

Awareness of Environment among Traditional and Professional Undergraduate Students of Mawana Region (Meerut)

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Abstract—In this study, the investigators have investigated the awareness of environment in undergraduate students of traditional and professional courses with reference to academics, gender and their background (rural or urban). The samples consist of 200 students of traditional and professional students of Mawana Tehsil. Considering the above selected parameters EAAM (Environment Awareness Ability Measure) developed by Praveen K. Jha is used to estimate awareness of environment. This tool contain 51 items especially emphasizing on five components i.e causes of pollution, conservation of soil, forest, air, conservation of human health, energy conservation, conservation of wild life and animal husbandry. The data collected was processed for statically analysis through t-test using SPSS. The study showed that students belonging to professional courses are more aware about the environment problem. In the end, the study shows that there is influence of academics, gender and their background on the level of student awareness towards environment.

Keywords: Environment; Awareness; Traditional Courses; Professional Courses.

1. INTRODUCTION

The rapid degradation of the environmental awareness among students is of great concern. The explosion of population has worsened the situation. Lack of environmental awareness regarding the preservation of the species and culture and conservation of the forest are responsible for the degradation of the environment procurement at grass root level. If this continues, the human civilization will face disastrous situation. Previous studies regarding environmental awareness have been conducted on elementary or secondary students, with fewer studies on university and college level students (Leeming et al., 1993; McMillan et al., 2004). Faculty at colleges and universities have developed curriculum regarding environmental issues. For instance, the interdisciplinary minor of Environmental Studies at UW-L was established in 1994 (K. Maly, personal communication, 2005). This study explored the impact of a college course in environmental issues on student attitudes and behaviors.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To study the level of awareness towards environment of traditional and professional course undergraduate students.
2. To study the significant difference between undergraduate male and female students regarding awareness towards environment.
3. To study the significant difference of awareness toward environment between traditional and professional course undergraduate students belongs to different background (rural and urban).
4. To study the significant difference of awareness toward environment between traditional and professional course undergraduate students belongs to different academic streams (science and arts).

3. METHODOLOGY

Descriptive method is used for the study. For the collection of data of undergraduate students of awareness towards environment Quantitative method is used.

4. SAMPLE

200 undergraduate students sample is used, in which separately 100 Professional course student of undergraduate and 100 Traditional course students of undergraduate classes of Mawana tehsil/ region is used. These students were from Women College, Co-ed colleges, engineering colleges and various arts and science colleges of Mawana Tehsil were used to collect the data.

5. TOOL

Praveen .K. Jha tool for Environmental Awareness Ability Measure (EAAM). This tool measures the awareness towards environment. This tool contain 51 items especially

emphasizing on five components i.e cause of pollution, conservation of soil, forest, air, conservation of human health, energy conservation, conservation of wild life and animal husbandry.

6. ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

The present study is to measure the awareness of undergraduate students of traditional and professional courses of Mawana tehsil towards environment. This study examines the awareness towards environment of undergraduate students on the basis of gender, background and academic stream. In this study t-test is applied to find out the difference in the degree of awareness towards environment of the undergraduate students.

7. DISCUSSION

On the basis of the collection of data made by the investigator following results are obtained which are discussed below.

Table I: Showing percentage of UG students falling under different level of awareness towards environment.

Courses	Number	High (40-51)	Moderate (21-39)	Low (0-20)
Traditional	100	60(60%)	35(35%)	5(5%)
Professional	100	80(80%)	20(20%)	0(0%)
Total	200	140	55	5

As observed from the table I that Out of 100 undergraduate students in Professional course 80% students i.e 80 students have high awareness towards environment. However 20% of students i.e 20 students have moderate awareness towards environment. Among undergraduate professional course student none of them was found to be in low category.

Out of 100 undergraduate students in Traditional course 60% students i.e 60 students have high awareness towards environment. However 35% of students i.e 35 students have moderate awareness towards environment. Among undergraduate traditional course student 5% i.e 05 of them is found in low category.

From the above result we can analyze that traditional course undergraduate students are less aware towards environment than professional course undergraduate students.

Table II: Mean and standard deviation scores of traditional course and Professional undergraduate students regarding their gender towards awareness of environment.

Group	Number	Mean	S.D	T value
Male	100	36.25	9.786	8.37
Female	100	45	2.949	
Total	200			

Table III: Mean and standard deviation scores of traditional course and Professional undergraduate students regarding their gender towards awareness of environment.

