

Comparison of Environmental Awareness of college students of the three universities of Punjab

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Abstract

The present paper compares the Environmental Awareness of the college students of the three universities in Punjab, i.e. Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar; Punjabi University, Patiala and Panjab University, Chandigarh. 600 participants (Male=300 and female=300) were drawn from rural and urban colleges under each university. Descriptive Survey method was employed for the present study. An Environmental Awareness Questionnaire (EAQ) developed by the investigator was used to compare the Environmental Awareness of the college students of the three Universities. ANOVA and t-test was used for the data analysis. The results indicate that the students of Panjab University, Chandigarh have higher environmental awareness than the students of GNDU, Amritsar and Punjabi University, Patiala. Urban college students possessed more environmental awareness than rural college students. The results also revealed that female college students have higher environmental awareness than male college students of the three universities.

Introduction

Environmental awareness provides the understanding and competence to recognize environmental resources and interdependence between physical and biological components of the environment for growth and development. To create environmental awareness among people is one of the important measures to protect our natural environment from decay and degradation. For preservation and up keeping of pollution control measures, we have to start educational and literacy drive for the people to develop consciousness as to why conservation of environment is necessitated, For injecting the sense of awareness among people everywhere, the organisation of seminars, conferences and symposia etc. is indispensable to provide literature on it and making use of vast mass media in various spheres of environment.

Environmental Awareness helps in creating conservation consciousness. It is an established fact that the success of a conservation movement depends not on the quality of its science, not on the sincerity of the people who follow it, not even on the funds provided for the cause (even though these factors are important), it depends upon how widely and compellingly the message is spread to make people more environment oriented. This dissemination of message depends on environmental awareness. Few studies have been done on the variable of

Environmental Awareness. Gupta(1986) studied environmental awareness among rural and urban children in Bhopal and found rural children having higher environmental awareness. Shahnawaj(1990) compared Environmental awareness of male and female high secondary school students and found that female possessed significantly more awareness than male students. Pradhan(2002) compared environmental awareness between urban and rural teacher and found that urban teachers have significantly higher environmental awareness than rural group. The researcher did not find any study comparing the environmental awareness of the college students studying under the three universities of Punjab, therefore this problem was undertaken by the researcher. The paper aims at studying the environmental awareness of the college students of the three universities of Punjab-Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar; Punjabi University, Patiala and Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Statement of the Problem: Comparison of Environmental Awareness of college students of the three universities of Punjab

Delimitation of the Study

1. The area of the study is delimited to undergraduate level colleges affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and Punjabi university, Patiala.
 2. The study is delimited to the students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.
 3. The study is limited to degree colleges only.
1. 600 college students (Male=300 and female=300) were taken from 10 rural and 10 urban colleges under each university.
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Objectives of the Study

1. To compare the Environmental Awareness of the students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.
2. To compare the Environmental Awareness of the students from the rural and urban colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.

3. To compare the Environmental Awareness of female and male students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.

Hypotheses of the Study

3. There is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness of students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.
4. There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness of students from rural and urban colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.
5. There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness of male and female students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.

Design of the study

Descriptive Survey method was employed for the present study. This method is concerned with surveying, describing and investigating the existing phenomenon or issues, conditions and relationships that exists.

Sample

The population of the sample consisted of students of the colleges under Panjab University, Chandigarh; Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar and Punjabi University, Patiala.

Stratified random sampling technique was employed for the selection of the sample.

Under each university, 20 college (urban=10 and rural=10) were randomly selected. From each college 10 students were randomly selected, thus 200 students under each university were selected.

To study the difference in the Environmental Awareness of the rural and urban college students as well as male and female students ,a sample of 600 (300 rural and 300 urban) randomly drawn from the colleges of the three universities was constituted in which 300 were male students and 300 were female students.

Tool Used

An environmental Awareness Questionnaire (EAQ) developed by the investigator was used to compare the Environmental Awareness of the college students of the three universities. EAQ consisted of 40 items. Content validity was done with the help of expert's opinion. Test-Retest reliability of EAQ was 0.96 and split half coefficient of reliability was found to be 0.69.

Along with the questionnaire wherever necessary, interviews were conducted with different categories of respondents, for clarifying their doubts, for answering their queries, as well as to elicit additional responds.

Statistical Techniques Used

To study the differences in the Environmental Awareness of the college students of the three Universities ANOVA was used. t-test was used when F-ratio was found to be significant..

Analysis of Data and Interpretation of Results

This section deals with the results of ANOVA and t-test to compare the Environmental Awareness of the students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.

