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A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE LIFE STYLE ASPECTS OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

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Abstract: -The study was conducted on 180 higher secondary school students to study their life style aspects due to the impact of environmental education with respects to their sex, location of the school and class. The self made questionnaire was used to collect the data which was treated with statistical techniques. Results revealed that not significant variation in the impact of environmental education due to the life style aspects of higher secondary students with their Gender, location of the students and class.

Keywords : Environmental Education , Life Style , transportation technology , organizations.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental Education is a process of providing learning experiences to obtain knowledge, understanding, skills and awareness with desirable attitudinal change about man's relationship with his natural and manmade surroundings which includes the relation of population, pollution, resource allocation, transportation technology and urban and rural planning to the total human environment. Environmental education must utilize diverse learning of environments and broad arrays of educational approaches to teaching learning about and from the environment with due stress on practical activities and first hand experiences. It should help learners to discover the symptoms and real causes of environmental problems and thus to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills. Environmental education should be a continuous life-long process, beginning at the pre-school stage level and continuing through all formal and non-formal stages and should be interdisciplinary discipline in making possible a holistic and balanced perspective.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

Environmental education was also made a compulsory subject in school educational system. The curriculum for environmental education in schools was developed as per the guidelines of UNESCO, with the help of voluntary organizations and NCERT. In Tamil Nadu, environmental education was introduced as subject in schools during the year 2002. The Directorate of School Education under the direction of Ministry of Education of the Government of Tamil Nadu prepared and distributed books to all students, on environmental education, free of cost. Students are taught in this by the school teachers. Examinations are also conducted along with other regular examinations. In order to ascertain the effectiveness of this

subject in schools and change in life aspect of students who are focused to this subject, a study is needed. School students are the vulnerable members of the society. Any country aimed at good citizenry, should start its programmes from the schools. Taking into consideration this situation, the investigator felt a need to conduct a study to know about the knowledge, attitude and practice of students after the inclusion of environmental education as a subject in schools. These facts led the researcher to think and select a problem related to environmental education, for investigation.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The present investigation attempts to study the impact of the environmental education curriculum on the day to day activities of the higher secondary students.

The Directorate of School Education introduced the subject, Environmental education in schools during 2002. Since then, the students are focused with Environment related subject matters and activities. The present +1 and +2 students are involved in studying environmental education as one of the subjects along with other regular subjects from their sixth standard onwards. Thus, there is a scope to find out their involvement in knowledge oriented, attitude oriented and practice oriented activities of environmental education.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The popular view of scholastic achievement in the field of education cares more for quantifiable levels and pays less attention towards qualitative levels which includes change of behavior, attitude, aptitude, life style etc., The environmental education in the school curriculum too faces such difficulties. The significance of the subject has not been properly placed before the student community and hence the student community pays less attention to the subject and it doesn't turn out right citizens who cares for eco friendly

technology, process and products.
By considering the above problems and shortcomings in the present structure of education, the investigator decided to conduct the present study stated as A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WITH REFERENCE TO THE LIFE STYLE ASPECTS OF HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1.To find out the difference between boys and girls in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.
- 2.To find out the difference between rural and urban students in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.
- 3.To find out the difference between plus one and plus two students in their life style aspects due to the impact of environmental education.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

- 1.There is no significance difference between boys and girls in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.
- 2.There is no significance difference between rural and urban students in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.
- 3.There is no significance difference between plus one and plus two students in their life style aspects due to the impact of environmental education.

TOOLS

The investigator has selected the questionnaire tool and it is to be ensured that the tool should be adequate for the purpose for the purpose of the study. The panel of members recommends the tools to be developed to gather the relevant data. The tool has 50 statement items related to the environmental awareness and attitude of intentional ecological behavior and vice versa. Each statement has 3 point scale type. Such as strongly agree, moderately agree and disagree. Each correct statement has one mark. Hence the investigator used the questionnaire statement as the tool to find out the level of life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.

SAMPLE

The study was carried out on a simple random sample of 180 higher secondary school students from four higher secondary schools. While selecting the samples due consideration was given to factors such as sex, location of school and 11th and 12th students offered in the higher secondary schools.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

Statistical technique serves the fundamental purpose of the description and inferential analysis. The following statistical technique was used in the study.

Mean (M)
Standard Deviation (SD)
T' Test for determine the significance of difference between

two-sub groups variables.

HYPOTHESES TESTING

Table-1
Table of mean, standard deviation and't' value of boys and girls with reference to the impact of environmental education on their life style aspects

Sex	N	Mean	SD	df	't' value	Level of significance
Boys	90	128.53	10.88	178	1.836	Not significant
Girls	90	131.32	9.45			

The above table reveals that the obtained't' value 1.83 is less than the table values 1.96 at 0.05 level and 2.58 at 0.01 levels. So it is found that the't' value is not significant at any level. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, it is concluded that there is no significant relationship between boys and girls in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.

Table-2
Table of mean, standard deviation and't' value of rural and urban with reference to the impact of environmental education on their life style aspects

Students residence	N	Mean	SD	df	't' value	Level of significance
Rural	73	130.45	11.19	178	0.591	Not significant
Urban	107	129.57	11.9			

The above table reveals that the obtained't' value 0.591 is less than the table values 1.96 at 0.05 level and 2.58 at 0.01 levels. So it is found that the't' value is not significant at any level. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, it is concluded that there is no significant relationship between rural and urban students in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.

Table-3
Table of mean, standard deviation and't' value of rural and urban with reference to the impact of environmental education on their life style aspects

Standard Of study	N	Mean	SD	df	't' value	Level of significance
Plus one	92	128.57	10.99	178	1.841	Not significant
Plus two	88	131.35	9.28			

The above table reveals that the obtained't' value 1.841 is less than the table values 1.96 at 0.05 level and 2.58 at 0.01 levels. So it is found that the't' value is not significant at any level. Hence the null hypothesis is accepted. Therefore, it is concluded that there is no significant relationship between plus one and plus two students in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

From the analysis of data, the following major findings emerge:

- There is no significant relationship between boys and girls in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.
- There is no significant relationship between rural and urban students in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.
- There is no significant relationship between plus one and plus two students in their life style aspect due to the impact of environmental education.

CONCLUSION

India having a large population and limited resources has a great proportion of illiterate persons. It is essential that a general awareness on environment must be created amongst masses to prevent earth from further deterioration. We will have to transform man from a 'destroyer' of the environment into a 'protector' of the environment. In order to achieve a pleasing environment, a combined strategy must be adopted by including people from all walks of life. The present study is humble attempt to find out the impact of environmental education among students in producing a pleasing environment. The goals of environmental education can be achieved through the involvement of students in participatory activities which help to overcome environmental challenges.

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