

# TO COMPARE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND ATTITUDES OF THE COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT AFTER STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

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## INTRODUCTION

Today the delicate ecosystem of our earth is facing a danger of destruction on a large scale. In the name of development man has over exploited the natural resources and has polluted the environment. The problem is becoming worse due to ever expanding population of the world. The cry of the time is that we need to change the basic attitude of people towards the nature only than any step towards preserving the environment will become effective and here Environmental Education can play a very crucial role. Environmental Education is a continuous, life- long process involving education about the environment, in the environment and for the environment.

In India, in spite of the deteriorating status of the environment, study of Environment has not received so far adequate attention in our programmes. Recognizing this, the Hon<sup>ble</sup> Supreme Court directed the UGC to introduce a basic course on environment at every level in college education.

In this paper the researcher has studied the effect of teaching of Environmental Education on the environmental awareness and attitudes towards environment among the students after studying the subject of Environmental Education at undergraduate level.

### Review of Related Literature

From the review of the related literature the researcher found that though there are studies regarding the environmental awareness and attitude of students towards the environment but very little work has been done to see effect of teaching of Environmental Education on the environmental awareness and attitude of students towards the environment .therefore the researcher took up this problem to study.

### Objectives of the Study:

1. To compare the difference in the Pre- Post Test EAQ scores of the students studying in the colleges of Panjab University, Chandigarh.
2. To find out the difference in the Pre-Post test attitude scores of the students studying in the colleges of Panjab University, Chandigarh.
3. To find out the correlation between the attitude towards environment and environmental awareness.

### Hypotheses of the Study

1. There is no significant difference in the Pre-Post test EAQ scores of the students studying in the colleges of Panjab University, Chandigarh.

2. There is no significant difference in the Pre-Post test attitudes scores of the students studying in the colleges of Panjab University, Chandigarh.

3. There is no positive correlation between the attitude towards environment and environmental awareness of students.

### Delimitation of the Study

- (1) The area of the study is delimited to undergraduate colleges in Chandigarh affiliated to

Panjab University, Chandigarh.

- (2).The study is delimited to the students studying the subject of Environmental Education at undergraduate level.

- (3) The study is limited to degree colleges only.

Design of the study

Descriptive Survey method was employed for the present study.

### Sample

To test the difference in the environmental awareness(EAQ scores) and attitude towards environment(TEAS scores) of the students after studying EE, sample of 300 students was drawn from five randomly selected colleges of Chandigarh affiliated to Panjab University, Chandigarh. The sample of the students was taken from the first year of the undergraduate class.

### Tool Used:

1. An Environmental Awareness Questionnaire (EAQ) developed by the investigator
2. Taj Environmental Attitude Scale (TEAS) developed by Taj (2001)

Along with the questionnaire wherever necessary, interviews were conducted with different categories of respondents, for clarifying their doubts, for answering their queries, as well as to elicit additional responses.

### Statistical Techniques used

In the present study statistical techniques like t-test and ANOVA was used. Pearson's Product Moment method was used to compute inter-correlation among the variables.

### Analysis and Interpretation of the Data

This section deals with the results of t-test to assess whether there is significant difference in Pre-Post Test EAQ scores and Pre-Post attitude Scores of students after studying the subject of EE at undergraduate level.

It also deals with the computation of coefficient of correlation to find out the significant correlation between the two variables for the students at undergraduate level.

Hypothesis 1 There is no significant difference in the Pre-Post Test EAQ scores of the students studying in the colleges of Panjab University , Chandigarh.

To test this hypothesis, the researcher applied t-test, the results of which are shown in the table 1.

**Table 1**

**Mean, Std. Deviation & t-value with regard to the difference in the Pre- Post Test EAQ Scores of the college students of PU**

EAQ Scores	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	df	t	p
EAQ I	300	26.86	2.27	299	4.3	.000
EAQ II	300	30.84	4.54			

**\*\*Significant at 0.01 Level**

As is evident from the table 1 , there exist significant ( $t=4.3$  &  $p<.005$ ) difference between pre and post test EAQ score of college students of Panjab university at .05 level after studying the subject of EE at undergraduate level. The post-test EAQ scores or EAQ II were significantly higher than the pre-test EAQ scores or EAQ I scores indicating that the environmental awareness of the students have increased after studying the subject of EE at undergraduate level. Thus the hypothesis 1 that „There is no significant difference in the Pre-Post Test EAQ scores of the students studying in the colleges of Panjab University“ is rejected.

This further elaborates point that the course of EE which is being taught at the undergraduate level has enhanced the environmental awareness of the students.

Hypothesis 2. There is no significant difference in the Pre-Post Test attitudes scores of the students studying in the colleges of Panjab University.

To test the hypothesis ,t-test was applied the results of which are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2**

**t-values for Pre-Post attitude score of the students**

Pretest (A1) & Posttest (AII) scores	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t	df	p
A1	300	165.22	13.69	4.8	299	.000*
AII	300	170.47	15.70			

**\*\*Significant at 0.01 level**

It is clear from the table 2 that there exist significant ( $t=4.8$  &  $p<.005$ ) difference between pre and post attitude score of college students of Panjab University at .01 level after studying the subject of EE at undergraduate level.. The post-test scores or A II were significantly higher than the pre-test or AI scores indicating that the attitude score of the students have increased after studying the subject of EE at undergraduate level. Thus the hypothesis 2 that “There is no significant difference in the Pre-Post Test attitudes scores of the students studying in the colleges of Panjab University” stands rejected.

Hence, it is assumed that after studying EE, the students have gained more positive attitude towards environment and this is also one of the UGC objective of teaching EE in undergraduate level.

Analysis of Data: Coefficient of Correlation

This section deals with the results of coefficient of correlation between the variables environmental awareness and attitude of students towards the environment.

Hypothesis 3: There is no positive correlation between the attitude towards environment and environmental awareness of students.

To test this hypothesis correlation among the variables Environmental Awareness and Attitudes towards environment was calculated the results of which are shown in the Table 3.

**Table 3**

**Coefficient of Correlation among the variables Environmental Awareness and Attitudes towards environment**

	EAQ	Attitude
Pearson Correlation	1	.952**
Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
N	300	300

**\*\* Correlation is significant at 0.01 level(2-tailed)**

From table 3 it is clear that correlation between environmental awareness and attitude of students towards environment is positive and significant ( $r=.952$  &  $p<.01$ ) at .01 level. This result shows that the students who possess positive attitude have high environmental awareness or we can conclude that more the environmental awareness, there is more positive attitude towards environment.

### Major Findings and conclusions

1. The students showed more environmental awareness after studying the subject of EE at undergraduate level as there post test EAQ scores were higher than pre test scores. Thus after studying the subject of EE the students have gained more environmental awareness..

2. The attitude of students have become more favourable towards the Environment after studying the subject of Environmental Education as the post test attitude scores of the students studying in the colleges of PU were more than pre test attitude scores.

3. Environmental awareness and attitude toward environment are correlated to each other. The students who have higher environmental awareness have more favourable attitude towards environment.

### Educational Implications of the Study

The findings of the study reveal that the subject of Environmental Education increases the environmental awareness of the students. It also helps in developing favorable attitudes in students towards the environment. Thus the UGC objectives with which the subject of Environmental Education was made compulsory at undergraduate level has been achieved. Therefore the subject of Environmental Education should be taught at the undergraduate level

