



A study of environmental awareness among rural and urban females

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Abstract

Present study was conducted between 20 rural 20 urban females with a view to explore the pattern of environmental awareness. Primary awareness, was studied it Three ways i.e. regarding environmental protection and destruction related activities and awareness regarding environmental change related activities. The study was conducted among rural and urban females. Results show differential pattern of responses. Results are discussed in terms of environmental perception theories.

Keywords: environmental awareness, rural and urban females

1. Introduction

Now a day's environmental problems have become major concern around the world. Day by day draught, flood, earthquake and atmosphere are creating imbalance in environment. It is due to the variety of modern development strategies by policy makers planners. In this regard environmental awareness is considered as the state or ability to perceive to feel or to be conscious of events objects or conditions happening in our surrounding. In other words, it is the state of being aware of everything Present in our environment. In biological sciences awareness is defend as the perception of living beings and their reaction to particular environmental condition Today the environment has become a main concern for the world.

Pollution in the air, water, cosmos, has created a global problem before humanity, (Lisowski, 1993 Triler, 1993). Atmospheric pollution is not central to the place where it occurs but it affects the whole world therefore any disaster occurring naturally to a particular place affects the rest of the world. It was argued that people from different culture, act with a local form of awareness therefore create problem in generalizing the experience at global level. Since we or not in a position to control the development and its effects therefore awareness at global level cannot be created a by measuring it at local level. In most of the studies it was noticed that individual awareness and their conscious level depends upon the physical settings and their relationship with the particular setting. People perceive the environmental problem and its solution depending on social, political, roles. However awareness of environmental problems depends upon specific role played in their own living surrounding. Therefore it is clear that same environment may generate different feelings in different people residing in same locality. For some people environment may be pleasant while for others it can be stress full. The work of Itlellson (1974) is important regarding environmental perception. It is clear with the above discussion that environmental awareness depends upon gender, cast, age, culture, ethnicity and religion of different people living under different. Bhatia (2006) ^[1]. Investigated environmental awareness in Patiala district between boys & girls. He noticed that most of the students

have moderate level of environmental awareness and three was no significant difference noted among boys & girls. In a study Kapila (2008) ^[2]. noted that senior secondary school students showed good environmental ethics than high school students. Females showed more environmental ethics than males. Mamta (2009) ^[3]. noted in a environmental awareness study that there was no significant difference among rural, urban male & female students. Pillai (2012) ^[5]. also noticed no significant difference regarding scientific attitude to words environment among higher secondary male and female students some result was obtained in case of environment and private school students. Mittal (2010) ^[4]. found no significant difference regarding environmental ethics between male and female Collage students. Social conditions Psychologists have tried to highlight on various awareness programs with a view to facilitate pro environmental behavior among people like environmental education, GLOBE, mass media NEAC, NGC, environmental quiz and vocation program to teach people about environmental saving strategy. Against the above back drop, present study was aimed to find out the difference between rural and urban females with regard to their awareness for a verity of environmental problems.

2. Method

2.1 Sample

20 rural and 20 urban females participated in the study their ages ranged between 25 to 30 years respectively.

2.2 Measure

An open ended questionnaire was prepared consisting 20 question which were framed in a way that subject was free to answer in his own manner and style.

2.3 Procedure

All the participants were contacted individually at their residences for data collection. Instructions were read out before them and they were asked to express their feelings on 20 items one by one. Most of the rural participants were not able to understand the question researcher explained it before them. In some cases researcher asked the question and also noted the answers given by rural participants.

However in case of urban participants no such problem was faced.

3. Analysis and Results

The present study was designed to study the environmental awareness pattern among rural and urban females. Obtained findings were subjected to frequency and percent analysis. Results are presented in Table -1

Table 1: Frequency and percentage of primary environmental awareness responses among rural and urban females.

S. No.	Primary awareness about environment	Urban		Rural	
		Freq	%	Freq	%
1.	Weather	8	40	4	20
2.	Bio/Nonbio Component	3	15	3	15
3.	Cleanliness	4	20	3	15
4.	Open Defecation	8	40	15	75
5.	Green house effect	20	100	10	50

20 urban females gave 43 responses and 20 rural females provided 35 responses. It is evident from the table -1 that both the rural and urban participants emphasized on 5 important responses about the concept of environment. However environment was viewed as weather, combination of bio/ non-bio components, cleanliness, open defecation problem and green house effect mainly. 40% responses in case of urban and 20% responses in case of rural females indicated that different seasons like rain heat and cold constitute the environment. Both the rural and urban female responses (15%), call it combination of biological and non-biological components. 20% responses by urban and 15% responses by rural females stressed on cleanliness while 40% urban and 75% rural females responses were concerned with open defecation problem. Awareness about Green house about effect was reported more in case of urban females (100%) than their counterpart rural females (50%) Data was subjected to graphical analysis also. Figure - 1 reflects the pattern of obtained results.

