

Environmental Awareness among Undergraduate Students in Rural and Urban Area

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Abstract

A small study was conducted to know about the attitude and awareness of college going undergraduate students towards the environment. The study was conducted at Govt. colleges of rural and urban areas. Three colleges, Govt. College, Utai, Govt. College, Dondy Lohara and Govt. College, Dondy from Chattisgarh state were selected for the study. Govt. College, Utai is situated just in the vicinity of Durg city. Students studying in the college mostly belong to nearby small villages. Govt. College, Dondy Lohara and Govt. College, Dondy are situated in quite interior region much away from the city influence. Both the colleges belong to tribal area. From urban area Govt. V.Y.T.P.G. College, Durg was selected for study. Overall level of awareness was found to be average. Number of students with high level of awareness is found to be extremely low whereas number of students with low level of awareness is found to be fairly high.

Keywords: Environmental Awareness, Govt. College.

Introduction

Environmental education makes us able to assess environmental situation and the conditions leading to the environmental damage. It is must to keep our environment healthy. Environmental education is the part of curriculum in colleges of Chhattisgarh. Therefore a small study is conducted to know about the attitude and awareness of college going undergraduate students towards the environment. The study was conducted at Govt. Colleges. Three colleges, Govt. College, Utai, Govt. College, Dondy Lohara and Govt. College, Dondy were selected for the study. Govt. College, Utai is situated just in the vicinity of Durg city. Students studying in the college mostly belong to nearby small villages. Govt. College Dondy Lohara and Govt. College Dondy are situated in quite interior region much away from the city influence. Both the colleges belong to tribal area. From urban area Govt. V.Y.T.P.G. College, Durg, the largest and first 'A' grade college of Chhattisgarh (accredited by NACC) was selected for study.

Methodology

Random sampling was done. Total 400 (four hundred) undergraduate students of arts and science stream were assessed. A questionnaire containing 25 questions was given to fill-up to each one of them. Questions were aimed to assess the attitude awareness and knowledge about Govt. rules and works, Sources & effects of pollution, reducing the garbage & pollution, Changes in behavior due to pollution, Concern of the students about our environment. Each question carried one mark. Awareness about Govt. rules and works carried 04 points, awareness about Sources & effects of pollution were allotted 04 points, awareness about reducing the garbage & pollution were given 09 points, changes in behavior due to pollution carried 06 points and concern about our environment were given 02 points. Students were kept into three categories according to the points scored by them-High (75% and above score points), Average (score point from 50% to 74%) and Low (below 50% score point). Regarding statistical analysis mean and Standard deviation was calculated and t test was performed.

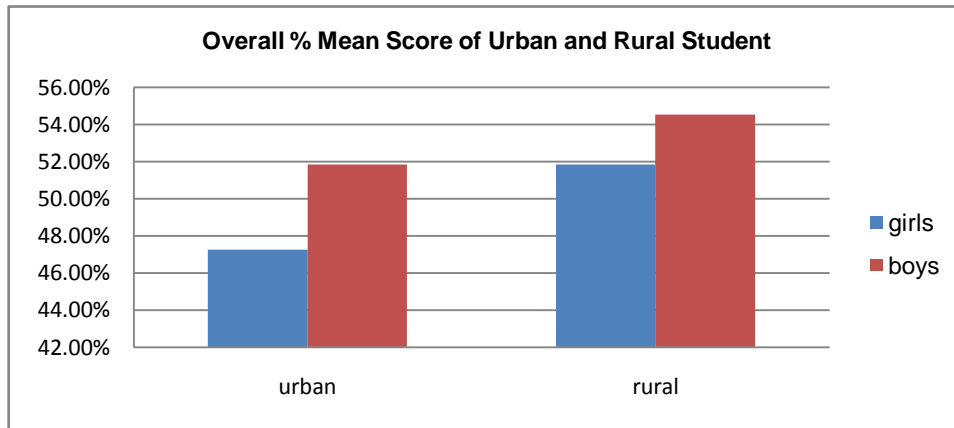
Results and Discussion

Over-all Results

Overall awareness was higher among rural student (Average score point 13.30, 53.20%) as compared to urban students (Average score point 12.35, 49.40%). Level of overall awareness was found to be average in rural students and low among urban students. Both girls and boys of rural area showed higher awareness than their urban counterparts.

