



Environmental attitude of secondary school boys : a comparative study

Bidula Sarmah¹ and R K Mohanty²

¹ Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, India

² Department of Education, S.C.S.(Auto.) College, Puri, India

Abstract

The present study is an attempt to make a comparative analysis of environmental attitude among 60 secondary school boys with respect to their class and locality. The relevant data were gathered by using a self-constructed attitude inventory scale named as Environmental Attitude Scale (EAS) which was constructed by considering 32 items from five areas of environment. Statistical Significance on environmental attitude has been found out among the variables, namely class and locality.

Keywords : Attitude, Comparative Study, Environmental Attitude, Secondary School boys.

1. Introduction

Our natural environment is created by the nature. Human environment refers to changes that have been made by man on those natural elements. Both natural and human made environment influence our characteristic of our life styles.

Today we are influenced by both our natural environment and man-made environment. The failure to understand the place and role of man in environment, the lack of elementary knowledge of the biosphere among people in most of the countries of the world and the booming scientific revolution created serious imbalance and threat on our environment.

The present day needs environmentally conscious citizens who can save our mother earth from the disaster. Awareness and attitude towards environment must be positive, because positive attitude can only set the values and feelings of concern for the environment among the common

masses. Considering this point in mind, the investigators have carried out a study on the following topic.

2. Operational definitions of the terms used

2.1. Attitude

Attitude is a social concept related with the mental aspect of the behaviour. It studies the views, direction and thinking of a person or a group towards an object, person, organization, institution or situation.

2.2. Environmental Attitude

Environmental Attitude is a mental and emotional tendency organized through experience or react positively or negatively towards various issues of environment.

2.3. Secondary School Boys

The school boys of the secondary level, i.e. of IXth and Xth standards.

2.4. Comparative Study

A study associated with the purpose of comparing the results of two things, events or cases/ results of a phenomenon or case among two or more persons or groups.

3. Objectives of the present study

The present study is intended with the following objectives in view.

- (a) To make a comparative study of environmental attitudes between urban and rural boys (irrespective of classes).
- (b) To make a comparative study of environmental attitudes among the boys from the two classes (irrespective of the locality).

4. Hypotheses

On the basis of the above objectives, the following research hypotheses were formulated

- (a) H_1 : There is a significant difference in environmental attitude among the urban boys and rural boys.
- (b) H_2 : There is a significant difference in environmental attitude among the boys of two classes.

5. Delimitation of the study

5.1. The study has been delimited to

- i. The boys who are studying in secondary level i.e. of 9th and 10th standards.
- ii. Two secondary boys' schools- one from the urban and the other from the rural area.
- iii. Five areas of environment such as Health and Hygiene, Natural Resources (energy/forest), Polluters, Population explosion and environmental Concerns are taken into granted for this study.

5.2. Urban School

The school in the area within the jurisdiction of the 'Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC)' is considered as urban school.

5.3. Rural School

The school in the area outside the jurisdiction of the GMC is considered as rural school.

6. Method

Descriptive survey method was followed for the present study.

6.1. Sample

For the present study, the investigators have selected 60 students from 2 boys schools,-one is an urban and the other is a rural school. The selection of sample schools is done by purposive sampling and the sample students are selected by applying random sampling technique. The features of the selected samples have been found as follows :

1. Two boys schools of vernacular medium-one from the urban area and the other was from the rural area.
2. Sample students were taken from 9th and 10th standard.
3. From each school 30 students (i.e. the total of 60 students) were selected atrandom.
4. From class IX, there were 15 students from each school so that the total number of students from class IX were 30.
5. From class X, there were 15 students from each school so that the total number of students from class X were 30.
6. Irrespective of the class, 30 sample boys were from the urban locality and the rests 30 from the rural locality.

6.2. Tool used for the study

For the present study the investigators have constructed a Scale consisting of 32 items from five areas of environment, namely-(a) Health and Hygiene, (b) Forest/Resources/Energy, (c) Polluters, (d) Population Explosion and (e) Environmental Concern. For the purpose of scoring, the investigators have used Likert Five point Summated Rating Scale. As the scale consists of 32 items, so the range of individual score of attitude would be from 32 to 160.

6.3. Statistical test of significance

To make comparative analysis between two groups, viz urban and rural students and between the two classes (9th and 10th), 't' test has been applied for testing the significant difference.

6.4. Analysis and interpretation of data

After collecting the relevant data, those were analysed and interpreted (objective and hypothesis wise) in the following ways.

7.1. Objective 1

To make a comparative study of environmental attitudes between urban and rural boys (irrespective of classes).

Hypothesis H₁

There is a significant difference in environmental attitude among the urban boys and rural boys.

Table - 1 : Showing the comparison of Mean and SD scores of Environmental Attitude among the sample students according to their Locality (irrespective of classes) & their 't'-value

Locality	No. of boys	Mean EAS Score	SD Score	Degrees of freedom (d.f.)	't' - value	Significance
Rural	30	133.63	25.83	58	2.58*	Significant at both 0.05 & 0.01 levels
Urban	30	147.50	5.98			

*→ Significant

The Table 1 reveals that the students belonging from the urban school have scored higher mean of EAS than their counterparts from the rural school. The urban students have been found to have the mean EAS as 147.50 with the SD value as 5.98; whereas the rural school students have secured the mean and SD values as 133.63 and 25.83 respectively.

There was a significant difference in environmental attitude between the two groups as the calculated 't' is higher than the critical value of 't' for 58 d.f. at 0.05 and 0.01 level of significance. So, the research hypothesis H₁ has been accepted.

This finding has become consistent with the findings of Francis Shanti (2001) in the study "Attitude towards Environmental Hazards to Education". According to his study urban students had better attitude towards environmental hazards as compared to their counterparts studying and

residing in rural areas. [Ref : Psycholinguia Vol 31(2), pp 93-98]

The finding, again, has got a similarity with the findings of Rout, S. K. and Agarwal, S. (2006) in their study on "Environmental Awareness and Environmental Attitude of students at High School Level". According to their study, the students belonging to urban background are comparatively better in terms of Environmental Attitude as compared to the students belonging to the rural background. [Ref : Educational Track, Vol VI, No. I]

7.2. Objective 2

To make a comparative study of environmental attitude between class IX and class X boys (irrespective of locality).

Hypothesis H₂

There is a significant difference in environmental attitude between class IX and class X boys.

Table - 2 : Showing the comparison of Mean and SD scores of Environmental Attitude among the sample students according to their Class (irrespective of locality) & the 't'-value

Class	No. of boys	Mean EAS Score	SD Score	Degrees of freedom (d.f.)	't' - value	Significance
IX	30	132.67	10.20	58	4.70*	Significant at both 0.05 & 0.01 levels
X	30	141.73	2.73			

*→ Significant

The Table 2 has depicted the mean and SD scores of sample boys according to their classes irrespective of their locality status. It has been found from the table that class X students have better mean EAS score than that of the class IX students.

The 't'- value has shown that there exists a significant difference in attitude between class IX and class X students. The research hypothesis H₂, therefore, has been proved.

8. Major findings of the study undertaken

1) The students belonging to urban school had higher environmental attitude as compared to their counterparts studying and residing in rural locality.

- 2) There was a 'significant difference' between the urban school and rural school boys in relation to their environmental attitude.
- 3) The class IX boys had lower environmental attitude than that of class X boys.
- 4) Statistical significance was found between the class IX and X students.

9. Conclusion

The strategy for protecting our environment can succeed best if it is implemented at a right time by right people. An attitude developed early is more helpful and the need of the hour. What is required is a positive attitude, which is to be inculcated in the minds of young.

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