



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG POST GRADUATE STUDENTS OF SANT GADGE BABA AMRAVATI UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT:

Present study aimed to find out the environmental awareness among the post graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati .For this a sample of randomly selected 60 students belonging to Art and Science streams of SGBAU, University, Amravati was collected. A self prepared questionnaire comprising of 20 questions was distributed by the investigators. Raw data was obtained, mean scores were calculated and then percentage analysis was done to find out the results. The findings of the study showed that most of the students surveyed were aware of the basic and simple aspects regarding environment. Results were interpreted in terms of high, average and low environmental awareness. The data was also analyzed to find out the awareness among post graduate students from Art and Science group. The results revealed that Art students were found to be more aware about environment than their counterparts in Science.

Keywords: Environmental Awareness, Environmental Education, Science, Art Stream.

INTRODUCTION

India the world's largest democracy with population of over 1.2 billion is diverse country with number of languages, religions, cultures etc. Like most developing countries, India is confronted with the daunting challenge of developing itself rapidly, while at the same time preserving and protecting its environment. India is amongst the first few countries, which has

made provisions for the protection and improvement of environment in its Constitution and to have enacted reasonable good environmental laws and regulations. It has rightly been said "The environmental crisis is an outward manifestation of the crisis of mind and spirit". It all depends upon how do we think and act. If we want to check the environmental crisis, we will have to transform our thinking and



attitude. That in turn would transform our deeds, leading to a better environment and better future.

Sustainable development is only possible where economic growth, social justice and equity, and environmental integrity are achieved. Any government at its own level cannot achieve the goals of sustainable development until the public has a participatory role in it. Public participation is possible only when the public is aware about the ecological and environmental issues. Changing public opinion can bring changes in governmental policies, which transform into action later. Environmental education sensitizes the minds of people. Consequently, effective environmental Education both formal and non-formal is seen as a vital component. The United Nations has declared the decade (2005-2015) as a 'Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'. Sustainable development concentrates on aspects of the economy, society

and environment in order to achieve its goals. The Hon'ble Supreme Court on Environmental Education directed that through medium of education, an awareness of the environment and its protection should be taught as a compulsory subject.

The term 'Environmental Awareness' has a broad connotation, it not only implies knowledge about environment but also attitude, values and necessary skills to solve environment related problems. Moreover, environmental awareness is the initial step ultimately leading to the ability to carry on responsible citizenship behaviour.

The present study is an effort to find out the level of environmental awareness among the post graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati. The sample of the study was taken keeping in mind that they have already passed their Environmental Study paper at graduation level. Hence, it is imperative to find out how far environmental education has been



effective in changing their mindset towards environment

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The present study is aimed on the following objectives:

- (1) To find out the level of Environmental Awareness among the Post Graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.
- (2) To find out whether there is any significant effect of educational streams on Environmental Awareness among the students.

HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

The following hypotheses were framed for the study:

- There is no significant difference in the level of environmental awareness among the post graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.
- There is no significant difference in the environmental awareness among post graduate students of Science and Art streams of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- The present study is confined to post graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati only.
- **Sample:** 60 Post Graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.
- **Statistical Techniques:** Percentage analysis was used to interpret the results of the study. Mean values were calculated to find out the differences in the Environmental Awareness among Post Graduate Science and Art streams of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.
- **Sampling Techniques:** This is a survey type descriptive research. Students were interacted to gain their perception and level of awareness regarding environment. A questionnaire was designed containing 20 questions related to general environmental awareness. The open ended questions were avoided and preferably close



ended questions were included in the questionnaire for survey. However, some open ended questions were also included in order to allow enough flexibility to keep the flow of interview going according to the comfort level of the interviewee and helped us to understand the problems in the existing system from different perspectives. This also allowed the participants to share their personal concerns and perspectives on the environment. The questionnaires were then evaluated by the investigators to find out the percentage of the environmental awareness among students.

ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION

For the analysis of the results the scores obtained by the students were then classified into class intervals which are depicted in the following table 1.

Table 1, Figure 1 and 2 indicate the frequency and percentage distribution of scores obtained by the students on

Environmental Awareness. Group I refers to score below 25%, Group II refers to scores between 25% and 50%, Group III is refers to 50 to 75 % and Group IV represented scores above 75%. Data analysis revealed that 17% of the students fall in the Group IV with scores above 75%. On the other hand 63% of the respondents fall in Group III by scoring 50-75% of the scores. Out of the total sample 17% were in Group II scoring below 50%. No student scored less than 25% of the total score.

Therefore, the hypothesis stating no significant level of environmental awareness among the Post Graduate students is not accepted.

Table 2 & Fig 3 show the mean scores of Post Graduate students from Sciences and Art streams. The mean score calculated for all the students is 12.70. The Mean score of Art streams is 13.95 and the mean score of Science stream is 10.55. The results revealed that the mean score of students from Art stream



is higher than the students from Science stream, so it is concluded that Art Stream students were found to have higher environmental awareness as compared to their counterparts in science stream. Therefore, the hypothesis stating no significant difference in the environmental awareness of Post Graduate students of Sciences and Art Streams is also not accepted.

