



## A study of environmental awareness among higher secondary school students in relation to their gender and locality

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### Abstract

Environment is capable in providing mankind with everything he requires, not just for self-sufficiency, but also for a comfortable life. Everything that is around us is known as the environment. It might be both living and non-living entities. Physical, chemical, and other natural forces are also included. Conserving our natural resources is a prime concern for us. Environmental education, whether formal or informal, does have the actual purpose of creating awareness among people. The main aim of the purposed investigation was to find out the environmental awareness level of higher secondary school students in relation to their gender and locality. For conducting this study, a sample of 240 higher secondary school students of government schools was selected by adopting random sampling technique. The Environment Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM) developed and standardized by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha (1998) was employed to gathered data from government higher secondary school students of district Solan of Himachal Pradesh. Mean, S.D. and t-test were used for analysis of data. It was found in the study that higher secondary school students do not show any large difference in environmental awareness in relation to their Gender and Locality. It was revealed that the students are well aware of their environment with respect to their surroundings and almost facing the same type of environment problems.

**Keywords:** environment, environmental-awareness, higher secondary school students

### Introduction

One of the most essential tools for human existence on planet is the environment. The environment is both a source of nourishment and a means of survival for all of us. Living would be impossible without air, water, and land. Environmental problems are a worldwide issue that should be addressed properly. Environmental challenges have multiplied in recent years as a result of a growing human population and developments in every sector. Humans' thirst for technology innovations and changing lifestyle habits has create a serious risk to the planet, and so as a consequence, pollution level has increased at an alarming speed. Environmental awareness is essential for preserving and maintaining a healthy environment. By imparting environmental education, environmental awareness can be promoted. Students and the community at large won't be encouraged to conserve natural resources and look for both local and global remedies to environmental problems until they are made aware of the issues. Therefore, In order to find out how much awareness secondary school students have of environmental problems and how crucial the environment is to their daily lives, the researcher thought it would be worthwhile to explore this topic. It is important to investigate how well-informed secondary school students of district Solan of Himachal Pradesh are about the environment and environmental issues. Sandhu, (2015) studied environmental awareness among secondary students with regards to gender and location and revealed that female students greatly outperformed male students in this area. However, when compared to rural pupils, secondary school students in urban areas had much higher levels of environmental awareness. Gupta, (2017) [3] carried out an investigation in raipur to assess the level of environmental awareness among urban and rural school students. The "Environmental Awareness Scale" developed by Haseen Taj

was used to measure environmental awareness. Boys and girls in urban and rural schools exhibited same level of awareness, according to findings of the study. Akkor and Gundz, (2017) [1] found that female students have higher environmental attitudes and are more concerned about environmental issues than male students.

### Objectives of the Study

1. To study the environmental awareness among higher secondary Government school students of District Solan.
2. To study the environmental awareness among the higher secondary school students in relation to their gender.
3. To study the environmental awareness among the higher secondary school students in relation to their locality.

### Hypothesis of the Study

In this study, the following hypotheses have been developed:

1. The higher secondary school students of District Solan of Himachal Pradesh will be aware of the environment.
2. There will be no significant difference in environmental awareness of Government male and female students studying in higher secondary school.
3. There will be no significant difference in environmental awareness of Government higher secondary school students belonging to Rural and Urban areas.

### Methodology

The descriptive survey method was employed in the current investigation to gather the information.

**Sampling**

In the purposed investigation 240 students from higher secondary schools were selected as sample by using a random sampling technique. These sampled 240 students were selected from 5 government schools of Solan district of Himachal Pradesh.

**Research Tool**

The data collection for the present investigation was done by using the Environment Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM), which has been constructed and standardised by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha (1998).

**Analysis and Data Interpretation**

Descriptive statistics were used to analyse the data, and a t-test was applied to examine the environmental awareness among students in higher secondary schools in relation to gender and area

**Main Findings**

**1. Environmental Awareness of Higher Secondary School Students**

The Environmental Awareness of higher secondary school students was studied by the investigator. The investigator collected the desired information with the help of the standardized and widely used tool in Indian condition namely EAAM i.e. Environmental Awareness Ability Measure (1998). The frequency distribution of the obtained data is shown in table -1.

**Table 1:** Frequency Distribution of Environmental Awareness Scores of higher secondary school students

Sr. No	Awareness scores	Frequency	% of the students
1.	37-51	216	90%
2.	16-36	24	10%
3.	0-15	0	0%

From the table 1, it is found that about 90% students scored between 37-51 and about 10% students scored between 16-36. As per instructions, if students scored between 37-51, they are considered to have high awareness level towards environment. Thus we can say that a large majority of the students depict the actual differences of awareness level of the students.