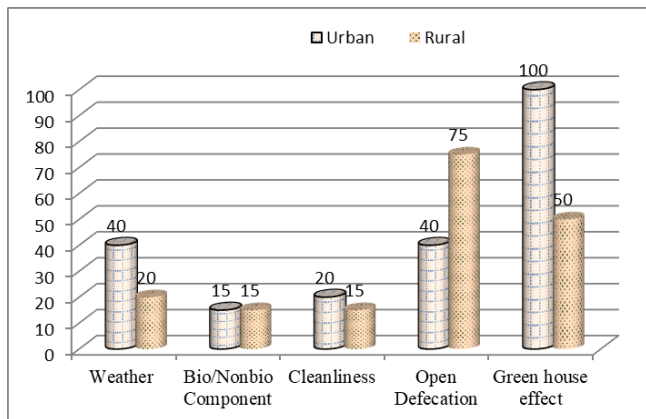


Fig 1: Primary awareness responses among rural and urban females.

Graphical analysis revealed the similar results as stated above. Cleanliness and awareness about green house effect was noted more in case of urban than rural woman. Environmental protection and Its destruction is common behavior among all human beings Awareness responses related with environmental protection and destruction are

given in table-2.

Table 2: Frequency and percentage of responses in case of awareness about Environmental protection and destruction

S. No.	Environmental protection and destruction	Urban		Rural	
		Freq	%	Freq	%
1.	Use of pesticides	5	25	20	80
2.	Agriculture/ Importance of environment in life	5	25	15	75
3.	Pure Air	7	35	9	45
4.	Water Pollution	20	100	20	100
5.	Deforestation	10	50	10	50
6.	Plantation	12	60	20	80

With regard to environmental protection and destruction related awareness 20 urban female provided a total of 59 responses and 20 rural females gave 94 responses It is clear with the Results that 80% responses in case of rural females demonstrated that use of pesticides has caused serious damage to the environment however only 25% responses by urban females showed similar pattern. Similarly 75% responses by rural and 25% responses by urban participants consider that environment is essential for life. 45% responses by rural and 35% responses by urban females reported that environment provides pure air 100% responses by rural and 100% responses by urban females indicated water pollution. 50% responses by in case of both the group reported that deforestation is damaging our environment. 80% responses by rural females showed their commitment toward plantation while only 60% responses by urban females showed active concern with plantation activity. Graphical analysis was performed also and Obtained also results are given in figure-2

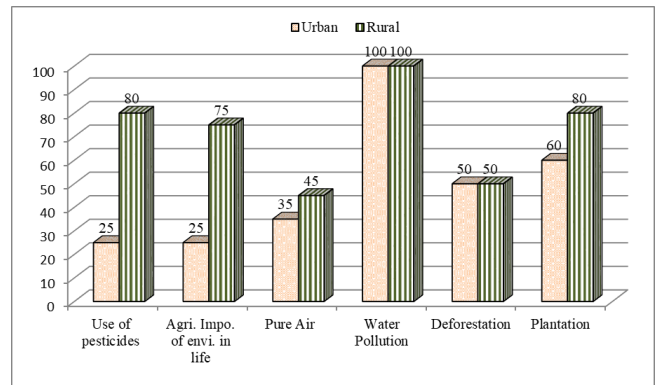


Fig 2: Frequency and percentage of environmental protection and destruction related awareness responses among rural/urban females.

It is clear with figure 2 that urban females showed comparatively lesser orientation toward deforestation and plantation as compared to rural woman. Similarly rural females were of the view that environment should be protected by the less use of pesticides, increasing agriculture etc. They also stressed that environment is essential for life because it gives pure air and water for living beings, Both rural and urban woman showed similar view regarding water pollution.

Awareness regarding environmental change related activities were also taped Results are given in Table no. 3:

Table 3: Frequency and percentage of environmental change related awareness responses among rural/urban females.

