

ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT OF MALE AND FEMALE SENIOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF DIFFERENT STREAMS

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ABSTRACT

The continued or sustained existence and survival of man in his environment is determined by the ways, manners and attitude of man, as he strives to secure a guarantee for himself, a continuous supply of his basic needs from his environment. Because of lack of appreciation and favorable attitude towards environment, which is the main and perhaps the only source of his livelihood, man often create problems for himself through direct or indirect destruction of his environment. It is therefore, necessary that a sincere concerted effort to be made to develop right attitude towards environment which ensure responsible action towards environment and sustainable development. Present study aims to explore the attitude of senior secondary school students towards environment. The sample consisted of 210 adolescents (105 boys and 105 girls) from different schools of Ludhiana city. Data consisted of 75 students from Science stream, 75 students from Commerce stream and 75 students from Arts stream. The environmental attitude scale by Taj (2001) was used to collect the data. Descriptive statistics -Mean, Median, Standard deviation and t-test was used.

Keyword : Attitude towards Environment

Environment influence and shaped our life. It is from the environment that we get food to eat, water to drink, air to breathe and all necessities of day to day life are available from our environment. Thus it is the life support system. But the tremendous increase in industrial activity during the last few decades and the release of obnoxious industrial wastes in to the environment have been considerable concern in recent years from the point of view of the environmental pollution. If we go back even a hundred years from now and compare the development during the span we come across amazing advancements in science and technology. All these developments are crucial in revolutionizing our lives but to large extent in introducing harmful substances into the air, land, and water. Although pollution has been occurring throughout the earth's history, the rate by which the human species have contributed to the amount of pollution that has entered our environment over the past hundred years far exceeds the earth's inherent ability to heal itself. Polluted environment endangers the human life by threatening its survival on planet earth. Boundaries of any nation cannot limit these environmental problems to a particular country and region, rather its impact is global. This large scale environmental degradation has caused a global concern about the conservation and protection of the earth's environment. Hence, efforts are being made for inculcating environmental consciousness or awareness among masses and creating positive attitude towards environment.

An *attitude* is a hypothetical construct that represents an individual's degree of like or dislike for something. Attitude is a point of view, which one holds towards a person, object, taste or idea. The point of view can

either be positive, negative, hostile or indifferent. An attitude is a mental and neutral set of readiness exerting a directive dynamic influence upon the individual responses to all objects and situations (Allport).

ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT

Environment is that immediate surroundings where in man lives. Broadly speaking, environment includes everything that surrounds man. Guney (2004) states the area that was affected by living things in various ways and influence them is called environment. Attitude towards Environment is fundamentally important, widely discussed frequently measured and poorly understood. Attitude towards environment are generally accepted as responses from respondent for given environmental issues. Environmental issues might be environmental degradation, environmental pollution, the relationship between society and environment, environmental policies etc. Attitude is learned, it is predisposed action, such action or behavior is generally consistent. Thus, an environmental attitude is a learned predisposition to respond in a consistently favorable or unfavorable manner with respect to environment. Vibha (2008) conducted a study on 'Environmental attitude of students in relation to gender and school type' and found that female students had more positive attitude than male students and private school students had more positive attitude than the government school students. Sahin and Erkal (2010) conducted a study on "The attitudes of middle school students towards the environment" and concluded that Students indicated that the most important source of information about the environment was school. Female students indicated that school was the most important source of environmental information, while male students

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chose the Internet. This indicates that school occupies an important position in environmental education. Thus, it is important to plan environmental education in schools in such a way as to positively affect the attitudes and behaviour of the students. Shivakumar and Vamadevappa (2011) conducted a study on "Environmental Attitude among the Secondary School Students". The study was undertaken to study the environmental attitude among the high school students, related to their Sex (Boys/Girls), Locality (Rural/Urban) and types of schools (Govt./Private). The study was conducted in Davangere district of Karnataka. The results of the study revealed that, 1) the gender does not play any role on Environmental attitude. 2) The students belonging to urban background are comparatively better in terms of their environmental attitude as compared to the students belonging to rural background. Environment plays an important role in the growth and development of an individual. As we know science and technology has made our life convenient, comfortable and easy going but no doubt it is destroying our environment. People have awareness, knowledge about environmental issues but still they do not bother about these issues. This can be checked only if people have right type of attitude towards such environmental issues. It is the youth who has to take the initiative to develop positive environmental attitudes as Mr. Mandela, in Durban summit said, "without youth the future is not secure". So students can play crucial role in checking environmental problems. In India the study of right attitude towards environment is more essential.