This finding is also supported by the studies conducted by Simmons (1998), Yilmaz et.al. (2004), Sebastian and Nima (2005), Lenka (2005) and Siddiqui and Fatima (2015). However, this finding is inconsistent with the results of the study conducted by Sengupta et.al. (2010). They found that Science students scores on environmental awareness was less than that of Arts students.

CONCLUSIONS

The study was conducted to find out the level of environmental awareness among post graduate students. The results revealed a significant level of environmental

awareness among post graduate students of Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati.

The findings further revealed that students of Art streams were having more environmental awareness than the students from the Science streams. The results may be so for the reason that the students of Art stream are very much associated with environmental education than the students of Science streams, as many environment related topics are already incorporated in the subjects. Environmental education at school level should be emphasized and its objectives must be achieved. The government policy in this regard is very explicit as environmental education has been made compulsory at school level as well as college level of education. This type of research is thus important in the sense that it would point out how far objectives have been achieved or the introduction of environmental education has turned into futile and fruitless curricular exercise.



Table 1 Frequency and percentage distribution of scores among different class intervals

Groups	Class Interval	No. of Students	% of Students
GI	0-5	0	0
GII	6-10	12	20
GIII	11-15	38	63
GIV	16-20	10	17
Total		60	100

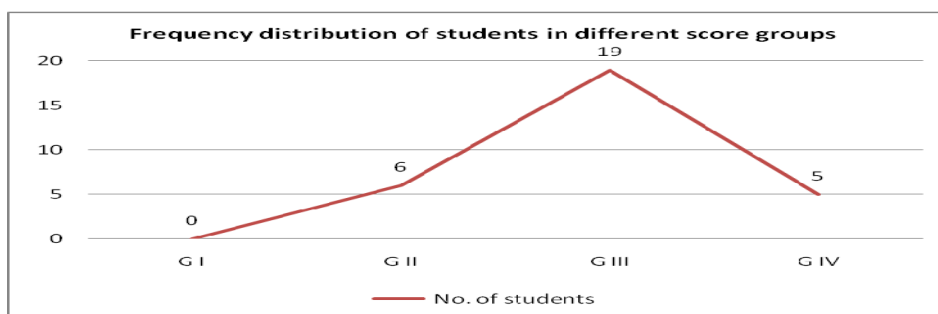


Fig. 2 Percentage distribution of students in different score groups

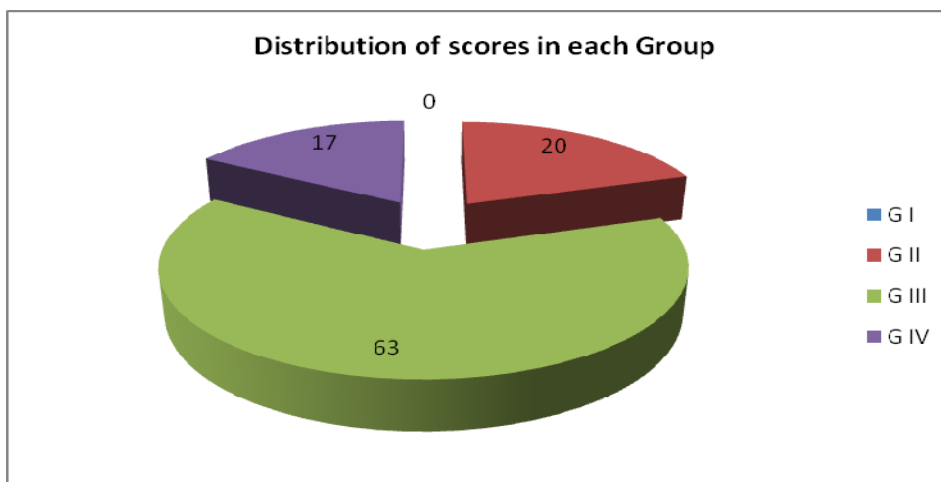


Table 2. Average scores of students from Sciences and Art Streams

Stream	Average Scores
Art	13.9
Science	10.5
Both Streams	12.7

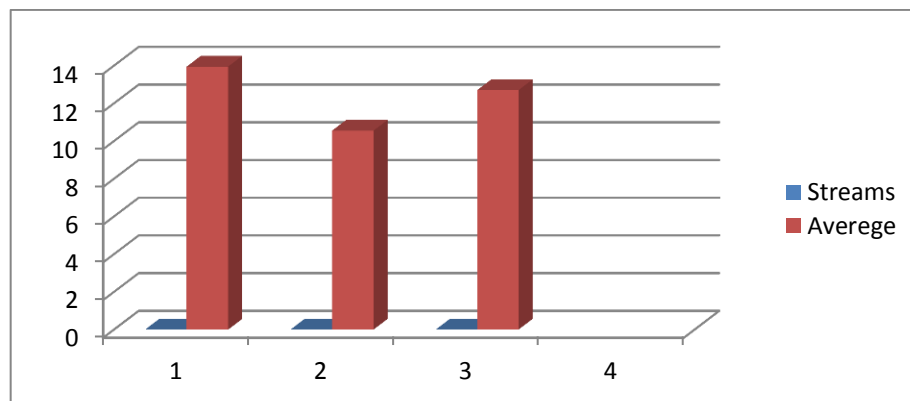


Fig. 3 Bar graph showing average score of Post Graduate students

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