

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AMONG THE PEOPLE IN TIRUCHIRAPPALLI DISTRICT: AN EMPIRICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

In several respects, India is a unique country. Its environmental problems are also very complex with its bio geographical and cultural diversity. The environmental issues need immediate attention with the complexity in life. At the current stage of development in India, the basic minimum needs of the people are clean water for drinking and domestic use, health care, education, sanitation, shelter, recreation etc. If not managed properly, providing most of these basic needs to our masses may have negative environmental impacts. In India, environmental problems have attracted the attention of a wide cross section of people especially during the past decade. People are becoming increasingly conscious of a variety of problems like global warming, acid rain, floods and earthquakes, scarcity of fuel, fodder and firewood, pollution of air, water soil hazardous chemicals and radiation which have adverse effects on environment. One of the solutions to environmental problems in India is through conservation of resources like water, raw material and energy. The present paper finds out the environmental ethics among the people in Tiruchirappalli district. A sample of 487 respondents chosen in Tamil Nadu State of Tiruchirappalli district on the basis of convenient sampling technique adopted. Their environmental ethics are taken as prime and necessary data collected by direct structured interview using questionnaire. Then ANOVA, t-test, correlation analysis and Multivariate analysis were applied. Result shows that there is a positive and significant correlation between gender, locality, monthly income, community and educational status.

KEYWORDS: *Environmental Ethics, Awareness, Knowledge and Demographic Variables.*

Introduction

Environment is described as a system that includes all living and non-living things like air, water, soil, vegetation, flora and fauna. Environment as anything immediately surrounding an object and exerting a direct influence on it. The concept of environment covers the concern to protect wild life and plants, the preservation of landscape and monuments or buildings. The environmental ethics refer to right attitudes and approaches towards the preservation, protection and improvement of environment. The environmental ethics, not only involve care and concern to be exercised in press having the party of physical components like land, air and water but also focus or development of proper attitude towards the protection of plant kingdom as well as the animal kingdom. It is the prime duty of a good citizen to maintain the quality of the environment. It becomes all the more imperative on the part of the public to have environmental awareness at local as well as regional level. General awareness of air, water and land pollution should be provided to them. Some idea of food chain and food webs are to be known to them. Environmental ethics involve a learning process that increases people's knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges develops the necessary skills and expertise to address these challenges and fosters attitudes, motivations and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action.

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