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Environmental Awareness in Female Secondary School Teachers of Private Schools in Bahraich City

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Abstract

The present paper aims to study the environmental awareness in female secondary school teachers of private schools in Bahraich City. The entire study is based on the primary data collected by the researcher through surveys of the female secondary teachers of eight private schools of Bahraich city. T test, Karl Pearson Co-relation and Student T test are used to analyse the data. From the results it has been found that environmental awareness in female secondary school teachers of private schools is affected by their stream (Science, So. Science and Arts) and their socio-economic status (High and Low). Science teachers have shown more environmental awareness than Social Science and Arts Teachers. Similarly private female secondary teacher of better socio-economic status may have more environmental awareness than the female secondary school teachers with low socio-economic status

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1.1 Introduction

Awareness shapes a hierarchy of values, and at the same time has an influence on the sense of responsibility for inappropriate choice of values and indifference towards wrongdoing. Public awareness of the environment means the ability to emotionally understand the surrounding world, including the laws of the natural environment, sensitivity to all the changes occurring in the environment, understanding of cause-and-effect relationships between the quality of the environment and human behaviour, an understanding of how the environment works as a system, and a sense of responsibility for the common heritage of the Earth, such as natural resources - with the aim of preserving them for future generations. <http://www.unep.or.jp/ietc/Publications/techpublications/TechPub-11/4-2-1.asp>

These days a section of society is becoming conscious about depleting resources, deteriorating standards of life due to ever increasing serious problems of environmental degradation, poverty, population and illiteracy, however, still a large section of our society has a very low awareness of the problems of the environment. Thus the need of creating mass awareness about the environmental problems is felt by all including those concerned with education. Teachers being an important organ of education, can provide a vital link in the delivery of environmental knowledge, its associated problems and their solutions. The selection of the secondary school teachers can be justified from the fact that they can develop a positive attitude in the secondary school students in this psychologically crucial stage towards the appreciation of different environmental problems. The knowledge acquired during school education and then systematically improved in adulthood, is an essential factor in heightening the environmental awareness of an individual and, at the same time, an indispensable condition for the development of a pro-ecological lifestyle. Most of studies on the environmental awareness of secondary school students has been done gender-wise (Vijayan, 2006) residence-wise (Pande, 2007), (Prateek, 1998), Subjectwise (Pradhan, 2002). But perhaps no such study done on secondary school teachers of the educationally most backward district of Uttar Pradesh i.e., Bahraich.

1.2 Objectives

The present research paper aims at:

- Studying Environmental awareness among the private secondary school teachers.
- Establishing a relationship between environmental awareness of female secondary school teachers of private school with their subject of teaching.
- Studying the influence of socio-economic status of private female secondary school teachers on the level of their environmental awareness.

1.3 Hypotheses

The present paper has been under taken with the following hypotheses:

- The private female secondary school teachers of Science group do not differ significantly on environmental awareness in comparison to female secondary school teacher of Arts group.
- The private female secondary school teachers of Science group do not differ significantly on environmental awareness in comparison to female secondary school teacher of Social Science group.
- The private female secondary school teachers of Social Science group do not differ significantly on environmental awareness in comparison to female secondary school teacher of Arts group.
- The private female secondary school teachers belonging to high socio-economic status differ significantly on environmental awareness in comparison to female secondary school teacher belonging to low socio-economic status.

1.4 Data Base and Methodology

For carrying out the present paper the investigator found satisfactory tool available for measuring the environmental awareness of the female school teachers of the private schools. Therefore, the investigator has used the questionnaire for measuring environmental awareness in female secondary school teachers of private schools in Bahraich City. This questionnaire was distributed among the female secondary school teachers of the schools mentioned in the Table 1

T Ratio

In order to find out the differences in the degree of environmental awareness of the selected sample on the basis of the subject area and socio-economic status t ratio has been used.

