



# **A Study on Environmental Ethics and Academic Achievement of VII-Standard Students in Dharmapuri District'**

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## **ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT**

This paper shows that today we are living in computer era with a fashion of use and throw style and without knowing its cause and ill effects to the ecosystem and our human system as a whole. Environment is a gift of the nature which cannot be priced and is highly dynamic multidimensional and an interdisciplinary concept which encompasses various elements concerning human settlements, air, land which consequently influences all forms of life in one way or other.

## **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

Environment literally means surrounding and everything that affect an organism during its lifetime is collectively known as its environment. Environmental studies provide an approach towards understanding the environment of our planet and the impact of human life upon the environment

Late about forty lakhs years ago the humans were emerged on earth. After this the dependency of humans for filling their new desires and for getting all the facilities has become increased on earth, nature and on environment. The continuous growth of population and unlimited exploitation of resources helped in increasing this dependency. Now it has become necessary that we pay attention for the conservation and neatness of the environment and take some positive steps in this direction. The paper deals with the environmental ethics among VII standard level students. The present environment has become more polluted and unbalanced due to the uncontrollable intervention of humans.

The researcher found that human is the mainly responsible for misbalance of present environment. According to New Education Policy 1986 Environmental conservation, Population Education, Controlling measures for pollution like many current topics and other important topics have become the part of curriculum at primary and secondary level by which awareness for environment among students has developed but researcher found that there is not any development of environmental ethics. Therefore, the researcher tries to find the sensitiveness and consciousness level of VII standard students for the environment by this research.

## **1.8 NEED FOR THE STUDY**

Every child born on this earth has the right to descend to this earth which is healthy, pollution free, disease free and clean. As the researcher grew up she has observed various changes in the environment such as unusual rains to heavy rains leading to water logging, extreme winter to mild winters, extreme heat and so on. The researcher observes severe changes in the global environment, due to ozone depletion, increasing in carbon level, melting of ice caps, excess of snowing, severe storm, tsunami etc. occurring due to change in the global climate.

It is shocking to know that, if this is the state of environment which will be maintained by mankind than in the very near future, the life of mankind will be shortened. Average life expectancy will be only around 30 years. A child may look like a teenager, no human hair will be there on their body, they will get wrinkles very fast as the ozone layer might have got depleted and alpha rays and beta rays of the sun will be directly reaching the earth's surface, there will be no trees and plants existing on the earth; no rainfall; the surface of the earth will look like a parched desert, no traces of water anywhere, people will have to depend on artificially produced food and water to satisfy their needs. Even today we find due to changes in the environment food products and vegetables do not have the same taste as in the olden days. The basmati rice, considered to be best flavored and scented by nature has lost its fragrance.

So, now it is the time that every citizen in our country wakes up and think that our future cannot be linked to our past. The new inventions, discoveries, globalization, industrialization, urbanization which is giving us comfort are going to shake the foundation of human life. The human society as a whole and the economy is on the verge of destruction and going to be eroded so we have to change our attitude and views as we are aware of the saying that “if wealth is lost something is lost; if health is lost everything is lost”.

The present generation is still not aware of the fact that if we do not have a healthy environment our survival is at danger. Crucial time has come to realize the changing pattern of the environment of the present day. A number of recent scientific – techno factors along with exploitation of natural resources by human activities have endangered our survival on this earth. At least at this junction, we have to alert the students about the deterioration of environment or we will lose all boon of natural wealth bestowed on us. So we should conserve our environmental resources. Hence the main aim of inculcating environmental ethics among the population is to generate a society who has knowledge of environment and maintain sustainable development.

Human society has two major challenges such as:

- 1) Protection of the quality of the environment from further deterioration and
- 2) Gradual restoration of the quality of living environment.

Nowadays, majority of the world population is encountering different problems related with the nature and attempting to save nature. On the other hand, we even today do not try to understand our local problems related to nature. So, the awareness about environment is becoming a global talk, but local people concerned to the environmental crisis and remedial measures are either ignorant or irresponsible. There is an urgent and indispensable need to inculcate environmental ethics for the present day students at all levels for the development of an eco-friendly environment. The researcher after reviewing all the above mentioned factors felt the need for investigating the level of environmental ethics among the VII standard students of Dharmapuri District.

### **1.9 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

The problem for the present study is entitled as, “A STUDY ON ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF VIII- STANDARD STUDENTS IN DHARMAPURI DISTRICT”.

### **1.10 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

#### **General Objectives:**

1. To study about the environmental ethics among the students of standard VII in Dharmapuri district.

#### **Specific Objectives:**

1. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of gender.
2. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of locality.
3. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of medium of school.
4. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of Government school and Government aided school students.
5. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of Government school and private school students.
6. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of Government Aided school and private school students.
7. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of father's occupation.
8. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of mother's occupation.
9. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of father's education.
10. To study the environmental ethics of VII standard students in terms of mother's education.

