40	40	41.75	37.45	2.86	4.53			

**\*\*Significant at 0.01 level of Significant**

The table-1 displayed mean, SD and 't'-value of the environment awareness of Male and Female Teachers. From the above table it can be inferred that the calculated t -value of 5.07 is exceeding the table value at 0.01 level of significance. The mean value for Male teachers (41.75) is greater than the mean value of female teachers (37.45). This implies that Male teachers were more aware than female counterparts.

The figure 1.1 shows the significant difference in Mean values of environment awareness of male and female teachers.



Hence, the null hypothesis that, there will be no significant difference in the environmental awareness among male and female primary school teachers was not accepted.

The table-2 presents the calculated statistics of environment awareness among primary school teachers in their locale.

**Table-2**

**Significance of mean difference in the Environment Awareness among Primary School Teachers based on their Locale**

Environment Awareness	N		M		SD		df	t-value	Significance
	Rural Teachers	Urban Teachers	Rural Teachers	Urban Teachers	Rural Teachers	Urban Teachers			
	40	40	38.95	40.25	4.20	4.41			

**NS – Not Significant**

From the above table we can analyse that the t value of 1.35 does not exceed the table value at 0.05 level of significance therefore it can be inferred that primary school teachers working in rural schools do not differ significantly from those working in urban schools.

**MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

1. Male teachers found more awareness towards environment awareness as compared to their female counterparts.
2. No significant difference was found in environmental awareness of rural and urban school teachers.

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