

# Environmental Awareness of Urban and Rural School students

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**Abstract-** The present study was conducted to know the environmental of Urban and Rural Students of Chhattisgarh state in Raipur city . The Environmental Awareness was measured by Haseen Taj's "Environmental Awareness Scale". The Sample of 120 in Sr. secondary students Urban and Rural school, was taken (60 boys and 60 girls) from the Chhattisgarh state in Raipur city. It resulted that boys and girls of Urban and Rural schools had similar awareness regarding environment.

## INTRODUCTION

Environment includes all living and non-living objects. To meet the growing demands of people, we put pressure on the environment. When the pressure exceeds the carrying capacity of the environment to repair or replace itself, it creates a serious problem of environmental degradation. While efforts are being made at the national and international level to protect our environment, it is also the responsibility of every citizen to use our environmental resources with care and protect them from degradation. Unless environmental issues are not solved or not taken care of the coming generations may find earth worth not living. The need of the planet and the needs of the person have become one. There is no denying the fact that environment has to be protected and conserved so to make future life possible. Today, students in different schools are taught to take care of our Environment and protect it from danger. Environmental degradation comes out to be the biggest challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In order to solve the problem Environmental education should play an effective role with recent development and advances educationists are very much involved in the process of Environments awareness. In this regard India is putting up great efforts to achieve better target in relation to Environmental awareness. Government and NGO's are working on the Environmental awareness to find out the solution on the problem.

Environment etymologically means surrounding or we can say that Environmental is that which exists around us. Environmental awareness is that which provides power and understanding to take decisions individually and collectively and initiate action for social, cultural and economic survival, growth and developments and for conservation of nature and natural resources. It can be defined as a process of learning about the existing situation through which sufficient knowledge can be gained to understand the Environmental problem and contribute towards solving them. To protect the Environmental, its knowledge is important. Textbooks are the main source of information to the students.

Ecology and environmental studies in education in India have not been satisfactory and do not match with the quantum of research in these areas of science being carried out in the country, although at international level. There have been repeated efforts to identify the problems and stress the urgency of implementing the environmental education and research programmes on a very extensive scale. Second international conference on environmental education was held in New Delhi in March 1985. In several papers, environmental education programmes in primary, secondary schools, universities, engineering institutions and other non formal education programs were discussed. The importance of field studies and demonstration projects were brought out in some of the papers. These papers stimulated to formulate new ideas to implement environmental education programmes for a better future for the mankind

The opinions of the different researchers on the concept are as Patel and Patel (1995) in a study of 100 secondary school teachers found no significant difference in environmental awareness of teachers with high and low experiences. Pradhan (2002) analyzed the environmental awareness among secondary school teachers and found that teachers working in secondary schools had low awareness about environmental problems. There was a significant difference in environmental awareness between social science, language and science teachers, and rural and urban teachers, while male and female teachers showed no such differences. Shaila (2003) studied the effect of background variables on the environmental attitude of secondary school teachers and found that there is no significant difference between male and female teachers with regard to their environmental awareness and depicted no significant difference between arts and science teachers. Dhillon and Sandhu (2005) conducted a study to assess environmental education awareness among elementary school teachers and found that there was significant difference in environmental education awareness between urban and rural school teachers. No significant difference was observed in the environmental education awareness between male and female teachers and significant difference was found among teacher with respect to their subject specialization.

Panda (2006) found that the science stream postgraduate students were more aware towards Environmental education than the post-graduate students of Arts and commerce stream. Further he added that post Graduate students of commerce streams had lowest awareness toward Environmental education as compared with the students of science and Arts Streams. Shive (2007) found that there was no significant difference between girls and boys in secondary difference between girls and boys in secondary

classes with regard to their pre Environmental behavior. Sunita (2008) found that the three models of teaching have affected the students significantly regarding Environmental awareness. The enquiring training model has affected the students most followed and the traditional model. . Dixit & Agrawal (2009) found that there was no significant difference in total Environment awareness of prospective elementary teachers. Further he founded that there was significant difference in the Environment awareness of General/ST prospective teachers in a positive direction. Nagra (2010) identified the environmental education awareness among school teachers in relation to level of school, residential background, gender and subject specialization. Analysis of variance results revealed significant variation in the environmental education awareness level of school teachers in relation to their level, residential background and subject specialization. However, no significant variation was observed in relation to the gender of school teachers. The above literature review reveals that most of the studies had concentrated upon the elementary or secondary level teachers and very rarely any study has concentrated upon senior secondary level teachers thus, the present study has been taken. Kuldeep (2010) exhibits that there is a significant difference in the total awareness of male and female teachers and female teachers are more conscious about the Environment further he added that male and female teachers differ significantly terms of their attitude towards the Environment. Sarojini (2010) found that urban students have higher level of Environmental awareness compared to rural students. There is significant difference in Environmental awareness among students due to difference in type of school information about the Environment develops an attitude among the students. The awareness towards Environmental develops an attitude among the students. The awareness towards Environmental should be acquired from childhood as children are the future decision makers. They should be aware of the responsibilities and duties towards the social and ecological Environment.

### Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to ascertain the level of environment awareness among the senior secondary students of Urban and Rural Schools.

### HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The hypotheses were formulated as :

1. There is no significant difference between the Environmental awareness of urban and rural school students at senior secondary level of Raipur city.
2. There is no significant difference between the Environmental awareness of girls of urban and rural school student at senior secondary level of Raipur city.
3. There is no significant difference between the Environmental awareness of boys of Urban and rural school student at senior secondary level of Raipur city.

### Method

#### Sample

A purposive sample of 120 students were selected from five senior secondary schools of both sex. The schools included in the sample were located in Raipur city of Chattisgarh.

#### Test Used

Standardized test 'Environmental Awareness Scale' developed by Haseen Taj was used in the study for collecting the data.

#### Statistical Technique

Mean, S.D. were calculated and the 'T' test was employed to find out the significant difference between Environmental awareness.

### Result and discussion

Table -1 : Environmental awareness score of urban and rural school students

Stream	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	'T' Value
Urban student	60	25.5	40.96	0.46
Rural student	60	22.7	22.56	

Degree of freedom 118

Not significant at 0.01 level.

It is observed that, mean scores of Urban and rural student are 25.5 and 22.7 respectively . the critical ratio between the two groups comes out to be 0.46 which is not significant at 0.05 level. It indicates that Urban and Rural student has similar awareness regarding the Environmental.

GRAPH

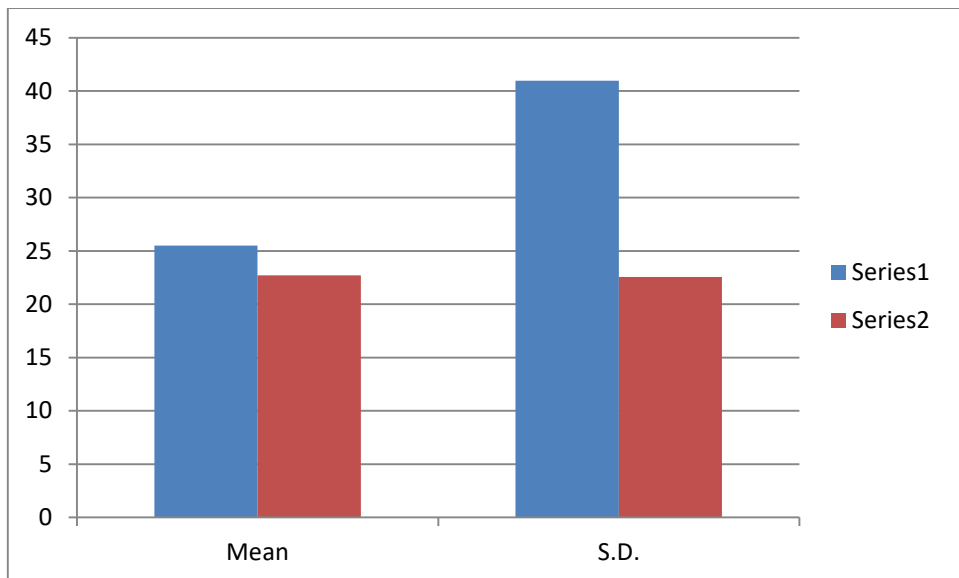


Table -2 : Environmental awareness score of Urban and rural girls student

Stream	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	'T' Value
Urban Girls	30	28.14	6.54	0.86
Rural Girls	30	26.84	5.25	

Degree of freedom 58

Not significant at 0.01 level.

It is observed that, mean scores of Urban and rural girls are 28.14 and 26.84 respectively. the critical ratio between the two groups comes out to be 0.86 which is not significant at 0.05 level. It indicates that Urban and rural girls has similar awareness regarding the Environmental.

