

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Environmental awareness means, “To help the social groups and individuals to gain a variety of experiences in and acquire basic understanding of environment and its social problems”. Polluted environment endangers the human race by threatening its survival on planet earth. Boundaries of any nation cannot limit these environmental problems to a particular country and region, but its impact is global one. This large scale environmental degradation has caused a global concern about the conservation and protection of the earth’s environment. Hence, efforts are being made for inculcating environmental consciousness or awareness among the masses. It is education which can make the human being conscious and knowledgeable about environment and environmental problems. Moreover, awareness is essential for the action. The main purpose of environmental education in schools is to acquaint and sensitize the young minds to the environmental problems and concerns, to inculcate in them healthy personal and social attitude and behavior towards environment. Thus, students must have awareness about environment and the problems associated with it so that they can play their role very effectively. Hence, it is necessary to know how far the school students are aware about environment and environmental problems.

But now a days many activities done by human being like building construction, water exploitation, urbanization, throughout the waste materials, smoke of mill factories make damage to environment in a large scale. Now days we people are not thinking about the impact of these activities done by us against a natural environment. We simply forgot about the prominent statement given by Mahatma Gandhi few decades ago, when environment was not a buzzword is "the earth provides enough to satisfy everyman's need, but not every man's greed". This is the statement with profound social, economic, cultural and ethical ramifications.

This environmental hazard is the unsustainable development by the human being. Nature allows man free access to his valuable resources. however, man’s desire for joy and comfortable life, he exploits nature’s free goods to the extent of reducing its natural capacities for self-stabilization, with the global acceleration of

industrialization, use of technology & deforestation, environmental problems and resources storage is reaching a critical point. The damage caused to our natural resources has grim consequences. We have exploited the natural environment as per our will, which results several environmental crises. Pollution is making the earth unsuited to life, rivers & lakes are dying. Natural resources are being depleted. The drastic increase in emission of CO₂ caused by burning fossil fuels has been identified as the major reason for the global climate change and increasing global warming.

In recent years all the efforts of the government is targeted towards “sustainable development” of economics, societies, institutions and industries. Time has come to ensure that the concepts and education for sustainability in the broadest sense are discussed. Our attitude towards the use of environmental resources must change. We must re-educate ourselves to treat the environment with greater caution & control. So, there is a need to give prime importance to environmental education.

Environmental activists and people in general who aspire to foster a less polluted environment and promote the sustainable use of natural resources, often assume that behavior changes is function of knowledge and awareness. Therefore creating environmental awareness among the students is the need of the hour. Women as the important educators for children can stimulate change in the behavior that can lead to savings in food, water, energy consumption and ultimately in the protection of natural resources and bio-diversity. Environmental consciousness has become a serious theme for discussion and deliberation. Much stress is laid on the environmental education for generating environmental awareness and attitude of the people so that they can take care of the earth, our life support base.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A Study of Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students of Anand District

1.3 OPERATIONALISATION OF TERM

Environmental awareness: In the context of present study environmental awareness means students attitudes towards environmental issues and knowledge of environmental concept.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. To Study the Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students
2. To Study the Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students Gender-Wise
3. To Study the Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students Stream-Wise
4. To Study the Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students School-Wise

1.5 HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY

1. There is no significant difference between the Mean Attitude Score of higher Secondary School Students Gender-wise.
2. There is no Significant difference between the Mean achievement Score of higher Secondary School Students Gender-wise.
3. There is no significant difference between the Mean Attitude Score of higher Secondary School Students Stream-wise
4. There is no significant difference between the Mean Achievement Score of higher Secondary School Students Stream-wise
5. There is no significant difference between the Mean Attitude Score of Higher Secondary School Students School wise
6. There is no significant difference between the Mean Achievement Score of Higher Secondary School Students School wise

1.6 DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

The Researcher considered only environmental awareness in the study. The study is delimited to 11th standard students of the higher secondary school of anand and v.v nagar only. The study is delimited to Gujarati medium schools of Gujarat board.

1.7 RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

During the past two decades environmental issues have grown considerably. Natural resources have been depleted by excessive use. Increasing population has caused pollution, deforestation, desertification, biodiversity loss, coral bleaching, and global warming simultaneously which currently, are the major global concerns. Air and water pollution have reached alarming levels that have caused serious health problems, as well as negative impact on the environment, and inevitably influencing prospects for long term economic growth. The root cause of enhancement of these problems is the low level of awareness towards environmental issues. Hence, efforts are being made for inculcating environmental consciousness or awareness among the masses. It is education which can make the human being conscious and knowledgeable about environment and environmental problems. Moreover, awareness is essential for the action.

The main purpose of environmental awareness in schools is to acquaint and sensitize the young minds to the environmental problem and behavior towards environment. Thus, students must have awareness about environment and the problems associated with it so that they can play their role very effectively. Hence, it is necessary to know how far the school students are aware about environment and environmental problems. This study has tried to find out the actual state of environmental awareness of students.

1.8 SCHEME OF CHAPTERIZATION

Chapter I: Introduction

The first chapter deals with introductory part of the environment and highlights the rationale of the study, research objectives, hypotheses, delimitation of the study.

Chapter II: Conceptual Framework and Review of Related Literature

The second chapter divided in to two parts i.e. conceptual framework and review of related literature. The theoretical framework contains history of environmentalism, environmental problem, how do environment education and environmental awareness differ, evolution of environmental education, goal of environmental education, principles of environmental education, need for environmental education, human activities and their effects on environment, national and International effect, measures

taken by Indian govt. to check environmental pollution, national and international commitment to the protection of environment, awareness for environmental problem, public awareness and environmental impact assessment.

The review of related literature contains with the review of the past studies done in india and foreign countries.

Chapter III: Research Methodology

This chapter deals with justifies the present study and highlights the research design, population, sample, data collection and data analysis.

Chapter IV: Data Analysis and Interpretation

This Chapter contains the interpretation and discusses the data analysis technique in detail

Chapter V: Findings, Implications and Conclusion

This Chapter deals with finding and further study derived from the data analysis.

1.9 CONCLUSION

This chapter mentions all important aspects related to the research. The researcher presented information about the introduction, research problem, operationalization of terms, objectives, hypotheses, delimitation, as well as rationale, and scheme of Chapterization.

The next chapter is about theoretical frame work and review of related literature.