Courses	Group	Number	Mean	S.D	T value
Traditional	Male	50	30.9	6.97	11.47
	Female	50	42.6	1.854	
Professional	Male	50	41.6	9.42	3.12
	Female	50	47.4	2.034	
Total		200			

As observed from the table II, when a generally data of male and Female of the undergraduate classes was collected in respect of whether students belong to traditional course or professional course it is found that the t value is 8.37 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It is seen that Female are more aware towards environment than Male.

As observed from the table III, when traditional courses undergraduate male and female students are compared of the awareness towards environment, the t value is 11.47 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It is observed that traditional courses undergraduate female are more aware towards environment than Male.

As observed from the table III, when professional courses undergraduate male and female students are compared of the awareness towards environment, the t value is 3.12 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It is observed that professional courses undergraduate female are more aware towards environment than Male.

So it is evident from the above observation that either generally or course wise it is seen that Female undergraduate students are more aware towards environment than male undergraduate students.

Table IV: Mean and standard deviation scores of Traditional and Professional undergraduate students regarding their background.

TRADITIONAL COURSE				PROFESSIONAL COURSE			
Backgr ound	Num ber	Mean	S .D	Numbe r	Mean	S.D	t-value
Rural	40	27.87	6.727	40	39.5	7.632	7.23
Urban	60	42.66	1.105	60	47.83	2.15	7.27
Total	100			100			

As observed from the table IV, when Rural traditional courses undergraduate students are compared to Rural professional undergraduate students of the awareness towards environment, the t value is 7.23 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It is observed that Rural traditional courses undergraduate students are less aware towards environment than Rural professional courses undergraduate students.

As observed from the table IV, when Urban traditional courses undergraduate students are compared to Urban professional undergraduate students of the awareness towards environment, the t value is 7.27 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It is observed that Urban traditional courses undergraduate students are less aware towards environment than Urban professional courses undergraduate students.

Table V: Mean and standard deviation scores of undergraduate students regarding their Academic stream i.e. between Arts and Science.

TRADITIONAL COURSE				PROFESSIONAL COURSE			
Academics	Number	Mean	S.D	Number	Mean	S.D	t-value
Science	65	41.23	5.086	65	48	2.14	9.886
Arts	35	28.42	7.02	35	38	6.97	6.232
Total	100			100			

As observed from the table V, when Science traditional courses undergraduate students are compared to Science professional undergraduate students of the awareness towards environment, the t value is 9.886 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It is observed that Science traditional courses undergraduate students are less aware towards environment than Science professional courses undergraduate students.

As observed from the table V, when Arts traditional courses undergraduate students are compared to Arts professional undergraduate students of the awareness towards environment, the t value is 6.232 which is significant at 0.05 level of confidence. It is observed that Arts traditional courses undergraduate students are less aware towards environment than Arts professional courses undergraduate students.

8. CONCLUSION

Based on the surveyed data and analysis of the present study, following conclusion are drawn-

1. The professional course undergraduate students are more aware towards environment than the traditional course undergraduate students.
2. Overall undergraduate female students are more aware towards environment than the male undergraduate students. In traditional course undergraduate students also female are more aware than male towards environment. In professional course undergraduate students also female are more aware than male towards environment.
3. Both Rural and Urban Professional course undergraduate students are more aware towards environment than Rural and Urban Traditional course undergraduate students.
4. Both Science and Arts Professional course undergraduate students are more aware towards environment than Science and Arts Traditional course undergraduate students.

9. IMPLICATIONS

Education is a great tool to educate students but to live in this ever changing world we need a clean environment to sustain. Educating our young students will improve our culture and environment. UGC is now a day is emphasizing on the awareness of environment among students mainly at the level of undergraduate. It has been made mandatory for every undergraduate student to study environment according to its new circular. So this study implicates that –

1. As the girls are more aware towards environment at all level. Male should get extra education on environment not only in college but also at house level i.e emphasis should be on male than female.
2. As the Rural and Urban Professional course undergraduate students are more aware towards environment than Rural and Urban traditional course undergraduate students. Therefore more emphasis should be on Rural and Urban traditional course undergraduate students. Extra efforts should be made at college level to make them more aware.
3. As the Science and Arts Professional course undergraduate students are more aware towards environment than Science and Arts traditional course undergraduate students. Therefore more emphasis should be on Science and Arts traditional course undergraduate students. Extra efforts should be made at college level to make them more aware.

Overall it seems that Professional course undergraduate students are more aware towards environment either on the basis of gender, background, academics than Traditional course undergraduate students.

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