GRAPH

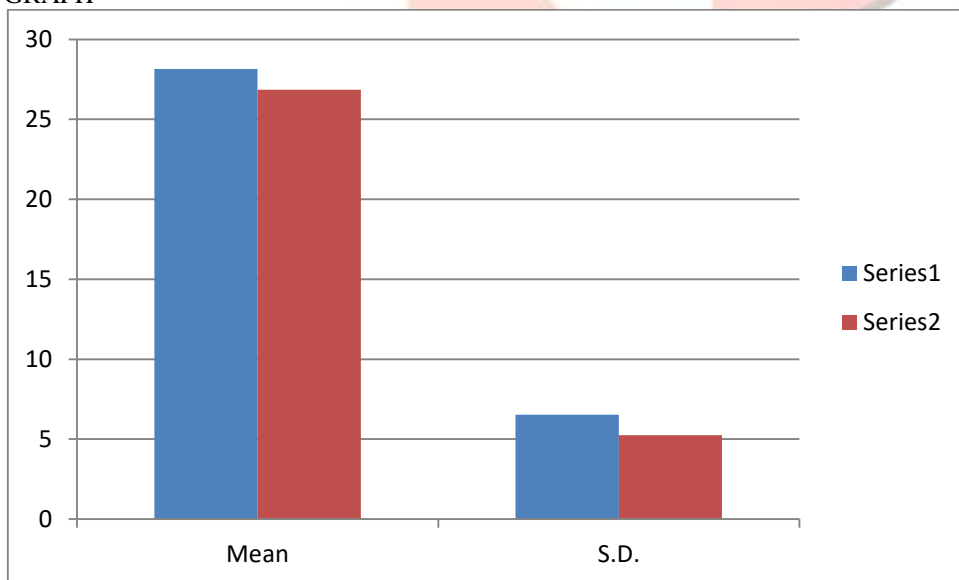


Table -3 : Environmental awareness score of boys of Urban and rural school student

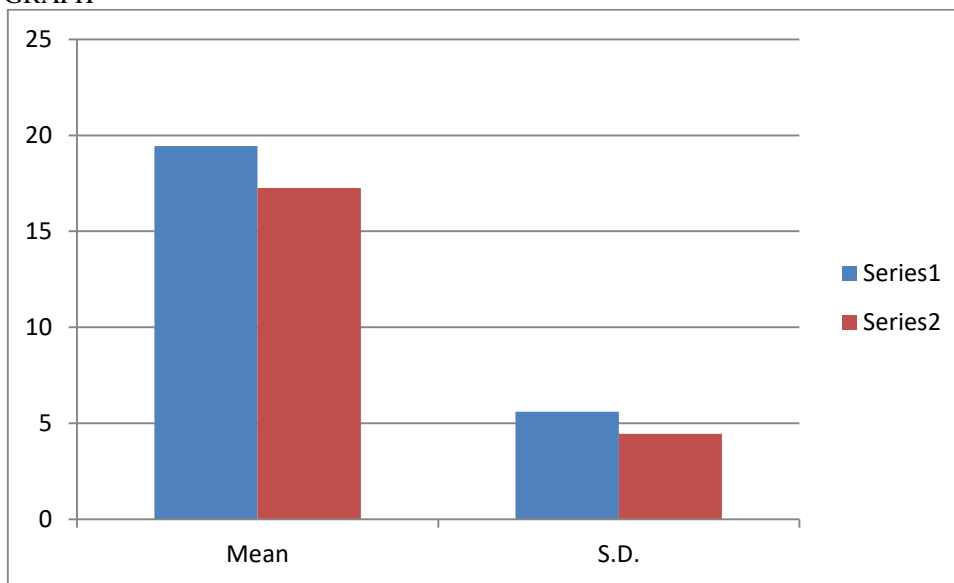
Stream	No. of Students	Mean	S.D.	'T' Value
Urban Boys St.	30	19.45	5.60	1.69
Rural Boys st.	30	17.25	4.45	

Degree of freedom 58

Not significant at 0.01 level.

It is observed that, mean scores of Urban and rural Boys are 19.45 and 17.25 respectively. the critical ratio between the two groups comes out to be 1.69 which is not significant at 0.05 level. It indicates that Urban and rural boys has similar awareness regarding the Environmental.

#### GRAPH



#### CONCLUSION

The statistical analysis of data present in table and diagram helped in testing the various hypotheses formulated to realize the objectives of study and concluded that there was no significant difference in Environmental awareness of Urban and rural boys and girls and also there was no significant difference in Environmental awareness of science and commerce students as groups. Hence we can conclude that the knowledge of the Environment is very necessary for all the individuals for the sake of the nature and survival of the universe. All the students of all the levels should have knowledge regarding environmental awareness.

**EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS:** To achieve a good quality of life on earth for all living beings, it is essential to educate humankind and spread awareness about environment and sustainable development. Teacher is an effective tool in this regard. If the teacher is aware only then s/he can make the students aware about the environmental issues, their effects and solutions and can imbibe in them environmental ethics. The teachers themselves can explore environmental issues and their solutions; can also do a lot of readings with the help of information technology to increase their knowledge about global and local environmental concepts. The government must restructure and enrich both inservice and pre- service teacher education programmes with environmental awareness activities. More and more lectures, seminars, courses, debates, declamations, posters and painting, essay writing competitions, innovation from disposed items, or reciting environment related poetry, celebrating environmental days or week can be introduced in this regard.

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