### **1.12 DEFINITION OF THE TERMS USED IN THE TITLE STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS**

**Environmental ethics** is the discipline in philosophy that studies the moral relationship of human beings to, and also the value and moral status of, the environment and its non-human contents.

#### **VII STANDARD**

The student comes under primary stage which is that continuation of VII standard and generally students who passed from VII Standard are admitted to the next class without an admission test.

#### **STUDENT**

A person who is studying in VII standard in school.

#### **DHARMAPURI EDUCATIONAL DISTRICT**

Dharmapuri is one of the districts in Tamil Nadu which is fully urban (100%) in character. Dharmapuri is well connected by all means of transportation for the State of Tamil Nadu.

### 1.13 HYPOTHESIS FORMED

Based on the specific objectives, the following hypotheses were formed.

1. There is no significant difference between male and female students with respect to environmental ethics.
2. There is no significant difference between urban and rural school students with respect to environmental ethics.
3. There is no significant difference between Tamil and English medium students with respect to environmental ethics.
4. There is no significant difference between Government school and Government aided school students with respect to environmental ethics.
5. There is no significant difference between Government school and private school students with respect to environmental ethics.
6. There is no significant difference between Government aided school and private school students with respect to environmental ethics.
7. There is no significant difference between father's occupational statuses with respect to environmental ethics.
8. There is no significant difference between mother's occupational statuses with respect to environmental ethics.
9. There is no significant difference between father's educational statuses with respect to environmental ethics.
10. There is no significant difference between mother's educational statuses with respect to environmental ethics.
11. There is no significant relationship between environmental ethics and academic achievement.

### 1.14 METHODOLOGY OF STUDY IN DETAIL

In every place of research different methods are used in different stages of its development in the present study normative survey method was adopted. Normative survey method studies describe and interpret at what exists at present. It concerned with existing conditions or relations, prevailing practices, beliefs, attitudes, etc. Here considering the nature of the study stratified Random Sampling technique was used. The sample consists of 200 students, boys and girls of VII standard students. The sample were selected with due representation to locality of school, nature of the school. The investigator selected 200 samples from 6 schools of Dharmapuri Educational District.

### 1.15 TOOLS TO BE USED WITH JUSTIFICATION

The investigator has selected two tools for this study. They are,

1. Personal data sheet.
2. Questionnaire.

### PERSONAL DATA SHEET

It is used to fill the general information of the students like name, age, school address, location of the school, nature of the school, type of the school, community, and qualification of parents and occupation of parents.

### QUESTIONNAIRE

It is a term prepared and distributed to secure response to certain questions. It is a device for securing answer to questions by using a term which the respondent fills by himself.

For this study the investigator has used the self prepared questionnaire to find out the environmental ethics among VII standards Students in Dharmapuri Educational District.

### 1.16 PROPOSED STATISTICAL ANALYSIS METHOD

For the analysis of data, statistical methods have contributed a great deal. A number of methods are used to analyze the data statistically. The investigator has used descriptive and differential analysis.

### 1.17 DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

No research study can be carried out without certain limitations due to place, people, circumstances and time limitations are those conditions beyond the control of the investigator that may place restrictions on the conclusions of the study and their application to other situations. The present research has following limitations,

- 1) With a limited period of time, it is not possible to conduct the research study in a large scale. So the study was limited to 6 schools around Dharmapuri Educational District.
- 2) This study was conducted on a sample of 200 students only.
- 3) It is limited in Dharmapuri Educational District only.
- 4) The study is not a representative of the entire state.
- 5) Thirty questions only have been chosen for the present study.
- 6) The investigation is limited to VII standard students only.

## 5.2 MAJOR FINDINGS

From the interpenetration and analysis of data, it is found that

1. Out of 200 students taken 50 percent are male and 50 percent are Female.
2. 132 students are in Tamil medium of instruction and 68 students are in English medium of instruction.
3. 100 students are urban school students and 100 students are rural school students.
4. 33 percent are government school students, 33 percent are government aided and 34 percent are private school students.
5. 0.5 percent belongs to 'OC' community whereas 45 percent of the respondents belongs to 'BC' community, 29 percent of the respondents belongs to 'MBC' community, 25 percent of the respondents belongs to 'SC' community and finally 0.5 percent of the respondents belongs to 'ST' community.
6. 16.5% of the respondents' father are 'illiterate' whereas 75.5% of the respondents' father are in 'School Level' and finally 8% of the respondents' father are having 'Degree'.
7. 13.5% of the respondents' mother are 'illiterate' whereas 79.5% of the respondents' mother are in 'School Level' and finally 7% of the respondents' mother are having 'Degree'.
8. 19.5% of the respondents' father are doing 'Business' whereas 3.5% of the respondents' father are working as 'Government employee', 23% of the respondents' father are working as 'Private employee', 7.5% of the respondents' father are doing 'Agriculture' and 46.5% of the respondents' father are working as 'Coolie'.
9. 2% of the respondents' mother are doing 'Business' whereas 4.5% of the respondents' mother are working as 'Government employee', 15% of the respondents' mother are working as 'Private employee', 1.5% of the respondents' mother are doing 'Agriculture', 19.5% of the respondents' mother are working as 'Coolie' and finally 57.5% of the respondents' mother are 'Home maker'.

