

INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMONG HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS

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Abstract

Education is important for each and every human being. The present society is facing a lot of challenges and one among them is the environmental problems. The present study deals with the impact of environmental studies on environmental protection among higher secondary students. The findings revealed that there is no significant difference in environmental studies and environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to gender; and there is significant difference in environmental studies and environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to locality of the institution.

Introduction

Environmental study is the process that allows individuals to explore environmental issues, engage in problem solving and taken action to improve the environment. Environmental protection is the practice of protecting the natural environment by individuals, organizations and the government. Its objectives are to conserve natural resources and the existing natural environment and to repair damage and reserve trends. Students at Higher Secondary stage are with high spirit in action and can protect the environment for the future. Thus the problem is stated as “Influence of Environmental Studies on Environmental Protection among Higher Secondary Students”.

Need and Significance of the Study

Man cannot live without nature. Awareness about the environment is necessary to promote responsible citizenship in a variety of ways. Environmental studies help students to understand how their decisions and actions affect the environment builds knowledge and skills necessary to address complex environmental issues as well as ways that can take action to keep our environment healthy and sustainable for the future. Protecting the environment is the highest concerned of the world. The way we treat our environment has huge consequences for the future of our planet. We can all do our part in protecting the earth we live on. If we all make an effort to become more environmentally conscious we can make the world a better place. The present young generation must have concerned towards protecting the environment. The students have been learning about environmental issues from childhood. The previous knowledge and the current knowledge help them to be aware of the environment and grow up with an eco-friendly mindset and take responsibility for the environment.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows

1. To find out whether there is any significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to gender.
2. To find out whether there is any significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regarded to locality of institution.
3. To find out whether there is any significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to gender.
4. To find out whether there is any significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution.
5. To find out whether there is any significant relationship between environmental studies and environmental protection of higher secondary students.

Hypotheses of the Study

1. There is no significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to gender.
2. There is no significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution.
3. There is no significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to gender.
4. There is no significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution.
5. There is no significant relationship between environmental studies and environmental protection of higher secondary students

Methodology

The method adopted for the present study is survey method.

Population and Sample

The population of the study consisted of higher secondary students of Kanniyakumari district. The sample consisted of 300 higher secondary students of Kanniyakumari district.

Tools Used

The tools used for the present study are environmental studies scale and environmental protection scale constructed and validated by the investigator.

Analysis of Data Hypothesis: 1

There is no significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to gender.

Table 1 Difference in Environmental Studies of Higher Secondary Students with Regard to Gender

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Calculated 't' value	Remarks at 5% Level
Environmental studies	Male	128	94.24	10.341	1.094	NS
	Female	172	93.01	9.077		

NS-Not Significant

(The table value of 't' at 5% level of significance is 1.96)

It is inferred from the table that the calculated 't' value is less than the table value at 5% level of the significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. It shows that there is no significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to gender.

Hypothesis: 2

There is no significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution.

Table 2 Difference in Environmental Studies of Higher Secondary Students with Regard to Locality of Institution

Variable	Locality of Institution	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Calculated 't' value	Remarks at 5%Level
Environmental studies	Rural	150	95.45	9.297	3.509	S
	Urban	150	91.62	9.624		

S-Significant

(The table value of 't' at 5% level of significance is 1.96)

It is inferred from the table that the calculated 't' value is greater than the table value at 5% level of the significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. It shows that there is significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution.

Hypothesis: 3

There is no significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to gender.

Table 3 Difference in Environmental Protection of Higher Secondary Students with Regard to Gender

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Calculated 't' value	Remarks at 5%Level
Environmental Protection	Male	128	113.02	13.822	.826	NS
	Female	172	11.203	11.203		

NS-Not Significant

(The table value of "t" at 5% level of significance is 1.96)

It is inferred from the table that the calculated 't' value is less than the table value at 5% level of the significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is accepted. It shows that there is no significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to gender.

Hypothesis: 4

There is no significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution.

Table 4 Difference in Environmental Protection of Higher Secondary Students with Regard to Locality of Institution

Variable	Locality of Institution	N	Mean	Standard Deviation	Calculated 't' value	Remarks at 5% Level
Environmental protection	Rural	150	115.21	11.597	2.120	S
	Urban	150	112.9	12.981		

S-Significant

(The table value of 't' at 5% level of significance is 1.96)

It is inferred from the table that the calculated 't' value is greater than the table value at 5% level of the significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. It shows that there is significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution.

Hypothesis: 5

There is no significant relationship between environmental studies and environmental protection of higher secondary students.

Table 5 Relationship between Environmental Studies and Environmental Protection of Higher Secondary Students

Variable	N	Calculated 'r' value	Remarks at 5% level
Environmental Protection and Environmental Studies	300	.632	S

S-Significant

(The table value of 'r' at 5% level of significance is 0.113)

It is inferred from the table (4.17) that the calculated 'r' value is greater than the table value at 5% level of the significance. Hence, the null hypothesis is rejected. It shows that there is significant relationship between environmental protection and environmental studies of higher secondary students.

Findings and Discussions

There is no significant difference in environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to gender. This may be due to the fact that gender is not the factor that influences environmental studies of higher secondary students. Students of both genders are learning environmental studies in their subjects. So there exist no significant differences in environmental studies with regard to gender.

There is significant difference in influence of environmental studies of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution. Students studying in rural areas get opportunities to interact with nature as they are engaging most of their time outside the home and play more outdoor games. They got opportunity to love the environment around them. Hence, significant difference is found between rural and urban students in environmental studies.

There is no significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to gender. Students of both genders are caring about the nature and the environment, as they are learning about the environment from early stages. Nowadays school are providing better opportunities for the students to protect the environment through environmental activities without any discrimination. They wanted to make positive changes in the environment for the future generation.

There is significant difference in environmental protection of higher secondary students with regard to locality of institution. Students studying in rural areas have more concern towards environmental protection. They spend more time with nature. From their childhood they have been observing the nature. A slight change in the environment will disturb their mind and life style. They want the nature around them to be preserved. But in urban areas the students lead a busy life. Hence students studying in rural areas are more aware of environmental protection. They can also apply what they have learnt in environmental studies.

There is significant relationship between environmental studies and environmental protection of higher secondary students. This may be due to the fact that environmental studies create a high influence on environmental protection of the students. As they are learning about the environmental issues and problems related to environment the students apply what they have learnt in, real life situation. The subjects also motivate them to actively participate in environmental activities. They acquire more knowledge about environment. With the help of the acquired knowledge the students try to protect the environment. Environment is for leading a happy life. All energy resources should be utilized properly and should be sustained for the future generation. This knowledge is imparted by studying environmental studies as a discipline in school curriculum. Hence there is significant relationship between environmental studies and environmental protection of higher secondary students.

Conclusion

In the present study the investigator tried to study about the influence environmental studies on environmental protection among higher secondary students. Using simple random sampling technique the data were collected from higher secondary school students of Kanniyakumari district. The finding revealed that there is significant relationship between environmental studies and environmental protection of higher secondary students. School should encourage and motivate the students to protect the environment. Encourage the students to plant more trees in their neighborhood and in the school campus. Encourage the children to use eco-friendly products and to avoid plastic items. Students must also encourage their family members to protect the environment around them. If every citizen no four country took a step towards environmental protection in one way or the other the future India would flourish and nourish in a better way, which will further create a better life for the future generation.

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