Hypothesis I: There is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness of students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher applied ANOVA and t-test, the results of which are shown in the Table I.

Table I
ANOVA between Environmental Awareness scores of the students of the three universities

Source of variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Significance
Between Groups	615.970	2	307.985	29.068	.000*
Within Groups	6325.415	597	10.595		
Total	6941.385	599			

*Significant at 0.05 level

From Table I F value($F=29.068$ & $p<.005$) was found to be significant at .05 level of significance indicating that there exist significant differences among the students of the three universities with respect to their EAQ scores .

Further analysis of t-ratio showed that there exist significant differences between mean Environmental Awareness scores of the college students of the three universities which are shown in Table II.

Table II

Mean, SD & t-ratios of Environmental Awareness Scores of college students of the three universities

	University	N	Mean	SD	Std. Error	Mean difference	t	df	P
Environmental Awareness Scores	GNDU	200	32.09	3.57	0.25	0.755	2.202	398	.028*
	Pbi U	200	31.34	3.28	0.23				
	GNDU	200	32.09	3.57	0.25	1.67	5.153	398	.000*
	PU	200	33.76	2.88	0.20				
	Pbi U	200	31.34	3.28	0.23	2.42	7.857	398	.000*
	PU	200	33.76	2.88	0.20				

*Significant at 0.05 level

From Table II it is clear that mean Environmental Awareness scores of college students of GNDU and Pbi U found to be significant ($t=2.202$ & $p<.05$), GNDU and PU found to significant ($t=5.153$ & $p<.05$) and Pbi U and PU found to significant ($t=7.857$ & $p<.05$) at .05 level. Mean scores of Environmental Awareness (33.76) of college students of Panjab University, Chandigarh(PU) is more than the mean scores of Environmental Awareness (32.09) of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar(GNDU) and mean scores of Environmental Awareness (31.34) of Punjabi University, Patiala(Pbi U) college students. The college students of PU have higher environmental awareness than the college students of GNDU and Punjabi University. Thus, the **hypothesis I** stating that ‘There is no significant difference in the Environmental Awareness of students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level’ stand rejected.

Hypothesis II: There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness of students from rural and urban colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.

To test this hypothesis, t-test was applied, the results of which are shown in the Table III.

Table III

Mean, SD & t-ratios of Environmental Awareness scores of students from rural and urban college of three universities

Environmental Awareness Scores	location	N	Mean	SD	Std. Error Mean	t	df	P value
	Urban	300	33.23	3.09	0.18	6.167	598	.000*
	Rural	300	31.56	3.50	0.20			

*significant at 0.05 level

From table III, it is clear that mean scores of Environmental Awareness were found to be significant ($t=6.167$ & $p<0.05$) at the 0.05 level. Mean score of Environmental Awareness of urban (33.23) students of the colleges of the three universities is more than the mean Environmental Awareness scores of rural students (31.56).

It can be concluded that the students from urban colleges possessed higher environmental awareness in comparison to the rural college students.

Thus the **hypothesis II** stating that 'There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness of students from rural and urban colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level' stands rejected.

The result is also supported by the findings of Gupta(1986), Pradhan(2002).

Hypothesis III: There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness of female and male students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher applied t-test, the results of which are shown in the Table IV.

Table IV
Mean, SD & t-ratios of Environmental Awareness scores of male and female college students of three universities

Environmental Awareness Scores	location	N	Mean	SD	Std. Error Mean	t	df	P value
	Male	300	29.66	1.50	0.09	33.076	598	.000*
	Female	300	35.13	2.44	0.14			

*significant at 0.05 level

From table IV, it is clear that mean scores of Environmental Awareness was found to be significant ($t=-33.076$ & $p<.005$) at point 0.05 level. Mean score of Environmental Awareness of female college students of the three universities(35.13) is more than the mean Environmental Awareness scores of male college students of the three universities (29.66) indicating that female students have higher environmental awareness than the male students. Thus the **hypothesis III** that ‘There is no significant difference in Environmental Awareness of female and male students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level’ stands rejected.

The result is also supported by the findings of Shahnawaj(1990).

Conclusions of the Study

1. The students of Panjab University, Chandigarh have higher Environmental Awareness than the students of GNDU, Amritsar and Punjabi University, Patiala.
2. The students from urban colleges possessed higher Environmental Awareness in comparison to the rural college students of the three universities at undergraduate level.
3. The female students have higher Environmental Awareness than the male students studying in the colleges of the three universities at undergraduate level.

References

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