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### A study of environmental consciousness and behaviour of college students

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#### ABSTRACT

The rationale of this study is to congregate baseline data on the level of environmental consciousness and behaviour of junior science college student in Bellary, District, Karnataka. A sample of 200 (both male and female) was selected and consciousness and behaviour scales were administrated. Accordingly the data were subjected to statistical analysis. Results were clearly indicated there is a significant difference observed between government and private college students towards environmental education and also male students have most environmental consciousness and behaviour rather than female students.

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#### KEYWORDS

Statistical;  
Consciousness;  
Behaviour;  
Scales;  
Students.

#### INTRODUCTION

The major environmental problems that the world currently faces such as deforestation, loss of biodiversity, ozone depletion, global climate change, pollution and over-consumption of natural resources directly impacts our ability to develop economically while at the same time sustaining the health of people as well as plants and animals. As clearly as the 1972 United Nations Conference of the Environment held in Stockholm, environmental awareness has been a priority of the international community who recognized that economic security and development is directly tied to the healthy of the environment. As a result of directives from the Stockholm Conference, from which the declaration of the United Nations Conference of the Human Environment was created, the Intergovernmental Conference of the Human Environmental Education was held in Tbilisi, Georgia in 1977 where the Tbilisi Declaration was adopted. The critical objectives of the Tbilisi Declaration included heightening people's environmental

awareness, sensitivity, attitude, and concern for the environment, skill, and motivation to act for environmental improvement and protection, and participation in solving environmental problems<sup>[1]</sup>.

Against this background of expanding interest in environmental education, a survey was conducted to find out the existing level of environmental consciousness and behaviour of sample students in the region of Hyderabad-Karnataka. It is fundamental to know the students about environmental matters and their outlook towards environmental issues.

The need for such information has been recognized in other countries<sup>[2-6]</sup> as it would be useful for better planning, organization, and implementation of environmental programmes and projects. In addition, the information can provide educators with some insight into the curriculum content of environmental education.

#### Objectives

- 1 This helps to determine the level of environmental consciousness and behaviour towards environmen-

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- tal education.
- 2 To compare the environmental consciousness and behaviour among urban and rural students.
  - 3 This shows the variation if any, between the government and private students environmental consciousness and behaviour.

### Hypothesis

- 1 There is no significant difference in the consciousness and behaviour of urban college students and rural students towards environmental education.
- 2 There is a significant difference between in the consciousness and behaviour of Government and private college students towards environmental education.
- 3 There is a significant difference in the consciousness and behaviour of male and female students towards environmental education.

### METHOD

#### Sample

Randomly 200 college students have been taken as sample for the present study out of which 100 students from urban and rural areas. Further, out of 100 students 50 students government and others private colleges. Again out of 50 students 25 students will be male and others are female students.

#### Tools used for study

Environmental Awareness Ability Measure by Dr. Praveen Kumar Jha, Madhepura, Bihar.

Measuring Successes in Environmental Behaviour by Dr. Peggy Green.

#### Data collection

For present study researcher were collected total sample of 200 P U college students i.e., each 100 students from urban and rural. Further, 50 students male and female were selected in both government and private colleges.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results were signifying that urban students and rural students revealed statistically significant difference.

The data was analyzed by using statistical *t*-test. It was establish that there is a significant difference between the urban and rural college's students ( $t = 8.925, 3.471$   $p < 0.01$ ). So, the null hypothesis 1 is rejected. Urban students have more environmental consciousness and behaviour towards environmental education rather than rural students.

There is a significant difference were exhibited between government and private college students. Under the analysis of statistical *t*-test it was reveals that there is a significant difference exhibited between government and private college student's environmental consciousness and behaviour towards environmental education ( $t = 2.948, 3.475$   $p < 0.01$ ). So, the null hypothesis 2 is retained in the study.

And there is a significant difference was exhibited in both male and female students of the study area. From, statistical *t*-test data it was clear that there is no significant difference observed in male and female student's environmental consciousness and behaviour towards environmental education in the area of study ( $t = 2.874, 3.523$   $p < 0.01$ ). Thus, the null hypothesis 3 was accepted.

### FINDINGS

- 1 There is statistically significant difference between rural and urban student's environmental consciousness and behaviour towards environmental education.
- 2 Type of college (Government and private) wise difference was also noticed with respect to environmental consciousness and behaviour towards environmental education in the area of study.
- 3 There is a significant difference between male and female student's environmental consciousness and behaviour towards environmental education.

### CONCLUSION

A few of the findings in the existing study may be of interest to educators and have implications for syllabus development in environmental education in region of Hyderabad-Karnataka. The study suggests that though the students sampled had high environmental consciousness scores, there are certain areas in which they were

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not adequately informed. These and related areas should be especially addressed in the college curriculum. Extracting attention should be placed on developing the students' level of realistic environmental consciousness which is relatively lower than their understanding of concept and generalizations.

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