

# A Study on Identification of the Level of Environmental Ethics among Management Students of Bhilwara



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## Abstract

Change is inevitable and responding to the change is the need of the hour. Standing on the brink of technological revolution and seeing how it has altered the way we live our lives also instigate us to think and look at the gradual changes in environment. Growth fuelled by massive industrialization, technological adoption and integration of the whole world has been impressive. On the other hand, rapid urbanization, lack of public awareness and the environmental degradation are responsible for biodiversity loss. Hence it is important to identify the level of consciousness of individuals towards environment. The study aims to identify the reliability of the instrument used and to determine the level of environmental ethics among management students. To achieve the objective reliability test has been conducted and mean values have been used to identify the areas of ethical concerns. The present paper focuses on the level of consciousness among students who are the drivers of change and have the potential for accelerating the change in right direction.

**Keywords:** Environmental Ethics, Change, Students.

## Introduction

Environmental ethics is the study of various issues related to the rights of the individual with regard to the environment. It is the moral relationship of human beings with the environment. It deals with ecological rights of all creatures present today as well as those that will follow on the earth. Environmental ethics refer to the responsibility to understand the environmental consequence of our consumption and need to recognize our individual and social responsibility to conserve natural resources and protect the earth for future generation.

Every human being has the right of decent life, but today there are elements in our environment that tend to militate against the attainment and enjoyment of such a life. The exacerbation of the pollution of environment can cause untold misery. Unhappiness and suffering to human beings crop up, simply because of our lack of concern for the common good and the absence of sense of responsibility and ethics for sustaining a balanced eco-system. If we are to aspire to a better quality of life-one which will ensure freedom from disease and from fear itself, then we must all join hands to stanch the increasing toxification of this earth.

## Statement of the Problem

Environmental education helps in the maintenance of life and health, in self-preservation and in the safeguarding of human race as a whole. It makes a person cognizant about the environmental catastrophe and methods of averting it. It directs attention towards the diminishing natural resources, environmental pollution and the problem of population explosion. Even though chatting more about environmental education, ethical concern towards environment will give us the fruitful results, still we are anguish from the ethical dilemmas and ethical decision making in our life, when it draw closer to environment protection it is in receipt of the least concern, so this study is casing on the basis of this problem, strive to find out the ethical attitudes of people towards their environment. Observing the problem statement in mind, the following objectives are set for this study

## Objectives of the Study

1. To check the reliability of the scale in the present context.
2. To identify the areas of ethical concerns among students.

## Review of Literature

The studies have demonstrated differences in Environmental Ethics among students and teachers based on sex, age, geographic location, academic background and other factors (Van Liere & Dunlop, 1980; Gifford Hay, & Boros, 1982-1983; Roth & Perez, 1989; Schahn & Holzer, 1990) Many studies on environment have been conducted using student population (Hardy and Fox 1976; Ramsey et. Al. 1981; Jaus 1982). However, many feel that teachers have to make serious efforts at equipping the children with environmental sensitivity and act morally in each and every step of their life. Gifford Hay, & Boros, 1982-1983 found that males have more environmental knowledge than females where as females express more affect about environment than males. They also found that natural science students were more sensitive to their environment than social science students. Mathivanan & Pazhanivelu (2013) did not find any significant difference in environmental ethics of the students on the basis of sex, locality and streams but significant differences were found on the basis of type of school management. Uma P.V (2003) found that girl students possess more environmental ethics than boy students and urban students possess more environmental ethics than rural students and there is no significant difference between Tamil and English medium students with respect to Environmental Ethics. In most of the studies conducted in India as well as other parts of the world girl students were found to have higher degree of environmental ethics than boy students at all levels of education system. Anbarasi. E., Chaturvedi Rajesh Kumar., Dange, K Jaganath (2008) found that female students possess high degree of environmental ethics than male students. Raghuvansh Sujata (2008) found that the undergraduate girl students were more in accordance with environmental ethics than boy students. Sundaraselvan G (2006) found that environmental Ethics of higher secondary students is high. Kalaiperumal, S.(2005) found that female college students possess higher degree of environmental Ethics than boy students. Howe, Robert W. Designers, John F (1989) pointed out that major goal of Environmental Education is developing students with positive environmental actions. Research indicates that attitude and behaviour of an individual are frequently molded after the attitude and behaviour of others. Aper, Jeffery. P (1997) suggest that a broad ethical framework within which higher learning should be undertaken only through concerned activities related to inculcating Environmental ethics which are to be incorporated in the curriculum, so that ethical framework can definitely bring some ethical considerations towards the environment. Prayoon Wangachandra, winyoosata (2008) conducted an experimental study and found that female students in the experimental group indicated more environmental knowledge and environmental ethics than the male students. Dr. Indu Rathee, Dr. Pratima (2013) found significant difference in adults and adolescents with respect to their environmental ethics. Adults were found to have more

