

Research Article

A Study on Environmental Ethics among High School Students

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Abstract

The Article was about the study of environmental ethic among the high school students 400 samples were collected from 16 different schools in Theni District. simple random sampling technique was used to collect the sample from various school The data collection standardized tools prepared by Dr. Mrs. Haseen Taj (1971). Environmental Ethic deepens on some factors like Gender, Medium of instruction, Region and School Management these are all the dependent variables. The significant difference between the means of each pair of groups is computing using standard deviation, T-test, one-way ANOVA, and Correlation. The findings are established and tabulated from the analyzed data. The finding shows that higher level of Environmental Ethic in Tamil Medium school students is greater than the English medium school students. According to the results and the present study concludes the level of environmental ethics is high in Tamil medium school students compare to the English medium school students.

Keywords: Environmental Ethics, High school students

Introduction

Environmental Ethics is the part of environmental philosophy which considers extending the traditional boundaries of ethics from solely including humans to including non-human world. **“The most important environmental issues is one that is rarely mentioned, and that is the lack of a conservation ethics in our culture” (Gaylord Nelson).** Educating Environmental Ethics to children is a key ingredient in the recipe to “Save the Earth”. Environmental Ethics is something that every person should be well versed with. The principles of ecology and fundamental of environment can really help create a sense of earth-citizenship and a sense of duty to care for the earth and its resource and to manage them in a sustainable way so that children a safe and clean planet to live on. Environmental Ethics in Education

inculcates the following Values in children like Human Values, Social Values, Cultural and Religious Values, Ethical Values, Global Values, Spiritual Values incorporated into environmental Education can go a long way in attaining the goals of sustainable development and environmental conservation. Value based environmental Education can bring in a total transformation of student's mind-set, attitudes and Life Styles. Environmental Education needs to be Imported through formal and informal way to all section of the society. Everyone needs to Understand it because "Environmental belongs to all" and "every individual matter" when it comes to conservation and protection of environment.

Statement of the Problem

"Environmental Ethic among High school students in Theni District".

Objectives of the Study

To examine the difference in Environmental Ethics Owing to Gender, Medium of Instruction, Region and School Management.

Review of the Related Literature

Review of related literature was conducted in order to analyses about the various studies done in the area.

Alkahr, et al., (2014) Conducted a study on Collaborative socio-environmental projects that engage Jewish and Arab students in Israel in learning about their local environmental about through outdoor learning and environmental action. The findings of the projects, students showed better understanding of local socio-environmental issues and demonstrated changes in their original views towards the environmental awareness and behavior of their counterparts.

Chambers, et al., (2014) Conducted a study on utilizing eco-social theory and the nation of the environment as text, two teachers, the vice-principal and a university researcher, engaged in a year-long, place-based, qualitative action research project in which they used the environment as the integrating context for teaching critical literacy, mathematics, and Science. The project revealed connections between student's abilities to engage in far transfer and complex critical thinking skills, as well as increased ecological understanding and ethic of care. Professional insights were also gained into improved differential instructions, as well as the

potential for engagement in environment education to reduce negative behaviors and increase positive social interactions among students.

Nayal and pant (2013)., Investigated the level of environmental ethics among pupil of four self- financing colleges of Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar District, Uttarakhand, India. 244 pupil teachers were selected as sample from all the four colleges. The findings of the study revealed that, rural and urban pupil teachers were found to be similar in their Environmental Ethics. Female pupil-teachers were found to be superior in their Environmental ethics when compared to male pupil teachers. Science pupil teacher was found to be superior in their Environmental Ethics than art pupil teachers.

Ozdemir Oguz (2012)., conducted a study on the Environmentalism of University Students and their Ethical Attitudes towards the Environment. 220 senior students studying in various departments in 2007-2008 academic year formed the sample. The data was collected through an Environmental Ethics Scale developed by the researcher and were analyzed through spss package. The findings was argued that the participants mostly exhibit a “Mild” environmentalism tendency that pays attention to both the instrumental and intrinsic values of non-human entities.

Reyes (2010)., Conducted an Environmental Awareness and Ethics of college students. The Results shows that there is no significant different in the family type. (Joint and Nuclear).

Tools Used For the Study

- ❖ Environmental Ethics Scale (EES) developed by Haseen Taj (1971).
- ❖ Personal data sheet prepared by the researchers.

Selection of the Sample

The sample for the study was selected randomly. The sample consisted of 400 students in high schools drawn from Theni District.

Statistical Technique Used

After the data collected, it was subjected test of significance using SPSS package for testing the hypothesis formulated by the investigator. The major functional variable for analysis and interpretation of the data includes Environmental Ethics practices of high school students and personal variables include Gender, Medium of Instruction, Region and School

Management. The following statistical technique was used for analysis and interpretation of the data.

Analysis and Interpretation of the Data

Hypothesis 1

There is no significant difference in Environmental Ethics of High school students owing to the differences in Gender.

