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## RESEARCH ARTICLE

### DEVELOPMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS ABILITY AMONG STUDENT TEACHERS

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#### ABSTRACT

Teachers can play a significant role in making our environment pollution free by changing the attitude of students and society towards the environment. The Student teachers are the prospective teachers of the nation. So it is the time for the great concern for protection and preservation of natural resources which can only be possible if we have a right type of attitude towards proper awareness in the related matters. Teachers can bring awareness and attitude which can be possible through environmental education. The goal of environmental education in schools and colleges is to acquaint and sensitize the students towards environmental problems and concerns, to inculcate in them healthy personal and social attitude and behaviour towards environment. Hence, it is necessary to know how far the Student Teachers are aware about environment and environmental problems. A pilot study was carried out selecting 120 pupil teachers studying in teacher education colleges located at Vijayapur district. "Environmental pollution Attitude Scale" developed by Dr. M. Rajamanickam and "Environmental awareness ability measures (EAAM)" developed by Praveen Jha were used for the collection of data. The findings show that the female Student teachers were found to be more positive in their attitude towards environmental awareness than the Male pupil teachers.

## INTRODUCTION

Environment is the combination of external physical conditions that affect and influence the growth, development and survival of organism. Environment is a term that comprises all living and non-living things that occur on earth including all plants, animals, rocks, etc. and natural phenomena that occur within their boundaries. It further includes universal natural resources and physical phenomena that lack clear-cut boundaries, such as air, water and climate as well as energy, radiation, electric charge and magnetism, not originating from human activity. According to Boring, "A person's environment consists of the sum total of the stimulation which he receives from his conception until his death." According to Paul Brooks, "Environment is the combination of external physical conditions that affect and influence the growth, development and survival of organism. The population explosion has worsened this situation. The people started exhausting the natural resources on one side and on the other creating pollution on the earth affecting the ecological balance in the ecosystem. Lack of environmental awareness regarding the preservation of the species and conservation of the forests are responsible for degradation of the environmental procurement at gross root level. If it continues, the human civilization will face disastrous situation. Environmental awareness prepares human society to protect the ecological balance.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

Environment is a surrounding or conditions influencing development and growth of all the living beings. Awareness is essential to solve these problems as children are the future of our country, there is a necessity to incorporate not only knowledge about environment but also to acquaint and sensitize the young minds to the problems of environment and concerns. The term „environmental awareness“ refers to creating general awareness of environmental issues, their causes by bringing about changes in perception, attitude, values and necessary skills to solve environment related problems. To encourage students' participation, it is necessary to create awareness among them about environment pollution and related adverse effects. This is the crucial time that environmental awareness and environmental sensitivity should be cultivated among the masses particularly among youths and the pupil teachers of the teacher education colleges.

## NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The technological revolution in the twentieth century has generated many problems for human beings. Urbanization, industrialization, automation and population explosion are the result of technological revolution.

Uncontrolled economic development, over use of ground water systems, and exploitation of natural resources has become the order of the day. So it is the need of the hour to implement Environmental Education in full swing. The problem of the environmental pollution is so cute that it is not possible to be tackled by government alone. It is the duty of all voluntary organizations, schools, and colleges to fight with the problem of environmental pollution. It is the duty of teachers that students from very beginning should be made aware of this menace. There is a dire need of building attitude of students, teachers and society towards this ticklish problem. It is felt by investigations to develop a positive attitude to make the environment free from any problem.

## STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

**The title of the study is “Development of Environment Awareness Ability Among Student Teachers”**

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To find the difference in the environmental awareness of male and female Student Teachers.

## HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- There is no significant difference between environmental awareness of the male and female Student Teachers of teacher education colleges.

## DESIGN OF THE STUDY

The present research work was a descriptive study. It is concerned with functional relationship between two or more variables. The results may suggest additional and competing hypotheses to be tested. For the present study descriptive survey method was used to assess awareness of Student Teachers towards environmental pollution.

**Population:** The present study was conducted in Vijayapur district. The Student Teachers of Teacher education colleges located at Vijayapur district constituted as the population of the study.

**Sample:** Simple random sampling technique was used for selection of 120 Student Teachers by visiting various teachers education colleges located of Vijayapur district .

## TOOLS USED FOR DATA COLLECTION

- “Environmental awareness ability measures (EAAM)” developed by Praveen Jha will be used for the present study.

## PROCEDURE OF DATA COLLECTION

The “Environmental awareness ability measures (EAAM)” developed by Praveen Jha and was administered on the Student Teachers for the collection of data and the responses made by the Student Teachers was scored, tabulated and analyzed.

## ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

**Comparison of Environmental Awareness among students of Male and female colleges:** The mean and S.D of the test scores of environmental awareness of male and

female Student teachers were calculated and interpreted. The hypothesis was further examined by applying „t“- test as shown in table 1.

**Table 1. Mean, S.D and t-value between Male and Female Pupil Teachers Towards Environmental Awareness**

Students	N	Mean	D.	t-Ratio	marks
Male Student teachers	60	48.35	4.21	1.21	Insignificant
Female Student teachers	60	51.21	4.78		

Calculating t- ratio between the means scores of environmental awareness of students of male and female colleges was found to be 1.21 which is not significant at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance. Therefore it is clear that there is no significance difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness of male and female Student teachers. The female Student teachers were found to be more aware than their counterpart the male Student teachers towards environmental awareness. Both male and female Student teachers are equally aware towards environment protection.

## DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

**The study was conducted with the following delimitation:**

- The present study was delimited to Vijayapur district only.
- The present study was delimited to Student teachers of teacher education colleges only.

## MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Majority of the Student teachers of the teacher education colleges were found to be aware about environmental pollution.
- A significant difference was found between the male and female Student teachers with reference to the environmental awareness.
- The female Student teachers were found to be more aware than the male Student teachers towards environmental problems.
- The male pupil teachers were found to be significantly more positive than female Student teachers towards environmental pollution.

## CONCLUSION

There is no significance difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness of male and female Student teachers. Environment Education has great importance as our lives to a large extent depend on our response to emerging problems related to the environment. Male and female Student teachers have no similar environmental awareness ability. Female Student teachers were found to be more aware towards the environmental issues than the male Student teachers.

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