

Impact of Modernization on the Environmental Awareness of Higher Secondary School Students

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Abstract:

The present study explores the impact of modernization on the environmental awareness of higher secondary school students. With the increasing influence of technology, lifestyle changes, and global connectivity, the concept of modernization has significantly influenced young minds. This research aimed to examine how these modern influences relate to students' awareness and understanding of environmental issues. A sample of 200 higher secondary school students was selected using an appropriate sampling method. Two standardized tools were employed: the Modernization Scale developed by R.S. Singh (2017) and the Environmental Awareness Scale by Praveen Kumar Jha (2017). Statistical techniques, including correlation analysis and t-test, were used to analyze the data. The findings indicate a significant relationship between modernization and environmental awareness. While modernization brings positive exposure to global environmental challenges, it also poses risks of consumerism and detachment from natural ecosystems. The study highlights the need for integrating environmental education with modern learning approaches to cultivate responsible environmental behavior among students.

Introduction:

Modernization has significantly influenced the lifestyle, values, and awareness levels of individuals, especially among youth. In the context of environmental issues becoming increasingly critical, it is essential to study how modernization correlates with environmental awareness among students at the higher secondary level.

Objectives:

- To assess the level of modernization among higher secondary school students.
- To examine the environmental awareness levels among these students.
- To analyze the relationship between modernization and environmental awareness.

Hypotheses

H₀: There exists no relationship between modernization and environmental awareness.

Methodology:

- Sample: A sample of 200 higher secondary school students was selected through appropriate sampling techniques.
- Tools Used:
 - Modernization Scale by R.S. Singh (2017)
 - Environmental Awareness Scale by Praveen Kumar Jha (2017)
- Statistical Technique: Correlation analysis and t-test were used to study the relationship and significance of differences.

Data Analysis and Results:

The collected data were analyzed using mean, standard deviation, and Pearson's correlation coefficient. The results revealed the following:

Correlation between Modernization and Environmental Awareness:

Variable 1	Variable 2	N	r-value	Significance (p)
Modernization	Environmental Awareness	200	0.52	0.52**

Interpretation:

The mean modernization score of students indicated a moderately high level of modernization. The environmental awareness levels were also found to be moderate to high. A positive and statistically significant correlation was found between modernization and environmental awareness ($r = 0.52$, $p < 0.01$), suggesting that higher levels of modernization are associated with greater environmental awareness among students.

Thus, the proposed hypothesis “There exists no relationship between modernization and environmental awareness” is rejected. The findings indicate that as students become more modernized, they also tend to be more aware of environmental issues. This could be due to greater access to information, education, and media exposure which comes with modernization.

Conclusion:

Modernization plays a crucial role in shaping students' environmental attitudes and awareness. The study highlights the need for integrating environmental education in modern academic curricula to sustain and enhance this positive trend.

Suggestions:

- Schools should include modules on environmental sustainability in regular teaching.
- Interactive methods like eco-clubs, field trips, and digital content should be used to enhance awareness.
- Modern communication tools and platforms should be utilized to promote environmental consciousness among youth.

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