Taking this into consideration the present study is being selected, to study the attitude towards environment among senior secondary school students and also to compare whether the gender affect their attitude towards environment.

OBJECTIVES

1. To study the attitude towards environment of male and female senior secondary school students.
2. To study the attitude towards environment of male and female senior secondary school students in relation to their educational stream.

MEASURE

The Environmental Attitude Scale by Dr. HaseenTaj (2001)

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Table (1) Significance of the Difference between Mean Scores of Male and Female Senior Secondary School Students on the variable of Attitude towards Environment (N=210)

S.No.	Group	N	M	S.D	SE _M	t-value
1.	Male	105	171.60	13.85	1.35	2.68**
2.	Female	105	177.25	16.59	1.62	

**significant at 0.01 level

Table (1) revealed that the t-ratio is 2.68 with $d_f=208$ which is significant at 0.01 level of confidence. This revealed that a significant difference exists between mean scores of male and female students on the variable of attitude towards environment.

Therefore the hypothesis stating that there exists no significant difference in the attitude towards environment of male and female senior secondary school students stands rejected.

Table (2) Showing the Comparison of Mean Scores of Male and Female Senior Secondary School Students of Science Stream on the Variable of Attitude towards Environment (N=70)

S.No.	Group	N	M	S.D	SE _M	t-value
1.	Male	35	177.86	11.58	1.96	2.92**
2.	Female	35	185.29	15.28	2.58	

** Significant at 0.01 level

Table 2 revealed that the t-ratio is 2.92 with $d_f=68$ which is significant at 0.01 level of confidence. This revealed that a significant difference exists between mean scores of male and female senior secondary school students of science stream on the variable of attitude towards environment.

Therefore the hypothesis **2 (a)** stating that there exists no significant difference in the attitude towards environment of male and female senior secondary school students of science stream stands rejected.

Table (3) Showing the Comparison of Mean Scores of Male and Female Senior Secondary School Students of Commerce Stream on the Variable of Attitude towards Environment (N=70)

S.No.	Group	N	M	S.D	SE _M	t-value
1.	Male	35	167.91	14.05	2.58	1.53
2.	Female	35	174.17	19.78	3.34	

Table 3 revealed that the t-ratio is 1.53 with $d_f=68$ which is not significant at 0.05 level of confidence. This revealed that no significant difference exists between mean scores of male and female senior secondary school students of commerce stream on the variable of attitude towards environment.

Therefore the hypothesis **2 (b)** stating that there exists no significant difference in the attitude towards environment of male and female senior secondary school students of commerce stream stands accepted.

Table 4 Showing the Comparison of Mean Scores of Male and Female Senior Secondary School Students of Arts Stream on the Variable of Attitude towards Environment (N=70)

S.No.	Group	N	M	S.D	SE _M	t-value
1.	Male	35	169.03	13.93		1.10
2.	Female	35	172.29	10.75	1.82	

Table 4 revealed that the t-ratio is 1.10 with $d_f=68$ which is not significant at 0.05 level of confidence. This revealed that no significant difference exists between mean scores of male and female senior secondary school students of arts stream on the variable of attitude towards environment.

Therefore the hypothesis **2 (c)** stating that there exists no significant difference in the attitude towards environment of male and female senior secondary school students of arts stream stands accepted.

DISCUSSION

This study reveals that there exists significant difference in the attitude towards environment of male and female senior secondary school students. Female students have more positive attitude towards environment. Further it is revealed that male and female students of science stream have significant difference in their attitude towards environment whereas male and female students of commerce and arts streams do not show any significant difference in their attitude towards environment.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATION

As the study reveals that all students have positive attitude towards environment so, to develop their capacities and flourish them up to the extreme level we must work out for the best input, to protect our environment. We can give them projects and special assignments to explore the environment. In schools, educational activities can be carried out for the development of attitude towards environment. Student's participation should be provided in the scientific researches such as conference about the environment, panel discussions and seminars.

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