Table 1
Table showing the difference in Environment Ethics of High School Students owing to Gender

Variable	Gender	N	Mean	SD	t – Value	Df	Significant level
Environment Ethics	Male	200	118.68	10.476	0.042	398	0.236 P>0.05 NS
	Female	200	120.64	8.665			
	Total	400					

The above table shows that the mean scores of Males 118.68 with standard deviation 10.68 similarly the mean scores of Females 120.64 with standard deviation of 8.665. Here the significant value 0.236 is greater than 0.05 which is not significant at 5% level. So, null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference in Environmental Ethics of High School Students owing to the differences in Gender.

Hypothesis 2

There is significant difference in Environmental Ethics of High School students owing to the differences in Medium of Instruction.

Table 2
Table showing the difference in Environment Ethics of High School Students owing to Medium of instruction

Variable	Medium of instruction	N	Mean	SD	t – Value	Df	Significant level
	Tamil	220	119.70	7.701	0.927	398	0.000 P<0.05

Environment Ethics	English	180	119.61	11.621			S
	Total	400					

The above table shows that the mean scores of Tamils Medium 119.70 with standard deviation with 7.701 while the mean scores of English Medium 119.61 with standard deviation of 11.621. Here the significant value 0.000 is less than 0.05 which is significant at 5% level. So, the null hypothesis is not accepted. Hence, there is significant difference in the Environmental Ethics owing to the difference in Medium of Instruction.

Hypothesis 3

There is no significant difference in Environmental Ethics of High School students owing to the differences in region.

Table 3

Table showing the difference in Environment Ethics of High School Students owing to region

Variable	Family Type	N	Mean	SD	t – Value	df	Significant level
Environmental Ethics	Rural	200	118.36	9.827	0 .007	398	0 .530
	Urban	200	120.97	9.315			P>0.05
	Total	400					

The above table shows that the mean scores of Rural is 118.36 with standard deviation 9.827 while the mean scores of Urbans is 120.97 with standard deviation of 9.315. Here the significant value 0.530 is greater than 0.05 which is not significant at 5% level. So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference in the Environmental Ethics of high school students owing to the differences in region.

Hypothesis 4

There is no significant difference in Environmental Ethics of High School students owing to the differences in School Management.

Table 4

Table showing the difference in Environment Ethics of High School Students owing to School Management

Variable	School Management	N	Mean	SD
Environment Ethics	Government	140	118.94	9.050
	Gov-Aided	140	121.11	7.656
	Private	120	118.82	12.015

Table 4.a

One-Way ANOVA Showing the difference in Environmental Ethics of High School Students with respect to the difference in School Management

Variable	School Management	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Significant Level
Environmental Ethics	Between Groups	451.979	2	225.990	2.444	0.088
	Within Groups	36711.78	397	92.473		P>0.01 NS

The mean score of Private school is 118.82 with standard deviation 12.015. Here the significant value 0.88 is greater than 0.01 which is not significant at 1% level. So, the null hypothesis is accepted. Here there is no significant difference in the Environmental Ethics of high school students owing to the difference in school Management.

Major Findings of the Study

- There is no Significant difference in Environmental Ethics of high school Students owing to the differences in Gender.
- There is significant difference in Environmental Ethics of High School students owing to the differences in Medium of Instruction.
- There is no significant difference in Environmental Ethics of High School students owing to the differences in region.
- There is no significant difference in Environmental Ethics of High School students owing to the differences in School Management.

Delimitation of the Study

- Present study was conducted on high school students only.
- The data was collected from Theni district only.
- The finding of the study are limited to Gender, Region, and Medium of instruction and School Management only.
- To collect the data only survey method is used.

Education Implication

The result showed that there was significant difference in Environmental Ethics owing to the difference in Medium of instruction. It is clearly evident that the Environmental Ethics Tamil Medium School is greater than the English Medium School. Hence measures must be taken to enhance Environmental Ethics among English medium students.

Discussion of the Result

Present study is confirmed to the findings of **Taylor, Dorceta. E (2007)** who stated that there is no significant relationship between male and female students. The present study is in agreement with the findings of **Khadiji (2004)** who stated that there is significant relationship between Tamil and English medium school students. This study reveals with the study of no significance difference in Urban and Rural Students and also there is no significance difference in Government, government aided and Private school Students.

Conclusion

Environmental ethics did not exist until late 60s and 70s because for the most part, it was believed that the world was vast and endless in its resources and it was assumed that what we destroyed, nature would automatically renew itself. Advances in science and technology have allowed us to see the devastation we have brought upon our planet. On the flip side, those same advances have played a major role in the destruction of the environment. This study requires Students need to know that besides actual laws, there are some basics, common ethics or what is right and what is wrong that everyone agrees upon and usually follows or lives by environment. The study may find some usefulness in the field of Environmental Ethics and findings of this study may serve as a data base for the future research.

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