



Short Communication

# Environmental attitude study of secondary school students of Gwalior region, India

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## Abstract

This study was conducted to compare the level of environmental attitude among secondary school students of rural and urban area of Gwalior region of Madhya Pradesh (India). Attitude data of 800 students comprising of rural and urban category schools was collected according to the 'Environmental Attitude Scale' developed by Dr. NN Srivastava and Ku. Shashi Prabha Dubey. The results revealed that urban area students have more positively biased attitude towards the environment than rural area students. Further, the girls were observed to be having higher environmental attitude level than that of boys.

**Keywords:** Environmental attitude, rural, urban, environmental degradation, pollution.

## Introduction

The major problem of our present world is environmental degradation due to various types of pollution effects. Also, natural resources are getting rapidly depleted due to excessive and uncontrolled usage by mankind.

It is our foremost duty to conserve the environment and natural resources not only for our benefit but for future generations. To have successful conservation and rehabilitation of the environment, we need environmentally sensitive and aware people. Students are our future so their role in this domain is very important.

Their awareness about environment can yield positive results to counter the environmental degradation problems. It becomes pertinent to assess their environmental attitude and take steps to improve it at all levels of learning - be it classroom learning or otherwise<sup>1,2</sup>. The researcher has been guided by this above mentioned principle to assess the level of environmental attitude among secondary school students of Gwalior region<sup>3,4</sup>.

**Objectives:** The main objectives of the study are to study the environmental attitude level of secondary school students, to compare the environmental attitude among rural and urban secondary school students and to compare the environmental attitude among secondary school boys and girls.

**Hypothesis:** To achieve the intended objectives of this study, two basic hypothesis are raised which are 'there is no significant difference in the environmental attitude of rural and urban secondary school students' and 'there is no significant difference in the environmental attitude of boys and girls of secondary schools'.

## Methodology

Present study was conducted on 800 students of 9<sup>th</sup> class from different government and private schools of Gwalior region (Madhya Pradesh). Simple random sampling technique was used to collect the sample.

**Tools used in the study:** 'Environmental Attitude Scale' developed by Dr. NN Srivastava and Ku. Shashi Prabha Dubey (Reliability: 0.78; Validity: 0.75) of Arohi Manovigyan Kendra, Jabalpur has been used to collect the environmental attitude data<sup>5</sup>.

**Statistical technique:** Statistical techniques used for the calculation and interpretation of collected data are Mean, Standard Deviation and Z-test<sup>6</sup>.

## Results and discussion

Table-1 shows the mean scores of environmental attitude of the students.

**Table-1:** Mean Score.

Sample Size	Evaluation Marks	Mean	Percentage
800	80	61.16	76.45

Table-2 shows the comparison of environmental attitude level of rural and urban area secondary schools students. The mean environmental attitude level of rural area students was 60.025 and of urban area students was 62.018. The Z-value obtained was 1.844 which is not significant at 0.05 levels ( $\alpha$  level).

**Table-2:** Mean Score Rural Vs Urban.

Students	Sample Size	Mean	Standard Deviation	Z-Value	Significance Level
Rural	400	60.025	22.303	1.844	Not Significant at 0.05 level ( $\alpha$ level)
Urban	400	62.018	10.358		

**Table-3:** Mean Score Boys Vs Girls.

Students	Sample Size	Mean	Standard Deviation	Z-Value	Significance Level
Boys	400	60.30	10.977	2.286	Significant at 0.05 level ( $\alpha$ level)
Girls	400	62.018	10.263		

This means that type of area does not have significant impact on the environmental attitude level of students. The result shows that the rural as well as urban area students have similar level of environmental attitude. Hence, hypothesis-1 that there is no significant difference in the environmental attitude of rural and urban secondary school students is sustained.

Table-3 shows the comparison of environmental attitude level among boys and girls of secondary schools students. The mean environmental attitude levels of boys were 60.30 and of girls were 62.018. The Z-value obtained was 2.286 which is significant at 0.05 levels ( $\alpha$  level). This means that gender has significant impact on the environmental attitude of students. The result shows that girls are more oriented towards environment than boys. Hence, hypothesis-2 that there is no significant difference in the environmental attitude of boys and girls of secondary school students is rejected.

**Suggestions:** Based on the results obtained, certain suggestions are made for improving the environmental attitude levels of students at secondary school level. It is suggested that environmental education should be compulsorily included in school curriculum at all levels and emphasis should be laid on making the child sensitive towards environment. Govt as well as school administration should encourage and promote programs like Tree Plantation drives, teaching in natural surroundings, Van Mahotsav, environmental related midterm projects, etc<sup>3</sup>. Also, various types of awareness campaigns like observing World Environment Day, No Tobacco Day, Poster making competition etc. should be observed to shape the environmental attitude of students<sup>7</sup>.

### Conclusion

The present study has investigated the environmental attitude of secondary school students of Gwalior region. The students were observed to be having adequate environmental attitude level.

Further, no significant impact of area is observed on the attitude levels of students. This could be due to adequate reach of mass communication media in both type of areas i.e. urban area than rural area. However, gap exists in attitude level when students were compared gender wise. Girl students were found more environmentally oriented than boys.

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