



## Awareness of Environmental degradation among the students of High School

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### Abstract:

*The present paper is based on survey conducted on the awareness of environmental degradation among High school students. The paper focuses on finding the environmental awareness among students and factors affecting the environmental degradation. This survey also emphasizes to study the conservatory practices undertaken in schools.*

### INTRODUCTION

Environment is sum total of all conditions & influences that effect the development & life of organisms including human being. (D.Dash)

We live in the environment and use the environmental resources like air, land, and water to fulfill our needs while fulfilling the over growing needs , we put pressure on environment when the pressure exceeds the carrying capacity of the environment to repair or replace itself it creates a serious problem of environmental degradation. If we use any environmental resource such as ground water beyond its limit of replacement we may lose it forever .Therefore there is need to create awareness about environment.

### ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Environment constitutes a very important part of our life. To understand life without studying the impact of environment is simply impossible. We use environmental resources in our daily life which are renewable and non-renewable; we have to be more cautious in consuming non-renewable resources, like coal & petroleum, which are prone to depletion.

All human activities have impact on environment polluted environment endangers the human race by threatening its survival on planet earth .boundaries of any nation cannot limit these environmental problems to a particular country and region but its impact is global one. This large scale of environmental degradation has caused a global concern about the conservation and protection of earth's environment.

Unlimited exploitation of nature by man has disturbed the ecological balance between living &

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non – living components of the environment man has created the unfavorable conditions by himself threatened the survival not only of man himself but also other living organisms. (R. A. Sharma)

The developed countries have been in a mad race to exploit every bit of natural resource to convert them into goods for their comfort & to export them into needy developing world. This lust of man goes on increasing & ultimate the environment is exploited such level that gradual degradation of environment occurs.

### JUSTIFICATION OF TOPIC

Environmental degradation is a result of human activities and day by day human is consuming natural resources in unsustainable ways, Hence efforts are being made for inculcating environmental consciousness or awareness among the masses through education which can make human being conscious and knowledgeable about environment and its problems. Education gives vision to society to bring out change. Thus to change society we have to educate student and student must have awareness about environment and its problems which are associated with environmental degradation ,hence it is necessary to know how far the school students are aware about environment ,its components ,factors affecting environmental degradation.

### SCOPE

The Scope of the study is restricted to 10 schools of Nagpur city. 300 students of 10 High School are randomly selected.

### OBJECTIVES OF RESEARCH

- 1)To study environmental awareness among students.
- 2)To study awareness regarding environmental degradation among students
- 3)To find out, effect of conservatory programmes conducted in schools

### METHODOLOGY

The researcher has selected the survey method. As the topic is restricted to the students of High school the conventional technique i.e. Questionnaire was employed for primary data collection & findings were merged to make data as authentic as possible

### SAMPLING

In this topic 300 randomized sampling was done according to topic and it is restricted to students of 10 High School

### ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

The data was analyzed by using simple mean & percentage

**Table No. 1:- General of environment awareness among students.**

| Sr. No. | Environmental Awareness  | Aware | Not Aware |
|---------|--------------------------|-------|-----------|
| 1.      | Components of Air        | 88%   | 12%       |
| 2.      | Components of water      | 87%   | 13%       |
| 3.      | Components of soil       | 82%   | 18%       |
| 4.      | Biotic & Abiotic Factors | 72%   | 28%       |
| 5.      | Natural Resources        | 70%   | 30%       |
| 6.      | Components of Ozone      | 81%   | 19%       |
| 7.      | Ecosystems               | 68%   | 32%       |
| 8.      | Role of Micro Organisms  | 77%   | 23%       |



Table No. 1 shows that, about 88% students are aware about components of Air .87% students are aware about components of soil, 72% students aware about biotic & a biotic factors & 70% students aware about Natural resources 81% of students aware about components of Ozone 68% students aware about configuration of ecosystem 71% of students aware about Micro- organisms

The result shows that maximum percentage of students are aware about the general structure & working of environment this result may due to information given in syllabus to the students in their academics

**TABLE NO 2: ULTIMATE CAUSES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION & THEIR EFFECTS**

| Sr. No. | Factors affecting environmental degradation & their effects | Aware | Not Aware |
|---------|---|-------|-----------|
| 1.      | Pollutions  |       |           |
|         | a) Air  | 82%   | 18%       |
|         | b) Water  | 80%   | 20%       |
|         | c) Soil   | 81%   | 19%       |
|         | d) Noise  | 78%   | 22%       |
| 2.      | Industrial Development                                      | 88%   | 12%       |
| 3.      | Use of insecticides & pesticides                            | 67%   | 33%       |
| 4.      | Destruction of Habitats                                     | 58%   | 42%       |
| 5.      | Destruction of ecosystems                                   | 46%   | 54%       |
| 6.      | Ozone Depletion   | 72%   | 28%       |
| 7.      | Use of Refrigerators  | 51%   | 49%       |
| 8.      | X – Ray machines  | 54%   | 46%       |
| 9.      | Acid Rain   | 63%   | 37%       |
| 10.     | Over exploitation of Natural Resources                      | 78%   | 22%       |
| 11.     | Atomic Research   | 47%   | 53%       |
| 12.     | Space craft / Ships   | 39%   | 61%       |
| 13.     | Destruction of Forests                                      | 72%   | 28%       |

Table No 2 Shows that people are aware about the pollutions. There are 4 types of pollutions 82% of students are aware about Air pollution 80% of students are aware about water pollution 81% peoples are aware about soil pollution & 78% of students are aware about Noise pollution this may occur because now in secondary school level subject of environmental education is included in curriculum.

