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RESEARCH ARTICLE

AN ANALYSIS OF THE HIGHER SECONDARY STUDENTS' INVOLVEMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL MOVEMENTS

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ABSTRACT

The study was intended to find out the higher secondary students' involvement in environmental movements in Virudhachalam Educational District. Random Sampling Technique was used to compose a sample of 1000 higher secondary students. Mean, Standard Deviation, t- value, F-value, and r- value were calculated for the analysis of data. The result revealed that the location of the school and the type of family had no significant difference but gender, subject group, and type of management exhibited significant difference in respect of higher secondary students' involvement in environmental movements.

INTRODUCTION

The environmental movement is a movement for addressing environmental issues. To follow or to take part in environmental movements is known as involvement in environmental movements. The involvement in environmental movement is broad in scope and can include any topic related to the environment, conservation, and biology, as well as preservation of landscapes, flora, and fauna for a variety of purposes and uses. Environmental conservation is the process in which one is involved in conserving the natural aspects of the environment. The environmental movement is represented by a range of organizations, from the large to grassroots. The movement includes school students, private citizens, professionals, religious devotees, politicians, and extremists. The present study mainly focused on the involvement of higher secondary students in environmental movements.

Statement of the problem

The problem for the present study is entitled as, "An analysis of the higher secondary students' involvement in environmental movements".

Objectives of the study

1. To study the significance of the difference in respect of higher secondary students' involvement in environmental movements if any between the sub samples with regard to

   a. Gender
   b. Location of the school
   c. Type of family
   d. Subject group
   e. Type of school management

2. To study the significant relationship if any between environmental knowledge and involvement in environmental movements of higher secondary students.

Hypotheses of the study

1. There is no significant difference in the involvement in environmental movements of higher secondary students between the following sub samples.

   a. Gender
   b. Location of the school
   c. Type of family
   d. Subject group
   e. Type of school management

2. There is no significant relationship between environmental knowledge and involvement in environmental movements of higher secondary students.

METHODOLOGY

Normative Survey Method has been used in the study.

Tools used

Involvement in Environmental Movements Scale for higher secondary students was constructed and validated by the investigator (2009) was used in the present study.

Sample of the study

Using random selection, 1000 Higher secondary students from virudachalam educational district were selected for the present study.

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Statistical technique used

Descriptive analysis, Differential analysis and Correlation analysis were used in the present study to test the hypotheses and interpret the data.

Null hypothesis

There is no significant relationship between environmental knowledge and involvement in environmental movements of the higher secondary students. The correlation co-efficient(r) between

Table 1. Significance difference in the sub-samples of Higher Secondary Students' involvement in environmental movements – Gender , Location of the school and Type of family

Variable	Sub sample	N	Mean	SD	t Test	Level of significance
Gender	Male	497	27.24	4.74	2.93	Significant
	Female	503	28.10	4.60		at 0.01 level
Location of the school	Urban	467	27.42	4.63	1.60	Not significant
	Rural	533	27.89	4.73		at 0.05 level
Type of	Nuclear	736	27.53	4.70		Not significant
family	Joint	264	28.08	4.64	1.64	at 0.05 level

Table 2. Significance difference in the sub-samples of Higher Secondary Students' participation in environmental activities – Subject group and Type of management

Variable	Sources of variation	Sum of squares	df	Mean square	F Value	Level of significance
Subject group	Between groups	219.18	2	109.59	5.03	Significant
	Within groups	21717.58	997	21.78		at 0.01 level
	Total	21936.76	999			
Type of management	Between groups	353.51	2	176.75	8.17	Significant
	Within groups	21583.25	997	21.65		at 0.01 level
	Total	21936.76	999			

Table 3. Correlation co-efficient between Environmental Knowledge and involvement in environmental movements

Variables	N	'r' Value	Inference
Environmental knowledge Involvement in environmental movements	1000	0.320	Significant at 0.01 level

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

In order to check the null hypothesis with respect to gender, the t- test was employed. The mean of male higher secondary students (N=497) is found to be 27.24 with a SD of 4.74. The mean of female higher secondary students (N=503) is found to be 28.10 with a SD of 4.60. The computed t value is 2.93 which is significant at 0.01 level. Since the calculated t- value is higher than the tabulated t- value, the hypothesis no.1a is rejected. In order to check the null hypothesis with respect to location of the school, the t- test was employed. The mean of urban school higher secondary students (N=467) is found to be 27.42 with a SD of 4.63. The mean of rural school higher secondary students (N=533) is found to be 27.89 with a SD of 4.73. The computed t value is 1.60 which is not significant at 0.05 level. Since the calculated t- value is lesser than the tabulated t- value, the hypothesis no.1b is accepted. In order to check the null hypothesis with respect to type of family, the t- test was employed. The mean of nuclear family higher secondary students (N=736) is found to be 27.53 with a SD of 4.70. The mean of joint family higher secondary students (N=264) is found to be 28.08 with a SD of 4.64. The computed t value is 1.64 which is not significant at 0.05 level. Since the calculated t- value is lesser than the tabulated t- value, the hypothesis no.1c is accepted. In order to check the null hypothesis with respect to subject group, the F test was made. The F value is found to be 5.03 which is significant at 0.01 level for (2, 997) dfs. It denotes that there is significant difference among the higher secondary students who belongs to different subject group with respect to their involvement in environmental movements. The null hypothesis no.1d is rejected. In order to check the null hypothesis with respect to the type of management, the F test was made. The F value is found to be 8.17 which is significant at 0.01 level for (2, 997) dfs. It denotes that there is significant difference among the higher secondary students who belongs to different type of management with respect to their involvement in environmental movements. The null hypothesis no.1e is rejected.

environmental knowledge and involvement in environmental movements is found to be 0.320 for the sample of 1000 of higher secondary students. It is higher than the table value of 0.081 at 0.01 level. It is concluded that there is significant relationship between environmental knowledge and involvement in environmental movements of higher secondary students. Hence the null hypothesis no.2 is rejected.

Major findings of the study

1. The male and female higher secondary students differ significantly in their involvement in environmental movements.
2. The urban and rural school higher secondary students do not differ significantly in their involvement in environmental movements.
3. The higher secondary students belonging from nuclear and joint family do not differ significantly in their involvement in environmental movements.
4. There is significant difference among the higher secondary students who belongs to different subject group with respect to their involvement in environmental movements.
5. There is significant difference among the higher secondary students who belongs to different type of school management with respect to their involvement in environmental movements.
6. There is significant relationship between environmental knowledge and involvement in environmental movements of higher secondary students.

Conclusion

To sum up, the following conclusions have been reached in the light of the present investigation. The location of the school and the type of family had no significant difference but gender, subject group, and type of management exhibited significant difference in respect of higher secondary students' involvement in environmental movements.

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