### Differential Analysis

1. There is no significant difference between male and female among VII standard students towards environmental ethics.
2. There is no significant difference between urban and rural students among VII standard students towards environmental ethics.
3. There is no significant difference between Tamil and English medium among VII standard students towards environmental ethics.
4. There is a significant difference between type of school among VII standard students towards environmental ethics.
5. There is a significant difference between Government School and Government Aided School students with respect to environmental ethics.
6. There is a significant difference between Government Aided School and Private School students with respect to environmental ethics.
7. There is no significant difference among Qualification of father among VII standard students towards environmental ethics
8. There is no significant difference among Qualification of mother among VII standard students towards environmental ethics.
9. There is no significant difference among occupation of father among VII standard students towards environmental ethics
10. There is no significant difference among occupation of mother among VII standard students towards environmental ethics.
11. It positively correlated. There is positive correlation relationship between environmental ethics and academic achievement of VIII-standard students in Dharmapuri district.

## 5.3 DISCUSSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS BASED ON THE RESULT

- 1) The causes of Environmental ethics among the VII standard students do not differ on the basis of Gender and Education at different board; this may be due to the fact that the male and female students perceive environmental ethics merely as a subject and does not provide equal attention as to other subject. As the education levels of different board have been equalized as per the new education policy it can be perceived that environmental ethics doesn't differ among different board.
- 2) The mean value for the environmental ethics among Male students is greater than that of Female students. Among the VII standard students it is observed that the environmental ethics differs on the basis of Gender. Male students have greater awareness than the female, because they adopt more eco-friendly practices because they are more perseverant towards their families and environment. Moreover, Male have a special connection to the Environment through their daily interaction with it.
- 3) The higher mean value of rural students indicates that they have higher environmental ethics compared to their urban counter part. It was found that school going rural children did better than urban sample even though the needs of the rural students still remain unfulfilled. In addition, non formal centre students were more aware than the urban students. It is suggested to fulfil the needs of the students in order to follow the environmental ethics for both urban and rural students.

- 4) The higher mean value of Tamil medium school indicates that they have higher environmental ethics compared to the English medium of school. The environmental ethics is highly followed in Tamil medium compared to English medium, the reason behind is the Tamil medium followed environmental ethics activities in their leisure time activities which is not followed that much in English medium.

#### 5.4 SOME PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

To protect and conserve the environment, emphasis should be given to Environmental Education in both formal and non-formal system of education. In formal system of education, teachers play a very significant role in developing a greater awareness about environment among students. This may bring radical change among the students in the way of thinking, living and working.

#### 5.5 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER REASEARCH STUDIES

In this study the investigator studied the environmental ethics of VII standard students. It is not an exhaustive study, made with regard to the environmental ethics, but it touched this aspect only peripherally. So in future there is a great chance for further studies. In the light of the study made by the investigator the following are the suggestions made for the future research:

- 1) The same study may be conducted with a large sample covering whole Tamilnadu to arrive at a better generalization.
- 2) The same study may be conducted in other states of India.
- 3) The same study may be conducted for higher classes

#### 5.6 CONCLUSION

Today we are living in computer era with a fashion of use and throw style and without knowing it's cause and ill effects to the ecosystem and our human system as a whole. Environment is a gift of the nature which cannot be priced and is highly dynamic multidimensional and an interdisciplinary concept which encompasses various elements concerning human settlements, air, land which consequently influences all forms of life in one way or other.

To develop a world population that is concerned and aware about the environment and its problems and who have got knowledge, motivation, skill, commitment and attitude to work together and individually in order to find solution to the current environmental problems and to prevent the new ones are the goal of environmental education.

With so many VII standard of various Government School, Government Aided School and Private schools that have sprung up to cater to the needs of the new generation, it is necessary to teach this upcoming generation i.e. the youth the need to stop environmental degradation. Awareness has to be created now to save Dharmapuri the Main city of South India among the youth, as youth power is tremendous and they can change the entire scenario if they are sensitized. The base for environment education and action is provided by the school system in our country.

Teachers are real builders of the nation. Teachers are the most pivotal part in the class room. They are the one who can provide link in delivering environmental knowledge and create among the students the awareness of problems associated with environment. Teacher can play an important role in making the program of environmental education successful. Today there is a great need to preserve and protect our environment, as degradation of environment will result into a number of problems and to achieve this desired goal the role of students would go a long way.

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