S. No.	Change related Environmental awareness responses	Urban		Rural	
		Freq	%	Freq	%
1.	Plantation	10	50	12	60
2.	Weather	12	60	8	40
3.	Less use of Plastic	8	40	8	40
4.	Dangers for Humans	18	90	15	75

With respect to change related environmental awareness responses 20 urban females gave 48 responses and 20 rural females provided 43 responses. It is clean with the results that 60% responses by rural and 50% responses by urban females reported that they can change their environment with the help of plantation. 60% responses by urban and 40% responses by rural females also reported that weather and its changing cycle is responsible for the present state of environment. Interestingly similar percentage of 40% responses in case of rural and urban females indicated that ban on plastic use should be imposed to facilitate the ecology of environment 75% responses by rural females and 90% responses by urban females indicated awareness that in future environmental problems are going to create threat against humanity. Safe drinking water will emerge a serious problem before universe. Data were subjected to graphical analysis also. Finding are given in fig-3

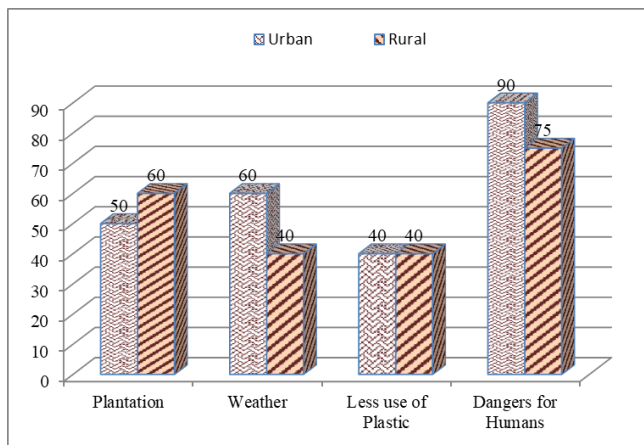


Fig 3: Change related awareness response among rural/urban females.

Figure 3 shows that rural females (60%) responses by showed more awareness for plantation than urban responses by (50%) females. (60%) responses by urban and (40%) responses by rural female indicated that change in weather is responsible for the present state of environment. About (40%) responses by rural and urban females showed that they use plastic things rarely. Similarly (90%) responses by urban and (75%) responses by rural females showed awareness that changing environmental features may prove Dangerous for coming generation.

To find out significant difference if any t-ratio was calculated in the available data. Results are given in table No.4 frequency responses were added group wise.

Table 4: t ratio among rural and urban females

S. No.	Participants	Mean Score	S.D.	t-Ratio	Significant level
1.	Rural	12.0	4.04	0.40	N.S.
2.	Urban	10.0	4.96		

Results showed no difference between rural and urban females. It appears that both the groups are similarly aware about the differential influence of environment. More data is required to draw decisive conclusion.

4. Discussion

The present study was designed to find out the awareness pattern among rural and urban females the obtained findings were categorized in three ways general Awareness about environment, protection and destruction related awareness, and change related awareness activity. It was found that on an Average 43% urban females were aware about the concept of the environment while 35% rural females were aware about the primary conception of environment. Similarly 49.16% urban females Reflected environmental protection and destruction Related awareness, contrary to that 71.66% rural females reflected awareness for environmental protection Rather than destruction. With regard to the Responses regarding change Related activity rural females (60%) showed interest for plantation than urban females (50%). 90% urban and 75% rural females consider that pro-environmental behavior must be inculcated with a view to save the environment. However these findings are transitory in nature. It seems that both the urban and rural females are well aware about the concept of environment and its changing scenario. As for as primary awareness about the environment is concern urban females showed higher ratings on the fact that different seasons like heat and cold were jointly considered as the environment as compared to rural females. Cleanliness was emphasized more in case of urban females that the rural one. Rural females were of the view that open defecation causing problem to the environment 100% females were aware about green house effect. Results in case of awareness regarding environmental protection and destruction show that 80% rural females are aware about use of pesticides and its harm full effect to the environment rural females showed less amount of awareness in this regard as compared to the urban females. Rural females consistently showed higher amount of awareness with regard to importance of agriculture in environment, pure air and plantation issues. Water pollution and deforestation problem was recognized in similar fashion by both the rural urban group. Awareness response in change related activities indicated that rural females were more concerned with plantation activity than the urban females. Awareness regarding change in weather and negative effect of environment was seen more in case of urban than rural females. However harmful effect of plastic in relation to environment was stressed similarly by both the urban and rural females. Present study is a type of pilot study, therefore more data is needed to reach up to a decisive conclusion.

5. References

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