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PLASTIC POLLUTION AWARENESS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

A. Joakim

Assistant Professor, Government College of Education for Women, Coimbatore.

ABSTRACT

This study aims at determining the plastic pollution awareness among high school students in Coimbatore district. Normative survey method was used in the present investigation. Data was collected from a sample of 400 high school students selected from Coimbatore district in Tamilnadu state using random sampling technique. Plastic Pollution Awareness Scale (2016) constructed and validated by the investigator. The Results showed that there is significant difference among high school students based on sex, religion and type of school management.

KEYWORDS: Plastic Pollution, random sampling technique, plastic materials.

INTRODUCTION :

The use and throw away of plastics by modern man into land causes serious menace to the environment. There

is bio degradable and non – bio degradable types of plastics. The bio degradable type of plastics can be recycled and reused. But the non – bio degradable type of plastics accumulates in the environment. The modern man uses plastic carry bags, use and throws plastic cups, plates, mineral water bottles etc. in their routine life. After use, they throw away these plastic materials into the land surface. Often, this plastic material is consumed along with their food stuff by domestic animals like sheep, cow, dog etc. As a result, the plastics cannot be digested and result in death of animals. In addition, the use and throw plastics when dumped in the surface of the land cannot allow percolation of water into soil. In due course, plants cannot get adequate amount of water and became dry. Moreover, underground water also decreases in the land.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Mridula Das (2014) conducted a study on Secondary School Students' Awareness on Plastic Pollution and Environmental Education: A Study. The investigators selected 160 Secondary School students in both Urban and Rural areas, and different types of schools by random sampling out of this 80 were boys and 80 girls. The findings of the study were Secondary urban students have significantly higher awareness than secondary rural student about plastic pollution, Urban boys and urban girls in secondary level have same awareness on plastic pollution, Rural boys and rural girls in secondary level



have same awareness on plastic pollution, Urban boys are more aware than rural boys and rural girls' student about plastic pollution. Rural boys are less aware than urban boys and urban girls' student about plastic pollution. Eisted, R., Larsen, A., and Christensen, T., 2009, "Transfer and Transport of Waste: Accounting of Greenhouse Gases and Global Warming Contribution," Waste Management & Research, 27(8) pp. 738-745. Sahaya Mary and Paul raj (2005) conducted a study on environmental awareness among the high school students in Pondicherry region. The investigators selected 198 students from standard 9th in both Urban and Rural areas, and different types of schools by random sampling out of this 79 were boys and 119 girls. The tool used for the study is Environmental Awareness opinion ire prepared by the investigator.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The research problem is entitled as "PLASTIC POLLUTION AWARENESS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS"

OBJECTIVES

1. To construct and validate a scale for measuring the plastic pollution awareness of high school students.
2. To find out the background variables namely gender, religion, type of management. HYPOTHESES
 1. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of plastic pollution awareness of male and female high school students.
 2. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of plastic pollution awareness of high school students with respect to the various religions.
 3. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of plastic pollution awareness of corporation and self-financing high school students.

METHOD OF STUDY

Normative survey method was used for this study.

SAMPLE

The study was conducted on a sample of 400 high School students in Coimbatore District.

TOOLS

Plastic pollution awareness scale constructed and validated by Investigator.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

The following statistical techniques have been used in the present study for the analysis of present Data

1. Descriptive analysis
2. Differential analysis

Comparison of plastic pollution awareness based on Gender

Mean and standard Deviation and t-value of plastic pollution awareness scores male and female high School students

Gender	Number	Mean	S.D	t-value	P	Level of significance
Male	202	16.21	5.53	6.93	0.000	0.01
Female	198	19.79	4.78			

The calculated t value (t=6.93; P = 0.000) is significant at 0.01 level. Therefore the null hypothesis "There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of plastic pollution awareness of male and female high school students" is rejected. i.e There exists significant difference in the plastic pollution awareness of male and female high school students.

Comparison of plastic pollution awareness based on religion

Mean Standard Deviation and F-value of plastic pollution awareness scores of high School students belonging to various religions

Religion	Mean	SD	Source	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F	P	Remark
Hindu	17.38	5.36	Between Group	198.33	2	99.16	3.35	0.036	0.01
Christian	18.25	5.41	Within Group	11738.55	397	29.57			
Muslim	19.60	5.84	Total	11936.88	399				

The calculated F-value (F=3.35, P<0.05) is significant at 0.05 level. Therefore the null hypothesis "There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of plastic pollution awareness of high school students with respect to the various religions" is rejected. This result indicates that there exists significant difference between high School students belonging to different religions in their plastic pollution awareness. So it can be concluded that religion has influence on plastic pollution awareness of high School students.

Comparison of plastic pollution awareness based on type of management

Mean and standard Deviation and t-value of plastic pollution awareness scores Corporation and self financing high School students

Type of management	Mean	SD	N	t	P	Remark
Corporation	19.01	6.52	178	2.98	0.004	0.01
Self finance	20.87	6.06	222			

The calculated t value (t=2.98; p> 0.004) is significant at 0.01 level Therefore the null

hypothesis "There exists no significant difference between the plastic pollution awareness among high school students belonging to type of management" is rejected. I.e. There exists significant difference in the plastic pollution Awareness of Corporation and Self Finance high School students.

CONCLUSION

The following conclusions were drawn from the present study.

- 1.The plastic awareness of girls was higher than that of boys.
- 2.The plastic awareness of Muslim students was higher than their counterparts.
- 3.The plastic awareness of self financing school students was higher than their counterparts.

From the present study it is clear that the girls, muslim and self-financing high students of Coimbatore District have high plastic pollution awareness than their counterparts. The following suggestions can be given for the improvement of plastic pollution awareness of high school students. Plastic pollution awareness can be created through programs like drama, mime etc. It should be introduced from elementary school level. Plastic pollution awareness should be included along with regular subjects in the curriculum. Special talks on plastic pollution awareness should be arranged in schools.

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