1.5 Results and Interpretations

Table 1 The School-wise Distribution of Sample of Female Teachers

S.No	Name of the School	No. of Female Teachers
1	Budhdha Public School (Senior Wing)	12
2	Pioneer Public School	15
3	Saint Norbert School	16
4	Seventh Day Adventist School	12
5	Bal Shiksha Niketan Public School	10
6	Barrows Blue Bells Public School	11
7	Sir Sayyad Public School	11
8	Morning Star Missionary School	13
9	Total	100

Table: 2 Environmental Awareness of Female Secondary School Teachers of Private Schools of Science and Arts Group

S.N	Total Size	Group	Mean Value	S.D	'T'Value
1	70	Science	51.833	5.24	4.81*

2	35	Arts	45.299	5.07	
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*Significance at 5 per cent Level

As shown in the table 2 the 't' value of 4.81 is significant at 5 per cent level of confidence. This gives a clear indication that there exist a significant difference in environmental awareness between female secondary school teachers of private schools of science group and female secondary school teachers of private schools of Arts group. Further, in-depth investigation leads to conclude that female secondary school teachers of private schools of science group are more aware of environment than female secondary school teachers of private schools of Arts group, as the mean value, M1=51.833 is greater than the mean value, M2= 45.299. Hence, the Hypothesis Ho. 1 stands rejected.

Table: 3 Environmental Awareness of Female Secondary School Teachers of Private Schools of Science and Social Science Group

S.N	Total Size	Group	Mean Value	S.D	'T'Value
1	70	Science	51.833	5.24	3.62*
2	45	Social Science	48.306	4.73	

*Significance at 5 per cent Level

As mentioned in the table 3 that the 't' value, $t = 3.62$ is significant at 5 per cent level of confidence. This gives a clear indication that there exists a significant difference in environmental awareness between female secondary school teachers of private schools of science group and female secondary school teachers of private schools of Social Science group.

Further, it is found that female secondary school teachers of private schools of science group are more aware of environment than female secondary school teachers of private schools of Arts group, as the mean value, M1=51.833 is greater than the mean value, M2= 48.306 Hence, the Hypothesis Ho. 2 stands rejected.

Table: 4 Environmental Awareness of Female Secondary School Teachers of Private Schools of Social Science and Arts Group

S.N	Total Size	Group	Mean Value	S.D	'T'Value
1	45	Social Science	48.306	4.73	2.31*
2	35	Arts	45.299	5.07	

*Significance at 5 per cent Level
While comparing

environmental awareness in female secondary school teachers of private schools of Social Science group with their counterparts in Arts group the 't' value of $t = 2.31$ is significant at 5 per cent level of confidence. This gives a clear indication that there exist, a significant difference in Environmental Awareness between female secondary school teachers of private schools of Social science group and female secondary school teachers of private schools of Arts group.

Further, in-depth investigation leads to conclude that female secondary school teachers of private schools of Social Science group are more aware of environment than female secondary school teachers of private schools of Arts group, as the mean value, M1=48.306 is greater than the mean value, M2= 45.299. Hence, the Hypothesis Ho. 3 also stands rejected.

Here, the subject area is the main reason of difference. Since the very beginning of their careers that is, in the high school and at intermediate level, the Science teachers have studied about concepts of environment like environmental pollution, ecosystem, ecological balance, food chain, biosphere and other topics related to environment and its problems. Thus their understanding of the environmental issues is much higher than their counterparts in Arts and Social Science stream. Similar results were observed by (Verma, 2006)

Table: 5 Environmental Awareness of Female Secondary School Teachers of Private Schools of High Socio-economic Status Group and Low Socio-economic Status Group

S.N	Total Size	Group	Mean Value	S.D	'T'Value
1	85	High SES	44.678	4.73	.37*
2	65	Low SES	44.299	5.07	

*Significance at 5 per cent Level When a

comparison is made between the females of high and low socio-economic status on environmental awareness, it is found that these two groups do not differ significantly (Table 4). Their mean values, M1= 44.678 and M2=44.299 show negligible difference. The 't' value $t = 0.37$ was also non significant at both the levels. Hence, the Hypothesis Ho. 4 stands rejected.

Thus socio-economic status of the female secondary school teachers of private schools do not have any impact on their environmental Awareness.

1.6 Conclusions

A significant difference is observed in the environmental awareness of female secondary school teacher of science of private schools and secondary teacher of social science and Arts groups of private schools. The teachers of science group are more aware than the Social science teachers, that is followed by the teachers of Arts group. However, no significant difference is observed in the environmental awareness of female secondary school teacher of high socio-economic status of private schools and secondary teacher of low socio-economic status of private schools. Thus, socio-economic status of female teachers of private schools does not make any difference their levels of environmental awareness.

1.7 References

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