**2. Environmental Awareness Among Male and Female Higher Secondary School Students**

The details of the statistical calculations for obtaining t-values with regard to study the environmental awareness among male and female students of +1 class is analyzed on the basis of obtained data. The investigator tried to compare the environmental awareness of male and female students of +1 level with the help of the Mean, S.D and t- values from the obtained data. The values of Mean, S.D and t- ratio were given below in table-2.

**Table 2:** Mean, S.D and T-Valu Based on Gender

SR NO	Gender	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-value
1.	Male	120	40.85	3.87	238	0.18 N.S
2.	Female	120	40.94	4.01		

Note: N.S indicates Non significance at 0.05 level of significance.

It is evident from the table-2 that the t- values testing the significance of mean difference of two groups i.e. male and

female students came out to be 0.18 which is not found significant even at 0.05 level of the significance. This means that the two groups under comparison i.e. male and female do not differ significantly on their environmental awareness. However a minor difference in the mean of the two groups is by chance factor and not by the actual difference. Hence, it can be concluded that the two groups under comparison are alike on the environmental awareness.

Therefore, the hypothesis of serial number 2 which is stated as “There will be no significant difference in environmental awareness of male and female students studying in higher secondary school” is accepted.

**3. Environmental Awareness Among The +1 Students Belonging to Rural and Urban Areas**

The details of the statistical calculations for obtaining t-values with regard to study the differences on environmental awareness among rural and urban areas is analyzed by the investigator. The investigator made an attempt to find out the differences on the environmental awareness of higher secondary school students belonging to rural and urban areas by calculating the Mean, S.D and t-ratio. The values of which shown in table -3 given below:

**Table 3:** Mean, S.D and T-Value Based on Locality

SR.No	Locality	N	Mean	SD	Df	t-value
1.	Rural	80	40.44	4.57	158	1.56 N.S
2.	Urban	80	41.24	3.35		

Note: N.S indicates Non significance at 0.05 level of significance.

It is evident from the table 4.6 above that the calculated t-value of 1.56 did not reach up to the level of significance at 0.05 level of the confidence. It means the two groups of +1 students belonging to rural and urban areas do not differ in their opinion with regard to environmental awareness. However, the difference in their mean scores was by chance factor or due to the errors and not by the actual difference. Hence, it can be concluded that the two groups under comparison of rural and urban higher secondary school students are alike on the environmental awareness. Therefore, the hypothesis at serial number 6, which is stated as “There will be no significant difference in environmental awareness of Government higher secondary school students belonging to Rural and Urban areas”, is accepted.

**Conclusions of the Findinds**

The following conclusions were drawn on the basis of analysis of data:

1. This could be concluded from the findings of the study that the higher secondary school students of district Solan had shown a high level of awareness about environment.
2. Male and Female students of higher secondary school did not differ significantly on the environmental awareness.
3. Rural and Urban area students of higher secondary school did not differ significantly on environmental awareness.

**Discussion of the Results**

The gender of higher secondary school students does not show any large difference in Environmental Awareness. They seem to be well aware of their surroundings and almost facing the same type of environment problems. The

above discussion reveals that both male and female students show high level of environment awareness. Again in case of the locality the rural and urban students are facing the same type of environmental problems within their surroundings. It was found that the students are well aware of their environment with respect to their surroundings.

### **Educational Implications**

**on the basis of the findings of the present study the educational implications are listed below**

1. Environmental education should incorporate play-based activities that encourage, inspire and motivate students to create projects about the environment in which they reside.
2. The State Government should organize various awareness programs and refresher courses/orientation programs in which students should be given opportunity to aware the general public and also update their knowledge on environmental related issues.
3. Students should be encouraged to participate in workshops and conferences where the threats to the globe are discussed.
4. Eco clubs activities must be strengthened by providing funds for the research on the development of eco-friendly system as they are crucial in developing the next generation's understanding about importance of nature around us.
5. It is also suggested that students should be encouraged to participate in all such programs and activities which are aimed at enriching and protecting the environment and students can apply them in their day to day life to preserve our natural heritage for our future generation.

### **Suggestions for Future Investigation**

Considering the findings of substantial and systematic investigation, the study of environmental awareness is a very broad field of research. The following ideas are suggested for future investigations:

1. To compare the environmental awareness of students in private and government schools, a comparative study can be conducted.
2. A study can be conducted to check the environmental awareness of college going students.
3. A study can be undertaken to investigate causes of environmental degradation in order to suggest measure for protection of environment and nature.
4. A study on efforts made by government to develop environment friendly attitude and create awareness among students and teachers can be undertaken.
5. In other Districts of the state similar kind of investigation can be carried out. Because it only covers the District Solan of Himachal Pradesh.

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