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STUDENTS AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND ITS POLLUTION

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Abstract: This study was conducted to know awareness about Environment issues and its pollution among students. The environmental issues are important because the absence of their solutions will be horrible. Unless environmental issues are not solved or not taken care of the coming generations may find earth worth not living. Therefore, there is need to expose the rural school children on the issue of environment and pollution for keeping them safe.

Keywords: student, environmental awareness, environmental pollution and environmental issues.

Introduction: Environment is the basic livelihood and development condition and material foundation for human. Under the rural-urban dualistic structure, urban environment pollution has drawn much attention, while rural area's environment becomes worse and worse [1]. As per the 2011 census, 68.84% of the Indian population lives in about 640867 villages and the remaining 31.16% lives in more than 7935 towns [2]. Environment includes all living and non-living objects. We live in the environment and use the environmental resources like air, land and water to meet our needs. Development also means meeting the needs of the people. While meeting the ever-growing needs, we put pressure on the environment. When the pressure exceeds the carrying capacity of the environment to repair or replace itself, it creates a serious problem of environmental degradation. While efforts are being made at the national and international level to protect our environment, it is also the responsibility of every citizen to use our environmental resources with care and protect them from degradation [3]. With this backdrop in mind the present study was conducted to assess

the extent of awareness about the environment issue and pollution among the students.

Research Methodology

The study was conducted in the Community Development Block, Chanchoda in the Guna District of Madhya Pradesh. There were 19 Govt. high schools and 15 private high schools in the Chanchoda block. Out of these, six schools were selected in which three were Govt. high school and three were private high schools. Students registered for 9th and 10th standard at the six selected schools in the academic year 2011-12 were considered for the purpose of study. There were a total of 957 students in all the six schools. A sample size of 125 students was selected by applying stratified proportionate random sampling technique. Data were collected through questionnaire and were statistically analyzed.

Results and Discussion

Level of Students Awareness: 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.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents according to level of environmental awareness

Awareness (score)	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Low level awareness (0-8)	23	18.4
Medium level awareness (9-14)	77	61.6
High level awareness (15-20)	25	20.0
Total	125	100

Mean= 11.28; S.D. =3.18

The findings presented in Table 1 and Fig.1 revealed that majority (61.6 %) of the students had medium level of awareness, 20% students had high level of awareness and 18.4% had low level of awareness about environment. This finding is in line with the findings reported [4].

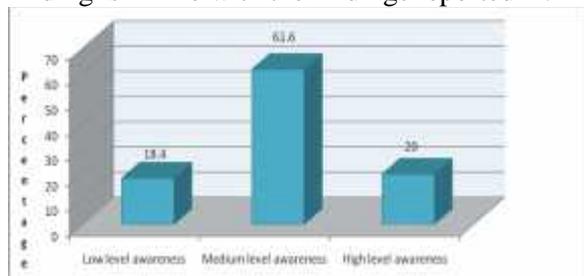


Fig.1: Distribution of respondents according to level of environmental awareness

Students Awareness about Environmental Issues and its Pollution: The findings related to students Awareness about Environmental Issues and its pollution has been presented in Table 2 and Fig. 2. Which is the most energy efficient electrical device in your home (?) was correctly

Table 2: Students Awareness about Environmental Issues and its pollution

Code	Questions in the awareness test	Students having awareness	
		Frequency	%
Q.1	What is Ecosystem?	73	58
Q.2	What is Environment pollution?	79	63
Q.3	Causes of environmental pollution	76	60.8
Q.4	Causes of air pollution	85	68
Q.5	Control measures of air pollution	67	53.4
Q.6	Source of river water pollution	80	64
Q.7	Control measure of water pollution	71	56.8
Q.8	Causes of noise pollution	60	48
Q.9	Control measure of noise pollution	69	55
Q.10	Causes of soil pollution	65	52
Q.11	Control measure of soil pollution	54	43
Q.12	Causes of Ozone depletion	66	52.8
Q.13	Status of Ozone layer today	63	50.4
Q.14	Advantages of Ozone layer	76	60.8
Q.15	Causes of global warming	72	57.6
Q.16	Effects of global warming	67	53.6
Q.17	'Water harvesting' means.	56	44.8
Q.18	Which sector is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases?	62	49.6
Q.19	Which resource is renewable?	84	67
Q.20	Which is the most energy efficient electrical device in your home?	94	75

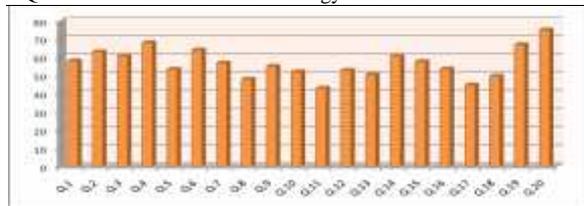


Fig.2: Students Awareness about Environmental Issues and its pollution

Conclusion: The present study reveals that majority of the students had medium level of awareness about environmental issues and pollution. Pollution became a popular issue due to Global warming, Green house effect and ozone depletion etc. To protect and conserve the Environment, emphasis should be given to

answered by the majority (75%) of the respondents. More than 60 per cent respondents correctly answered the questions such as What is Environment pollution?, Causes of environmental pollution, Causes of air pollution, Source of river water pollution, Advantages of Ozone layer, and which resource is renewable? More than 50 per cent respondents correctly answered the questions viz. What is Ecosystem? Control measures of air pollution, Control measure of water pollution, Control measure of noise pollution, Causes of soil pollution, Causes of Ozone depletion, Status of Ozone layer today, Causes of global warming, and effects of global warming. However, questions like Causes of noise pollution, Control measure of soil pollution, 'Water harvesting' means, Which sector is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases(?) were correctly answered by less than 50 per cent of the respondents.

Environmental Education in both formal and non-formal system of education.

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