

A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES AMONG JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS**Prof. Dr. Avinash O. Bhandarkar**VidyaPratishthan's College of Education,
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Abstract

Values are an important factor in human life. This research work is an attempt made to study the environmental values among junior college students in relation to sex, faculty and area. For this purpose, a sample comprising of 900 Junior College students was selected randomly from four rural and four urban Junior Colleges of Nagpur District of Maharashtra. Out of this, 450 were boys and 450 girls. The tool used for this study is environmental values scale prepared by the researcher. Statistical technique used for the study was 't' - test. The results indicate significant differences between rural students and urban students, girls and boys, rural girls and rural boys, arts students and science students, as well as commerce students and Science students. There was no significant difference between urban girls and urban boys as well as arts students and commerce students.

Introduction:

Earth is one, but the world is divided by man into many fragments. Though human face is one, still all human beings do not enjoy equal opportunities and benefits. Lot of problems are created by human beings themselves. The only ray of hope is to understand these problems and change our behaviour towards them by adopting proper values. Environment deals with various problems faced by living beings. Hence, there is an urgent need to create awareness about these issues in the society. It is our duty to understand environmental problems and create awareness among people by inculcating environmental values for eradication of these problems.

Ethics deal with paradoxes like good and bad, right and wrong, true and false and so on. For us, ethics mean the ability to judge the right or wrong actions in environmental issues and matters. Our knowledge and skills may help us to perform certain type of action but guiding forces behind our actions are our interests, attitudes and mental setup. Knowledge of some

subject may create interest and positive attitude towards that subject and over a period of time this attitude may get transformed into values which are more deep rooted than attitudes. The knowledge of environmental issues will be of no use if we fail to imbibe and inculcate positive attitudes and desirable values about environment.

Values:

The values occupy central place in human life. Values reflect one's personal attitudes, judgements, discussions, choices, dreams and visions. Values are guiding principles of life which are important for all round development. Values are remain setups and are like railway tracks which keep the train on track and help it to move smoothly, quickly and towards a proper direction. Values bring meaning and quality to our life. But unfortunately there is breakdown of traditional values without development of proper alternative values. The values are concerned with do's and don'ts.

Environmental Values

The environmental values play an important role in human life. Almost all religions in the world treat the nature as God, but gradually this respect for the nature is also getting lost due to the cut-throat competition in all walks of human life. The values of using resources as gift of nature have been vanished. Instead of that, we see everyone trying to snatch everything from the nature. Only those environmental values can save the living world by inculcating in students. It is absolutely necessary to protect and conserve our environment by adopting the basic environmental values. In the present study, the following basic environmental values are to be considered:

- 1) Oneness with the nature
- 2) Judicious use of resources
- 3) Affection towards the nature
- 4) Curiosity and respect for the environment
- 5) Co-operation and coexistence
- 6) Cleanliness
- 7) Social Responsibility
- 8) Social Commitment
- 9) Creativity about environmental protection and conservation
- 10) Commitment to sustainable development

Significance:

Positive environmental values can help us to overcome problems related to environment and nature. Man is said to be a rational animal, so he must critically evaluate and rethink over his hazardous and suicidal actions in the name of development. Hence, environmental values are extremely important. The result of this study will be useful to the junior college students to improve their environmental values.

Objectives of the study:

The purpose of the present study is

- 1) To study the environmental values among junior college students.
- 2) To find the difference in the environmental values of boys and girls.
- 3) To find the difference in the environmental values among rural and urban junior college students.
- 4) To find the difference in the environmental values among arts, commerce and science junior college Students.

Hypothesis of study:

- 1) There is no significant difference between environmental values of girls and boys of junior college.
- 2) There is no significant difference between environmental values of rural and urban junior college students.
- 3) There is no significant difference between environmental values of arts, commerce and science junior college students.

Methodology:

In the present study descriptive survey method was employed.

Sample:

The sample of the present investigation comprised 900 junior college students. They were selected randomly from four rural and four urban junior colleges of Nagpur district of Maharashtra.

Tool:

The investigator specially constructed an environmental values scale. It was used for data collection. The reliability of the scale was 0.927 (by test - retest method). The collected data was analyzed by appropriate statistical tools (M, SD and t test)

Results:

Table 1 : Table showing significance of difference regarding environmental values among various groups

Groups	Variables	N	M	SD	't'	Significance
1	Rural Students	450	303.47	42.81	7.55	S at 0.01 level
	Urban Students	450	282.77	37.36		
2	Boys	450	294.58	41.94	5.46	S at 0.01 level
	Girls	450	308.41	33.47		
3	Rural Boys	225	299.01	51.01	2.88	S at 0.01 level
	Rural Girls	225	310.12	33.31		
4	Urban Boys	225	305.42	31.46	7.358	S at 0.01 level
	Urban Girls	225	283.24	32.48		
5	Arts Students	300	296.86	34.28	2.284	S at 0.05 level
	Science Students	300	303.72	39.14		
6	Commerce Students	300	300.53	36.93	1.020	N.S.
	Science Students	300	303.72	39.14		
7	Arts Students	300	296.86	34.28	1.261	N.S.
	Commerce Students	300	300.53	36.93		

S - Significant NS - Non Significant

Conclusion:

From the above result and findings of this study, the following conclusions can be drawn.

It is evident from the table that significant differences exist between rural students and urban students, girls and boys, rural boys and rural girls, urban boys and urban girls, arts students and science students in regards with environmental values.

It is evident from table that there were no significant difference are found in between commerce students and science students as well as arts students and commerce students in regards with environmental values.

Implication of the study:

From the finding and conclusions of this study, it is observed that girls and urban students have low environmental values. Hence to impart environmental values, environmental values literacy program for students should be started.

To control the decline in education, values and morals as well as to improve overall performance of the students it is suggested that environmental values should be included as one of the important components in the school curriculum.

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