

Research Article

STUDY THE PERSPECTIVE AND ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS PERFORMANCE OF CITIZENS (CASE STUDY: ILAM CITY)

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ABSTRACT

The present research studied knowledge and awareness and perspective and skills of students in third grade of high school in Ilam city about protecting environment. The present study is implicational and its statistical society is including 1900 cases that 320 cases of them were selected as case study based on Cochran formula. Sampling method was simple random and data were collected by field method and questionnaire. Validity of questionnaires was confirmed by opinion of experts and their reliability was calculated by Alpha Crone bagas .872. the findings of the analyzes indicated that students of third grade in high school have positive perspective about environment and also 68.2 percent of them were measured to skillful performance. About gender, the environmental perspective of females were more positive than males and males had higher rate in view of skill but both of them were in the same rank of knowledge and awareness.

Keywords: *Environmental Behaviors, Environmental Education, Students, Third Grade of High School, Ilam City*

INTRODUCTION

One of the important offices that play an important role in education and extending culture of protection environment is education organization. One of the main concerns of this organization is problem of environment and the way of communication of human with environment (Badkoobi, 1999). Although in recent years it was tried that it must pay more attention to environment in schools and education environmental protection be in study chart, but regarding to increasing environmental risks, the problem of education environmental protection and establishing awareness and commitment in students in relation to environment is a large challenge to programs of schools (Keivan, 1994).

Nowadays, critic range of environment is extended and serious (Lashgari, 2001). In our country that young people consists a large percent of population, environmental education can had considerable effect in empowering environmental culture and reaching to constant developing (Yakhkeshi, 2001). The aim of education of environment knows human tasks about environmental problems, understanding environmental values, supporting protection views and social equality and also attempts to preventing or solving problems and problems of environment. (Kara, 2004), protecting environment must start at education (Zinn, 2002). In present time, environment is confronted with risk of damage and much pollution that many factors are involve with it (Karimi, 2001). The results of city developing and environmental problems in various areas necessitated developing green environment (Toomeh, 1999). Ilam city because of geographical, social, economic and political conditions had a large extension during recent years. This factors confronted quality of environment with risk. It is clear that in this condition, the role of education is very important. Because it can increased knowledge and awareness of student's amount protection environment and finally provide a field to changing behavior about environment.

Review of Literature

Heydari (2002) in his study titled: indication management pattern to constant developing of environmental education to young people of country referred to these findings: based on obtained data from 420 cases of young people of Tehran, studies show that necessity of protecting environment among them is not high and not only 80 percent of them ignore the protecting environment protection, but also 38 percent of them didn't accept their task to protecting environment. Esmaeeli (2006), studied about the

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role of general education of green area of Tehran municipality in protecting environment and findings of the study indicated that there is meaningful relationship between variables of age, education level, awareness sources, and aims of educational periods, education contents and educational methods with dependent variable of citizen's knowledge about making clean of environment. BagheriVarkaneh (2002) studied the rate of awareness and likeness of students of High schools of Tehran. The findings of correlation indicated that there is a meaningful relationship between independent variables of age, education of parents, using radio programs, study books and environmental essays and dependent variable of likeness of students about environment. Kargari (2003), studied the rate of awareness and likeness of students of high schools of Tehran city about environmental protection and his findings indicate that education has effect on changing perspectives of people about environment and protecting it.

Research Purpose

The main purpose of the present research is study the knowledge, perspective and environmental skills of students in high schools of Ilam

Research questions:

- 1-what is perspective of third grade students of high schools about environment?
- 2-how much is environmental knowledge or awareness of third grade students of high schools?
- 3-how much is environmental performance of skill of third grade students of high schools?
- 4-is there any difference between environmental knowledge, perspective and performance of third grade students of high schools?

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study is implicational and statistical society of the present study is male and female students of grade 3 in high schools of Ilam in 2014that based on statistics were 1900 cases. To reaching to determined aim, 320 questionnaires were distributed between research sample based on Cochran formula and 160 males and 160 females were selected randomly. At first to boy high schools and two girls high schools were selected randomly. The main instrument of present study is a questionnaire that its validity was confirmed by experts and its reliability the correlation of Alpha Crone bag was used that its rate was obtained as (.872) and after collecting data, they were analyzed by SPSS software and t- test.

Indexing

In the present study there are three main variables of knowledge, perspective and performance. To measuring variable of awareness 9 cases of knowledge were scored from 0 to 9. Number 1 is for correct answer and number 0 is for incorrect answer.

Coding the variable of awareness or knowledge was divided to four ranges. Number 0 is related to (I don't know), number 1-3 is for (I know a little) numbers 4-6 for (I know in intermediate level) and numbers 7-9 are for (I know much).