Table: Mean Score of Urban And Rural Students

	Mean Score		S.D.		Overall Level	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
urban	11.81 (47.24%)	12.96 (51.84%)	± 3.49	± 3.29	Low	Average
rural	12.97 (51.84%)	13.63 (54.52%)	±3.220	±3.075	Average	Average



Graph: Overall % Mean Score of Urban and Rural Student

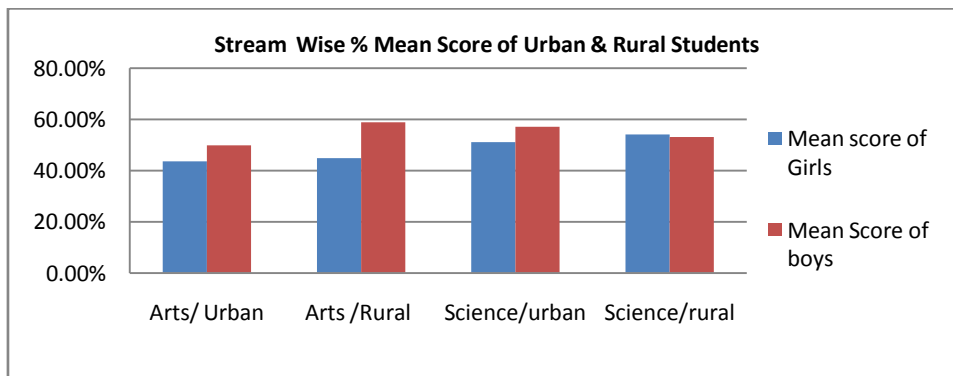
Stream-wise Result

Students of Science stream whether urban or rural showed more awareness than the arts students. Rural science girls showed better

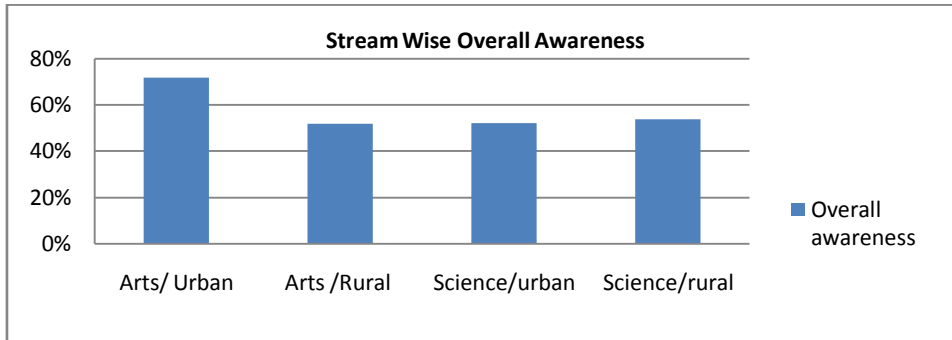
awareness than urban science girls but among boys result was just opposite. Rural arts girls as well as boys showed better awareness than urban arts girls and boys.

Table: Stream Wise Score of Urban and Rural Students

Faculty	Mean Score of Girls	S.D.	Level of Awareness	Mean Score of Boys	Std. Deviation	Level of Awareness	Overall Awareness
Arts/ Urban	10.89 (43.56%)	±3.63	Low	12.48 (49.92%)	± 3.22	Low	Low (11.68, 46.72%)
Arts /Rural	11.22 (44.88%)	±0.7	Low	14.72 (58.88%)	±2.4	Average	Average (12.97, 51.88%)
Science/urban	12.79 (51.16%)	±3.44	Average	14.3 (57.2%)	±3.25	Average	Average (13.05, 52.20%)
Science/rural	13.57 (54.28%)	±3.3	Average	13.32 (53.28%)	±3.2	Average	Average (13.45, 53.80%)