88% of students are agreed that industrial activities makes city more polluted industrial pollutions polluted not only Air also pollute soil & water 88% students agreed that all king of industrial activities polluted environment too badly also 67% of students are agreed that uses of insecticides & pesticides in



farms & agricultural land destroys not only land but it cause heavy effect on micro – organisms present in soil & pollinators it reduces the production & ultimate degradation of environment occurs.

57% of students are agreed that Destruction of habitats are occurred Due the which ultimate degradation of environment occurs & 46% of students know different kinds of ecosystems & But maximum mean 54% of students didn't know the affect of pollutions & man made activities on the ecosystems & even they dint's know habitats of different ecosystems.

72% of students aware about Ozone layer & its depletion just because of pollution & lack of Oxygen in environments & formation ozone layer not occurs in nature ozone layer depletion leads to hole in ozone layer that ultimately leads to degradation in environment

51% students aware about use of refrigerator leads to ozone layer Depletion & 54% students knows that X-ray machines leads to the radioactive pollution Which is harmful to the environment & leads to the degradation of environment

63% of students are aware about course of Acid Rain on the environment & it leads to destruction of habitat & 72% students knows the effect of Destruction of forest on the degradation it leads to threats to the endangered species as well 78% students aware about over exploitation of the natural reserves such as for the sake of wood, petrol, coal, Diamonds Oils.

47% Students knows the effect of atomic research & atomic testing on degradation on the environment & only few 39% students knows the harmful effect of space pollution which is done by space ship its transport this data show that many student didn't know about hazards of atomic research its testing and also the spaceships.

TABLE NO 3: CONSERVATORY PROGRAMMED IN SCHOOLS

| Sr. No. | Conservatory Programmes in schools        | Never | Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Yearly |
|---------|---|-------|-------|--------|---------|--------|
| 1.      | Plantation                                | -     | -     | -      | 32%     | 68%    |
| 2.      | Cleaning habits                           | -     | 14%   | 18%    | 26%     | 42%    |
| 3.      | Visit to Botanical Gardens & conservatory | 12%   | -     | -      | -       | 88%    |
| 4.      | Seminar                                   | -     | -     | 12%    | 36%     | 52%    |
| 5.      | Celebration of environmental Days         | 19%   | -     | -      | -       | 81%    |
| 6.      | Street Play                               | 100%  | -     | -      | -       | -      |
| 7.      | Vriksha yatra                             | 80%   | -     | -      | -       | 20%    |
| 8.      | Poster Competition                        | 90%   | -     | -      | 26%     | 68%    |
| 9.      | Guest Lecture                             | 18%   | -     | 18%    | 28%     | 36%    |
| 10.     | Preparation of Compost                    | 98%   | -     | -      | -       | 2%     |
| 11.     | Quiz competition                          | 14%   | -     | -      | 38%     | 48%    |

Table No 3 Shows Conservatory Programmed conducted in school for this table 5 scale rating scale is used.

Data of 68% students tells that plantation occurs in their schools once in year & 32% students tell plantation occurs in their schools once in a month

Data of 14% students tell that cleaning habits taken in schools Daily 18% students cleaning habits taken in schools weekly 26% students tell that cleaning activity taken in schools monthly 42% students tell



that cleaning habits once a year.

Data of 88% students tells that in their school visit to Botanical gardens & conservatories done once in year & 12% student tells that visit to botanical gardens & inventories never done.

Data of 52% students tells that seminars are organized in their schools once in year 36% students tells that seminars organized monthly in their schools & 12% students tells that weekly seminars are organized in their schools.

81% students tells that celebration of environmental days occurs in their schools & 19% students tells that there is no celebration of environmental days in their schools

100% students tells that street play for awareness environments & its conservation is not done in their schools

20% students tell that vriksha yatra organized in their schools once a year 80% students tells that vriksha yatra in never organized in their schools

68% students tells that poster competition occurs in their school once a year & 26% students tells that poster competition occur in their school monthly & 9% students tells that poster competition has never organized in their schools

36% students tells that guest lectures are organized once in year in their schools 28% students tells that once in month 18% students tells that once in week & 18% students tells that never organized.

98% students tells that preparation of compost from waste material this practiced never done in their school 2% students tells that preparation of compost occur once in year in their school.

48% students tells that Quiz competition organized in their 38% student tells once in month & 14% students tells that never organized in their schools.

Majority of school are not so active to conduct conservatory programmes in their schools.

## FINDINGS

In High school level components of environment teach to the students so maximum students are aware about the components of environment.

But maximum student didn't know the factors attesting gradual degradation of environment. In school level it is clear that no conservatory practices are done for conservation of environment.

## SUGGESTIONS

In schools the main course of environmental degradation should be focused

In school conservatory practices such as use of waste product & preparation of compost should be done.

School provides environment for awareness of not only student but also to society

Science exhibition & visit to various conservatory & power plans project lead to source of information to students.

## CONCLUSIONS

Education being a dynamic process which promotes knowledge understanding it helps to change the attitude of student & ultimately society.

Conservation of nature is in our hand conservation is broader concept but it has to be start sum where why can we if all peoples are thinking towards conservation not only that but sustainable development also. To create awareness among environmental degradation main emphasis should be gives on school because schools are the tool to impart knowledge among students.

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