



# A Study of Environmental Awareness among Prospective Teachers in relation to their Gender and Locale

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**Abstract:** *The present paper is designed to investigate the environmental awareness among male and female prospective teachers from rural and urban area. This study was conducted on a sample of two hundred prospective teachers studying B.Ed. chosen at random from Distt. SBS Nagar. Jha (1998) environment awareness scale was used for assessing awareness among prospective teachers. t-test was used as statistical technique for analyzing the data. On comparing the scores of environment awareness between male and female prospective teachers and between rural and urban teachers, it was found that there exists no significant difference in their environment awareness.*

**Key words:** *Environment awareness, teachers.*

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## Introduction

Human beings cannot live without environment. Even we cannot imagine mankind existence without environment. Environment has become the concern for all individuals across the continents. We must know what our environment is and why we need our attention. Environmental conditions of our entire planet is deteriorating continuously and margins of any nation cannot limit the environmental problems to a particular region or country, but its results are comprehensive one (Sharma, 1998).

Environment means all around us derived from word 'Environ' or 'Environed' means 'around', 'round about' or 'to encompass'. Everything that surrounds us influences the growth or development is environment. It is a system which includes the interaction of flora and fauna. Earth's environment can be classified into natural environment and artificial environment. Natural environment includes biotic (plants, animals) and abiotic (air, water, soil) components while man-made environment includes social, cultural and economic environment.

The word awareness means 'having knowledge of'. Environmental awareness defined as to understand natural resources, in addition to its importance to help the community for sustainability. The meaning of environment awareness is to provide help in the societal groups and to persons to acquire a basic understanding of the environment and its related harms. Environment awareness is the need of hour as all the major resources of our planet are in grave danger. Environmental problems like worldwide warming of planet, ozone depletion, various types of pollution, hazardous radioactive pollution, and land degradation etc increasing with time (Sabri, 2004).

Education is a significant social instrument and mean, which act as a medium in improvement of different aspects of life and attitude attained help individuals to lead a preferred quality of life. In order to save our natural surroundings from decay and degradation, it is important to create environment awareness among people. At national as well as international level, all countries promote environment awareness and education through various government and other organizations.

## Review of Related Literature

Numerous studies have been reported by different researchers involving environment awareness, gender and locale. Vibha (2008) found in her study of awareness towards surroundings with reference to gender and type of schools, that girls have more environmental awareness than boys. But Tripathi (2002) found significant difference in gender with respect to awareness. The research concluded boys have more environmental awareness as compare to girls. Lata (2009) studied environmental awareness and attitude towards environment among students of high school and concluded with no significant difference in gender. Similarly, Bhatnagar (2012) concluded insignificant difference exists in awareness level in relation to gender variable in Haryana. Chetna (2009) studied students of rural area were more aware about environment in comparison to urban counterparts. Shahnawaj (1990) and Nagra (2007) found high level of awareness among teachers and students of urban area than in rural group.



## Emergence of the problem

The related analysis of literature demonstrates most of the research work has been done on student population. Few studies also found on awareness of teachers and prospective teachers. Only few studies have been found by investigator conducted on population of Punjab prospective teachers but could not locate any study related to locale on the variable of environment awareness among prospective teachers. The proposed study thus seems fully justified as it will assess the environmental awareness among prospective teachers in relation to their gender and locale

**Objectives:** To compare the mean scores of environmental awareness of i. male and female ii. rural and urban prospective teachers.

**Hypothesis:** There exists no significant difference in mean scores of environmental awareness of i. male and female prospective teachers' ii. rural and urban prospective teachers.

## Methodology

### Sample

Randomly selected two hundred prospective teachers studying B.Ed. course in rural and urban colleges of district SBS Nagar affiliated to G. N. D.U., Amritsar constituted sample of the study. Out of which, fifty females and fifty males were as of rural area and fifty females and fifty males were as of urban locale. Gender and locale of prospective teachers has been studied as independent variable and environment awareness as a dependent variable. 2 X 2 factorial design has been employed in the study.

### Tool

Jha (1998), environment awareness ability measure was used. The scale comprised of 51 statements divided into five dimensions related to environment awareness. The consistency of the scale be 0.74 as found by test re-test method and 0.61 as calculated by split half method. Face validity and content validity was determined. The scale consisted of 51 statements and each one has two alternate answers as agree and disagree categories. The respondent has to put a tick of his/ her choice after carefully reading the statement on allotted space. Each agreed item scored one mark (1) and every disagreed item scored zero mark (0) and the negative statements marked reversely.

### Procedure of Data Collection

In the present study, 200 prospective teachers randomly selected from rural and urban education colleges of SBS Nagar district. Then, environment awareness ability measure scale has been administered on the selected sample with prior permission of the principal of respective colleges. Instructions were given to the respondents as per manual. Respondents are free to take their time fill the answer sheet, but it absorbs approximately 12-15 minutes.

### Data Analysis

The data were evaluated with the help of mean (M), standard deviation (SD) and t- test statistics.

## Results and Interpretation

1. The first purpose was to compare mean scores of environmental awareness of male and female prospective teachers. The statistics recorded were analyzed by using independent sample t- test and the results shown in table 1.

**Table 1: Gender- wise M, SD, N and t- values of environmental awareness of prospective teachers**

<i>Gender</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t-ratio</i>	<i>Remark</i>
Male	100	39.30	5.64	1.32	p>0.05
Female	100	38.20	6.01		

From table 1, it can be viewed that the calculated t-value (t- ratio) is 1.32 which is insignificant at 0.05 level of significance with df = 198. It signifies the mean scores of environmental awareness of prospective male and female teachers did not differ significantly. Thus, the first null hypothesis is accepted.



- The second purpose was to compare mean scores of environmental awareness of rural and urban prospective teachers. The data was examined with the support of independent sample t-test and the outcomes are given in table 2.

**Table 2: Locale- wise M, SD, N and t- values of environmental awareness of prospective teachers**

Locale	N	M	SD	t- value	Remark
Rural	100	38.9	5.64	0.74	p>0.05
Urban	100	39.7	5.55		

As above in table 2, it can be observed that the t-value (t-ratio) is 0.74 and not significant at 0.05 level of significance with  $df = 198$ . It specifies that mean scores of environmental awareness of prospective rural and urban teachers did not differ significantly. Thus, the null hypothesis also accepted.

### Discussion

In view of above hypothesis 1, it was found that mean scores of environmental awareness of male and female prospective teachers did not differ significantly. This finding is supported by studies of Pardhan (2002) and Saha (2012) but contradicted by the findings of Nagra and Dhillon (2006) and Singh (2014).

In view of above hypothesis 2, it was found that mean scores of environmental awareness of rural and urban prospective teachers didn't differ significantly. This finding is in tuned with the results of Kumari (2003) and Akhtar (2009) but inconsistent with the studies of Nagra (2010).

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that various environment related activities like cleanliness drive, combined camps etc. are organized providing equal opportunity to both males and females to participate. All prospective teachers studied environment as a subject in their degree and, participation in various activities related to environment while doing B.Ed. course like NSS camp, seminars, environment rally, project work etc. organized in both rural and urban colleges providing similar learning experience could be the possible reason of the above results.

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