sensitivity towards their environment than the adolescents. Adults of both rural and urban area were found to score more on environmental ethics than adolescents. Adults of both urban and rural area were found to have same level of sensitivity towards their environment whereas adolescents of urban area showed more sensitivity than adolescents of rural area. Dr. Pratima (2015) found significant difference in teachers and students with respect to their environmental ethics. Teachers were found to have more sensitivity towards their environment than the students. In the same way male teachers were found to have more sensitivity towards their environment than the male students. Female teachers were also found to have more sensitivity towards their environment than the female students. But no significant difference was found between male and female teachers with respect to their sensitivity towards environment whereas female students were found to have more environmental ethics than male students. Yapici et. al (2017) identified the environmental attitude and perceived risks associated with environmental factors. The study was cross sectional in nature and was conducted with students. Females were found to be more positive towards environment. Difference of attitude was identified between different faculties of studies. The environmental attitudes and risk perception scores were higher in Health Sciences while it was suggested that Environmental awareness of students studying in the Social Sciences, should be increased.

## Research Design

In this study exploratory research design is used to identify the level of environmental ethics among the people who are living in Bhilwara and around areas. The level of environmental ethics is measured with the scale of Haseen Taj (TEAS scale). The questionnaire issued through online by Google forms, the full questionnaire is comprised of 6 constructs with 61 items, but for this study only 20 items have taken from 6 constructs. Likert 5 point scale was used to measure the level of environmental ethics (1-always to 5-never). After administered the questionnaire the data input given to SPSS, and it was analyzed to test the hypothesis and present the conclusion.

## Method of Data Collection

The primary data was collected from 86 students of Bhilwara. Secondary data was collected from magazines; online journals & internet were used for collecting updated information about Health literacy, and Simple random sampling method is adopted for this study.

## Tools for Data Analysis

(SPSS 21.0 used for analysis of the data.)

1. Qualitative analysis of various environmental ethics articles and literatures to find out the concepts, and scale items to measure the level of environmental ethics
2. Reliability test was conducted to check the reliability of the questionnaire.
3. Descriptive Statistics was used to identify the areas where students have shown greater concern.

**Analysis & Interpretation****Table 1: Reliability Analysis**

Reliability Statistics		
Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.724	.730	20

The result indicates that the Cronbach's alpha value for the 20 items in this study is 0.730. The closer the reliability coefficient gets to 1.0 will be better. Thus the internal consistency reliability of the measures used can be considered high.

**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics for Highlighting the Areas of Ethical Concerns**

Descriptive Statistics					
	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
FoodAdditives	86	1.00	5.00	3.6512	1.03773
Forest	86	1.00	5.00	3.9302	1.07146
Water Pollution	86	1.00	5.00	4.5116	.91708
Pesticides	86	2.00	5.00	4.0465	.94442
ToxicWaste	86	1.00	5.00	4.1512	1.07941
Fertilizer	86	1.00	5.00	3.6744	1.05654
Vehicles	86	1.00	5.00	3.9302	.89167
Layman	86	1.00	5.00	3.6279	.93364
Parking	86	1.00	5.00	3.6163	1.00784
Gasoline	86	1.00	5.00	3.4884	.99107
Plastic	86	1.00	5.00	3.9535	1.09445
Bicycle	86	1.00	5.00	3.8256	1.14985
Tax	86	1.00	5.00	3.7791	1.12094
Smoke	86	1.00	5.00	3.7558	1.00512
Population	86	1.00	5.00	3.8488	1.05738
PopulationControl	86	1.00	5.00	3.5116	1.04874
Responsibility	86	1.00	5.00	4.1279	.94304
CarryBags	86	2.00	5.00	4.3488	.69903
Complaint	86	1.00	5.00	4.2442	.89359
Windmills	86	2.00	5.00	4.0233	.81134
Valid N (listwise)	86				

**Finding**

The results indicated the following areas of environmental concerns. These issues have received higher level of concern.

1. Pesticides should not be sprayed on vegetables.
2. The industrial and toxic waste dumps located away from residential areas pose safety risks.
3. Water pollution is a serious problem.
4. Conservation of energy should be regarded as the responsibility of everyone.
5. Shop-keepers should stop handing out plastic carry-bags.
6. Every individual should complain against waste dumping whether it is near to their residences or far.

**Implications**

1. Early education on severe environmental issues, pollution, ethical thinking towards society will be helpful in realizing the same in student level rather realizing in later years.
2. Further studies can be followed for the overall Rajasthan state, or to conduct this study for textile company owners and employees or selecting the rural people for the study.

**Conclusion**

The study shows that the instrument is reliable and can be further used for similar studies. It was found that students are concerned about use of pesticides, waste disposal, water pollution, conservation of energy, use of plastic carry bags.

However, it also indicates that environmental awareness need to be increased for various environmental issues.

**Limitations and Future Scope**

1. Sample size can be increased and the study can be conducted with higher age groups also.
2. The study can be extended to study the attitude and behaviour for identifying the steps to be taken for propelling the youngsters in taking decisions that protect and conserve environment.

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