Table 1: Factors of measuring variable awareness or knowledge

Factors	Vari able
What is most important source of producing electricity in country?	Awareness or knowledge
What are various types of animals and plants that are in various areas?	
What is most important reason to damage animals and plant in Iran?	
What is main advantage of boggy lands?	
Which one of the followings is dangerous garbage?	
What is task of ozone layer?	
What is main reason of creating carbon monoxide in Iran?	
What is main reason of water pollution in rivers?	
What is the solution of domestic garbage?	

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To measuring variable of perspective, table 2 was indicated. Spectrum of measuring was ranked as complete agreement, agreement, neutral, disagreement and complete disagreement

Table 2: Factors of variable perspective

Factors	Variables
We are in reaching to a stage that global earth cannot provide needs of population more than it	perspectives
The equality of nature is very sensitive and is disorder easily	
It is the right of human to change the nature based on his needs	
Changing nature by human usually had disastrous results	
Plants and animals were created to this that human use them	
To keeping a healthy economy, we must have an economy with appropriate growth and industrial developing must control	
To maintain and continue of living, human must adopt himself with nature	
Global earth is like an aircraft and its space and sources are limited	
Human not need to adopt himself with nature because he can change the nature based on his new needs	
There are some limitations to industrial development that our industrial society cannot develop more than it.	
Human is in misusing about environment	

To measuring variable pf skill, table 3 was indicated and was ranked based on factors: sometimes, rarely, never.

Table 3: Performance of skill factors

Factors
We can turn off heaters in rooms that need not to heat
When using hot water, I decrease the degree of water heater
During douching, I douche rapidly and I prevent from water wasting
I use water in W.C just for my needs
I use those washing materials that not damage to environment
I use spreads
I reuse glass bottles and packs
I reuse used papers
I use cloth washing machine when there are many dirty clothes
During cold season, I try wear more warm clothes besides to turning heater
I try decrease the times of douching
I close water spigot during brushing
I use vegetables and fruits that were grow by plant and animal fertilization
I give others those clothes that I don't use
I turn off extra lights in my home
I give others the furniture's that I don't use them
To saving Energy, I decrease the degree of heaters.
I effuse to garden, those garbage that can concert to fertilize

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Findings

The main aim of the present research is study the rate of environmental skills and knowledge level and perspectives of students in high schools of Ilam. The findings were analyzed by research questions and using comparing methods of means (T- test that determine the differences in genders). Regarding to

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research history and mentioned theories, environmental perspectives in many cases determine environmental knowledge and performance in environment. So in the present research three variables of perspective, knowledge and environmental performance were analyzed and for this, some questions were asked and it was tried to factors of each variable are clear.

1-what is perspective of students of high schools about environment?

Data of table 4 shows that 12.4 percent of students have a positive and agreement perspective about environmental behaviors and 75.2 percent have just agreement perspectives, also 12.4 percent had not any idea and 0 percent had disagreement idea. Regarding to this that perspective is not behavior and just prepare person to behavior, so it can be said that perspective of third grade students is in intermediate level and their positive perspective is toward environmental think. Perspectives are not the same based on effecting power and its reason is in quality and present dimensions of perspectives.

Table 4: The kind of perspectives of students about environment

Total		Complete disagreement		Disagreement		No idea		Agreement		Complete agreement		Perspective
perce nt	frequen cy	perce nt	frequen cy	perce nt	frequen cy	perce nt	frequen cy	perce nt	frequen cy	perce nt	frequen cy	
100	160	0	0	0	0	11.3	18.8	73	116.8	11.3	18.8	male
100	160	0	0	0	0	13.5	21.6	75.4	120.64	13.5	12.6	female
100	320	0	0	0	0	12.4	40.0	75.2	237.4	12.4	40.4	total

1-what is rate of environmental knowledge or awareness of third grade students of high schools?

Data of table 5 shows that 10 percent of all students have not awareness or knowledge about environment, 13 percent of them have a little awareness and 52.4 percent have intermediate awareness and 24.6 percent have high awareness, so most frequency is related to intermediate that show intermediate level of knowledge of students.

Table 5: Knowledge or environmental knowledge or awareness of students

Total		High		Intermediate		Low		I never know		Awareness
Perce nt	Frequen cy	Perce nt	Frequen cy	Perce nt	Frequen cy	Perce nt	Frequen cy	Perce nt	Frequen cy	
100	160	37.99	60.64	53.4	85.44	11	17.6	9	14.4	boy
100	160	10.3	16.48	51.4	82.24	15	24	11	17.6	girl
100	320	24.6	77.12	52.4	167.68	13	41.6	10	32	total

In this question of the study because of better understanding of text and easiness in work, 9 questions about knowledge were divided to four time ranges by 9 numbers and were codified. Rate 0 is (I don't know), 1-3 is (I know a little), 4-6 (intermediate) and 7-9 is high awareness. Regarding to data, most frequency is related to 4-6 (intermediate).

