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RESEARCH ARTICLE

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY ON B.Ed. TRAINEES ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE

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ABSTRACT

The study was intended to find out the Environmental Knowledge of B.Ed. Trainees in Tamil Nadu, India. Environmental Knowledge questionnaire was constructed and validated by the investigator, have been administered to a random sample of 1200 trainees studying in B.Ed. College. The result revealed that Government and Aided B.Ed. College Trainees, Aided and Private B.Ed. College Trainees caused significant difference and Government and Private B.Ed. College Trainees caused no significant difference in respect of their Environmental knowledge.

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INTRODUCTION

Environmental Education is the process of recognizing values and clarifying concepts in order to develop skills and appreciate interrelatedness among human beings, their culture, and their biophysical surroundings. Environmental Education also contains practice in decision - making and self-formulating a code of behaviour about issues, concerning environmental quality. This statement emphasizes the need of Environmental Knowledge in general. Knowledge about the environment especially its holistic nature and laws that govern the ongoing processes in the environment, particularly in an ecosystem and the Inter-dependence of different elements in the environment is a priority need for better understanding, protection and improvements of the environment.

Review of related literature

Manogaran D, (2000) conducted a study on "Environmental Knowledge among the pupils studying science subject at Higher Secondary level in Chidambaram Taluk" and found that the level of Environmental Knowledge is low. Kesavan (2008) studied the "Environmental Knowledge of higher secondary students in Villupuram educational district" and found that the Girls students are having high environmental knowledge than Boys students and the environmental knowledge of Private school students is higher than the Government school students.

Statement of the Problem

The problem selected for the present study is entitled as "An Empirical study on B.Ed. Trainees Environmental Knowledge".

Objectives of the study

1. To study the level of Environmental Knowledge of B.Ed. Trainees.
2. To study the significance of the difference if any between the Government and Aided College Trainees in respect of their Environmental Knowledge.
3. To study the significance of the difference if any between the Government and Private College Trainees in respect of their Environmental Knowledge.
4. To study the significance of the difference if any between the Aided and Private College Trainees in respect of their Environmental Knowledge.

Hypotheses of the study

The following null hypotheses were formulated for the purpose of testing.

1. The level of Environmental Knowledge of B.Ed. Trainees is high.
2. There is no significant difference between Government and Aided College Trainees in respect of their Environmental Knowledge.
3. There is no significant difference between Government and Private College Trainees in respect of their Environmental Knowledge.
4. There is no significant difference between Aided and Private College Trainees in respect of their Environmental Knowledge.

Method of the study

The present study aims at finding out the Environmental Knowledge of B.Ed. Trainees. Normative survey method has been used in the study.

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Tools used

Environmental Knowledge Questionnaire was constructed and validated by the investigator. The Environmental Knowledge test used in this investigation contains 63 multiple choice items and needs one hour for a trainee to answer. The maximum mark for a question is 1 and the minimum mark is 0. So the respondents can score at the maximum of 63. The environmental knowledge test has constructed validity. Its intrinsic validity was found to be 0.89. The reliability of the test by split-half technique was found to be 0.79.

Sample of the study

The sample for the present study consisted of 1200 randomly selected B.Ed. Trainees from the B.Ed. Colleges in Tamil Nadu state, by using lottery method. The sample comprised of 1200 B.Ed. trainees with 450 Government, 350 Aided and 400 Private College Trainees from 15 B.Ed. Colleges in Tamil Nadu.

Statistical Techniques

1. The Environmental knowledge scores of the various sub-samples were collected and their means and standard deviations were calculated given in the Table-1.
2. The test of significance was used to test the hypotheses and the details of the calculations were given in the Table-2.

Table 1. Environmental knowledge scores of the sub-samples

Sub-samples	N	Mean	S.D.
Government college trainees	450	39.92	10.31
Aided college trainees	350	42.70	10.80
Private college trainees	400	39.06	10.79

Table 2. Difference between the means of the environmental knowledge scores of the sub-samples

Sub - samples	N	Mean	S.D.	't' value	Level of Significance
Government college trainees	450	39.92	10.31	3.70	0.01
Aided college trainees	350	42.70	10.80		
Government college trainees	450	39.92	10.31	1.18	Not significant
Private college trainees	400	39.06	10.79		0.05
Aided college trainees	350	42.70	10.80	4.60	0.01
Private college trainees	400	39.06	10.79		

The means of Environmental Knowledge are found to range from 39.06 to 42.70 in respect of their sub-samples. As the Mean value of sub-sample is greater than the mid score of 31.5 (A maximum score of 63), it is inferred that the level of Environmental Knowledge of B.Ed. Trainees is high. In respect of the means of (i) Government and Aided college trainees and (ii) Aided and Private college trainees, the 't' values are found to be 3.70 and 4.60 and they are significant at 0.01 level. Therefore, the null hypotheses formulated are to be rejected.

The Aided college trainees have decisively higher scores and hence are better Environmental knowledge than the Government college trainees. Similarly, Aided college trainees have secured higher scores and Environmental Knowledge than the Private college trainees. In respect of the mean of Government and Private college trainees, the 't' value is found to be 1.18 and it is not significant even at the 0.05 level. Therefore, the null hypotheses formulated are to be retained.

Important findings

1. The level of Environmental Knowledge of B.Ed. Trainees is high.
2. The Government and Aided College Trainees and Aided and Private College Trainees differ significantly in their Environmental Knowledge.
3. The Government and Private College Trainees do not differ significantly in their Environmental Knowledge.

Conclusion

Thus the present study has shown that Government and Aided College Trainees and Aided and Private College Trainees differ significantly in their Environmental Knowledge. It is also shown that Government and Private College trainees do not differ significantly in their Environmental Knowledge.

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