Graph: Stream Wise % Mean Score of Urban & Rural Students

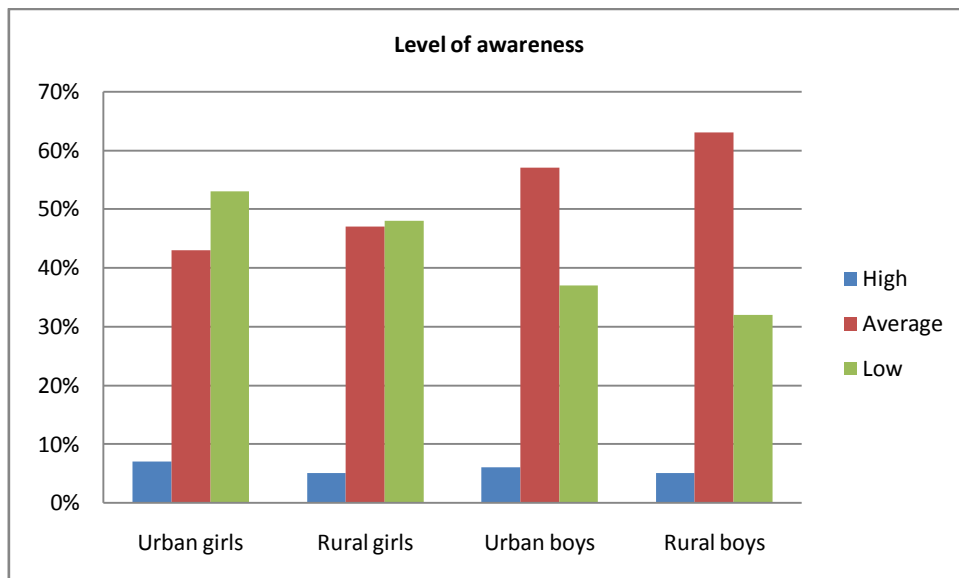


Graph: Stream Wise Overall Awareness of Urban and Rural Students of Arts and Science Faculty

Percentage of students showing high level of awareness (score point 75% or above) was quite low. Awareness among most of the students was of average level. A large number of students showed a low level of awareness.

Table: Level of Awareness among Urban and Rural Students

Level of Awareness	Urban Girls	Rural Girls	Urban Boys	Rural Boys
High	7%	5%	6%	5%
Average	43%	47%	57%	63%
Low	53%	48%	37%	32%