Table 6: Knowledge rate

Knowledge rates							
7-9		4-6		1-3		0	
frequency	score	frequency	score	frequency	score	frequency	score
78.72	3	167.68	2	41.6	1	32	0

Based on statistical data and indicated explanations, the final aim of education environmental behaviors are increasing awareness of people about environmental problems. So regarding to increasing awareness, people know the environmental values and act to maintain and keep it. So the first step in this move is move of educational system.

2-How much is environmental performance of skill of third grade students?

Table 8 is including summary of respondent's ideas to mentioned answer

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Table 7: Performance or skill of students about environment

Total		Never		Rarely		Sometimes		Usually		Always		Skill
Perce nt	Frequ ncy	Perce nt	Frequ ncy	Perce nt	Frequ ncy	Perce nt	Frequ ncy	Perce nt	Frequ ncy	Perce nt	Frequ ncy	
100	160	0	0	2	3.2	10	16	66	105.6	10.1	16.16	boy
100	160	0	0	10	16.16	17.4	27.84	70.4	112.64	14	22.4	girl
100	320	0	0	6	19.2	13.7	43.84	68.2	218.24	12.1	38.56	total

Statistical data of table 7 indicated that 12.1 percent of students selected the choice of always, 68.2 percent, usually, 13.7 percents sometimes, 6 percent rarely. Finally those factors that were confirmed by many of teachers were indicated in level of 68.2 and knowledge of students performance was evaluated in intermediate level, so by increasing this level, the selecting various solutions is easier.

3-is there any differences between knowledge, perspective and environmental performance of male and female in third grade of high school?

Selecting equal numbers of males and females leads to this that the author measure these factors in view of genders, so two independent groups of males and two independent groups of women were studied for variables of perspective, knowledge and skill that their results were reflected in table 8 regarding to t- test.

Table 8: The results of t- test to comparing males and females in variables of knowledge, perspective and skill

Mean difference	Meaning level	T	DF	Mean	Sample volume	Gender	Environmental scale
.66	0.000	3.56	378	2.76	160	male	knowledge
				2.1	160	female	
-1.57	0.000	7.14	381	3.1	160	male	perspective
				4.67	160	female	
-.72	.2175	2.21	376	3.88	160	male	skill
				4.00	160	female	

The results of the test indicate a meaningful difference in positive perspectives about environment among male and female students, so it can be said that environmental perspective among males is less than females and also there is a meaningful difference between environmental knowledge of males and females. So by 95 percent of certainty it can be said that there is a meaningful difference between environmental knowledge of males and females and it can be said that environmental knowledge among males is more than females, so t statistics in DF of 376 is equal to 2.21 and since meaningful level is equal to .275 so by 95 percent it can be said that it cannot eject the equality between two groups.

Conclusion

The results of the present study indicate that third grade students of high schools have a positive perspective about environment that this leads to responsibility sense. Also the studies indicated that some persons that protect from environmental policies are correct. Environmental awareness is a necessary pre condition to person, so knowledge is a necessary to doing successful activities and is needed to higher levels. So by increasing knowledge level and data leads to how solution of environmental problems and lacking it is in main recommendations is not good to positive behaviors of environment. One of the considered points in the present study is positive evaluation of environment knowledge of third grade students in high schools. Those factors that many students confirmed them and had an important role in environmental performance were indicated in level (68.2), so by increasing skills of students to higher levels, selecting behavioral solutions are easier. High environmental perspective among female third grade students of high schools in compare to males can has various reasons. There are various theories about the role pf women in protecting environment that in total they refer to dominance of role of women in compare to role of men that some of them are, natural supporting of environment, and susceptibility from environmental pollution and so on.

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Suggestions

- Mangers and heads must indicate more tries to likeness of students and creating positive perspectives among them about environment
- using environmental educational films can play a positive role in positive perspectives of students about environment. So it is suggest that to aware and increasing knowledge of students the education movies used.
- establishing environmental groups can play a positive role in perspective of students to protecting environment, so it is suggest that education organization must prepare an appropriate field to active students groups in field of environment
- it is suggested that educational books by various subjects indicate in high schools
- regarding to this that educational data of environment in books are not based on local needs of students. So it suggested that environmental data be based on local needs of students in various areas.
- cooperation fields of students in activities and educations about environment by changing educational environmental methods in schools must be toward new methods.
- since the libraries of the studied schools are not equipped with new scientific references, so it is suggest for indicating equipped libraries with environmental subjects.
- it is recommended to consider environmental conditions of education of teachers as an effective factors in reach to educational aims of environment by doing education programs to aware people in this field.
- environment experts must consider necessary cooperation to aware about protection from environment in studied schools.

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