

A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS OF DIFFERENT LEVEL TEACHERS

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to compare the environmental awareness among teachers at different levels—primary, secondary, and higher secondary—across government and private schools in Jammu City. A sample of 105 teachers was selected through random sampling and assessed using the Environmental Awareness Test for Teachers (EATT) by Dhawan (2011). The study revealed that less than 50% of teachers demonstrated average environmental awareness, with no significant differences found across the teaching levels or between male and female teachers. These results highlight the need for enhanced environmental awareness programs for educators, to better equip them to impart knowledge on environmental issues to students.

Keywords: Environmental Awareness, Primary Teachers, Secondary Teachers, Higher Secondary Teachers.

Introduction

Environmental awareness is crucial in today's world as humanity faces numerous ecological challenges, from pollution to climate change. The environment, which includes physical, biological, and cultural aspects, is being affected by human activities such as industrialization, consumerism, and deforestation. As Singh (2013) noted, unchecked human exploitation of natural resources has led to an environmental crisis, emphasizing the need for collective action to protect the ecosystem.

Teachers, as role models and knowledge bearers, play an essential role in raising environmental awareness among students. Their own awareness and understanding of environmental issues are critical in creating a future generation that is conscious of environmental conservation and sustainable practices. The study aims to assess the environmental awareness of primary, secondary, and higher secondary teachers in Jammu City and to compare their awareness based on teaching level and gender.

Review of Related Literature

Several studies have explored environmental awareness among educators. Nagra and Dhillon (2006) found that urban secondary school teachers demonstrated higher environmental awareness compared to their rural counterparts, with male and science teachers showing higher levels of awareness. Katoch and Kumari (2010) found significant gender and locality differences in environmental awareness among teachers in Himachal Pradesh, while Kumar et al. (2011) revealed the influence of school type and gender on environmental awareness among senior secondary students.

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Sarita Dahiya and Kusumlata (2016) explored the environmental awareness of secondary and higher secondary school students and found that gender plays a significant role in awareness levels. Singh Kumari and Singh (2014) further demonstrated that female teachers generally have higher environmental awareness compared to male teachers due to their emotional and societal involvement.

These studies underscore the importance of environmental awareness in education and the variations in awareness based on demographics such as gender, location, and teaching levels.

Significance of the Study

The study aims to shed light on the level of environmental awareness among teachers at different levels in Jammu City. Teachers serve as key influencers in fostering environmental education, and understanding their level of awareness will help design effective programs to improve environmental literacy among both educators and students. The findings of this study will provide insights into how gender and teaching levels impact teachers' environmental awareness and offer recommendations for improving environmental education in schools.

Objectives of the Study

- To study the environmental awareness among teachers at different levels (primary, secondary, and higher secondary).
- To compare the environmental awareness among primary, secondary, and higher secondary teachers.
- To compare the environmental awareness among teachers based on gender.

Hypotheses of the Study

- Teachers at different levels possess a high level of environmental awareness.
- There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between primary, secondary, and higher secondary teachers.
- There is no significant difference in environmental awareness between male and female teachers.

Research Methodology

Research Design

The study used a descriptive survey method to assess environmental awareness among teachers of various levels in Jammu City.

Sample

A sample of 105 teachers was selected through random sampling. The sample included 29 primary teachers, 41 secondary teachers, and 35 higher secondary teachers from government and private schools in Jammu City.

Table 1: Number of Teachers at different School Levels

Teaching Level	Number of Teachers
Primary	29
Secondary	41
Higher Secondary	35
Total	105

Tool Used

The **Environmental Awareness Test for Teachers (EATT)** developed by Dhawan (2011) was used to measure the environmental awareness of the teachers.

Results and Discussion

- **Objective 1: To study the environmental awareness among teachers at different levels (primary, secondary, and higher secondary)**

The percentage analysis of teachers' environmental awareness is presented in Table 2. It shows that the majority (45.71%) of teachers possess an average level of environmental awareness. A small percentage (4.76%) of teachers have an extremely high level of awareness, while 11.43% exhibit below-average awareness.

Table 2: Environmental Awareness Among Teachers

Range of Raw Scores	Number of Teachers	Percentage	Level of Environmental Awareness
125 and above	5	4.76%	Extremely High
113 to 124	20	19.05%	High
102 to 112	18	17.14%	Above Average
86 to 101	48	45.71%	Average
75 to 85	12	11.43%	Below Average
63 to 74	2	1.90%	Low
62 and below	0	0%	Extremely Low

Thus, it is concluded that most teachers demonstrate average environmental awareness, suggesting a need for improvement in teacher training programs.

- **Objective 2: To compare the environmental awareness among primary, secondary, and higher secondary teachers.**

To compare the environmental awareness of primary, secondary, and higher secondary teachers, ANOVA was performed. The results indicate no significant difference in the environmental awareness of teachers across different levels

Table 3: Comparison of Environmental Awareness Among Different Levels of Teachers

Source of Variance	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	F	Sig.	Level of Significance
Between Groups	434.68	2	217.34	1.08	0.34	N.S.
Within Groups	20493.55	102	200.96			
Total	20928.23	104				

- **Objective 3: To compare the environmental awareness among teachers based on gender.**

A t-test was conducted to compare the environmental awareness of male and female teachers. The results show no significant difference between the two groups ($t = 0.13$)

Table 4: Gender-based Comparison of Environmental Awareness

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t-value	Significance
Female	70	99.79	13.82	0.13	Not Significant
Male	35	100.17	15.10		

Conclusion

The study concludes that the majority of teachers in Jammu City possess average environmental awareness. No significant differences were found in the environmental awareness of primary, secondary, and higher secondary teachers. Similarly, there was no significant difference in the awareness levels between male and female teachers. These findings suggest the need for teacher training programs focused on enhancing environmental awareness, as educators play a critical role in imparting environmental knowledge to students.

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