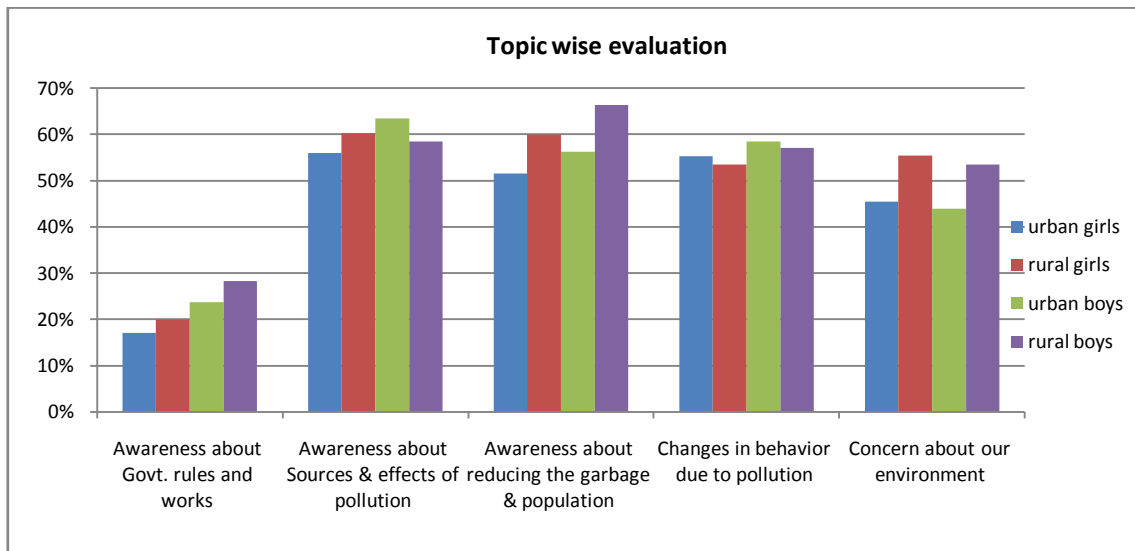


Graph: Level of Awareness among Urban and Rural Students

Results of Topic Wise Evaluation

Table: Topic Wise Evaluation of Urban and Rural Students

S. No.	Evaluation Topic		Mean Score (x)		S. D.		Level of awareness	
			Girls	boys	Girls	boys	Girls	Boys
1	Awareness about Govt. rules and works (Q. No 1.to 4)	Urban	0.68 (17%)	0.95 (23.75%)	± 0.80	± 0.78	Low	Low
		Rural	0.798 (19.95%)	1.13 (28.25%)	±0.653	±0.66	Low	low
2	Awareness about Sources & effects of pollution (Q. No. 6,7,8,9)	Urban	2.24 (56%)	2.54 (63.5%)	± 1.15	± 1.01	Low	Average
		Rural	2.41(60.25%)	2.34 (58.50%)	±1.130	±1.01	Average	average
3	Awareness about reducing the garbage & population (Q. No. 5 & 10 to 17)	Urban	4.64(51.55%)	5.06 (56.22%)	± 1.57	± 1.54	Low	Low
		Rural	5.39 (60%)	5.97 (66.33%)	±1.47	±1.38	Average	Average
4	Changes in behavior due to pollution (Q. No. 18 to 23)	Urban	3.32(55.33%)	3.51 (58.5%)	± 1.16	± 1.17	Low	Low
		Rural	3.21(53.5%)	3.43(57.16%)	±1.02	±1.43	Average	Average
5	Concern about our environment (Q. No. 24 & 25)	Urban	0.91(45.5%)	0.88 (44%)	± 0.82	± 0.74	Low	Low
		Rural	1.11 (55.50%)	1.07 (53.50%)	±0.74	±0.68	Average	Average



Graph: Topic Wise Evaluation of Urban and Rural Students

Least awareness was about the Govt. rules and works. Here also the rural students performed better than the urban students. The only point on which the urban students did better was awareness about the changes in behavior due to pollution (Q. No. 18 to 23). It is probably because the pollution level is generally low in countryside. Probably better performance of rural students is because of their life style which is more close to nature.

There is general lack of awareness among participants about environmental issues (Dhitinut Ratnapradia *et.al.* 2011). Overall awareness was of average category (average 12.82 score points out of 25 points i.e. average score 51.30 %) among the students surveyed. (Annu Bharadwaj and Anjana Behal 2011). Overall awareness was found higher in boys than in girls (Tarun malhotra 2012 and Neeraj Sharma 2014). Among the students of different streams no significant difference was found among the science students and arts students but awareness was better in Science students than arts students (Tarun malhotra 2012 and Neeraj Sharma 2014). A significant difference in awareness is seen between boys and girls (except rural science girls and boys). Awareness is higher in boys than girls. This may be because of social factors. However, Shobeiri *et.al.* (2007) and M. Sivamoorthy (2013) observed no significant difference in the level of environmental awareness between boys and girls. It is a matter of serious concern that overall environmental awareness is not satisfactory among the student who are at the top of their educational journey and qualification.

It can be concluded that rural students have higher level of environmental awareness than the urban students, probably because they are more close to nature than urban students. They feel the nature practically in their each and every activity. The surrounding habitat in countryside might also help the rural students to be more aware about nature. So the curriculum and syllabus for environmental education should be designed in such a way that students would get more and more chances for direct interaction with nature.

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