

AN ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERFERENCE LEVEL OF TEACHERS AND PUPILS IN PALAKKAD DISTRICT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN KERALA

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Abstract

Nowadays the world is facing a severe environmental destruction and degradation in the form of serious threat from atmospheric pollution, Ozone layer depletion, extinction of many species of flora and fauna, habitat destruction, soil erosion, increase of temperature etc. All these problems are associated with the exploitation of the nature without any concern about the other species in the world. So recently teachers and Pupils show great interest in the area of environmental studies and it has become an essential part of the study. Therefore this study assesses the interference level of teachers and Pupils in Palakkad District on the environmental issues in Kerala as the same seems to be very significant to assess their interference level on the environmental issues in Kerala.

Keyword: *Environmental issues, Teachers and Pupils interference on Environmental issues in Kerala, Methods of interference,*

Introduction

There are many environmental issues in India. Air pollution, water pollution, garbage, and various types of environmental exploitation are the challenges for India. The situation is worsening mainly in the post independence era. Now the world considers India as the one of the fastest progressing nation in the world, and it also addressing its environmental issues and improving its environmental quality. However, India has a long way to go to reach to fulfill environmental quality similar to the developed nations, lack of adequate attention in protection of environmental exploitation is considering as the primary causes of disease, health issues and manmade natural calamities not only in the world but in our India also.

Major environmental issues taken for the studies are water pollution, air pollution, mining, waste management issues and usage of pesticides and related health hazards in Kerala. Although Kerala has achieved remarkable progress in the field of health and education, its concern over the environmental protection is seems to be questionable and the states affected by numerous environmental crisis and issues in almost all the district in the state. Therefore, the present study focuses on the interference level of teachers and pupils of Palakkad district on the environmental issues in Kerala.

Review of Literature

The review collected from various sources to get clear cut back ground information for the study.

Kartik Roy (1999) has revealed that the prosperity achieved by developing countries in South East and East Asia as well as in many other parts of the developing world, would have been unthinkable fifty years ago. The significant rise in standard and quality of life of the citizens of these countries cannot be explained by their current stock of natural resources or by their domination of other countries. But it can be explained by their policies that have encouraged investment and placed a premium on efficiency; their efforts to improve the quality of human resources and by their sustained thrust towards international competitiveness. India began its development programmes under Five Year Plans from 1951 with similar objectives. As its principal objective, the Plan document (Government of India, 1957) stated that it proposed to initiate simultaneously a process of all-round balanced development which would ensure a rise in national income and a steady improvement in living standards over a period.

Hans and Jayasheela (2010) have noticed that rural economy land is the site of production. Our villagers live and work with close relationship with nature; they love and adore nature. Intensification of resource use and diversification of occupation (even if we call it as technological advancement) pose serious challenges to balanced economic development in India. Villagers are facing the growing needs of food, fodder and fuel on the one hand, and fast encroaching urbanisation on the other. Both have disastrous consequences on nature's fragile fabric. Modern development in urban areas has resulted in stress and strain, and in the rural distress and drain of resources. Hence, the study need a though analysis of the strengths, weaknesses threats and opportunities for economic development now and in the future. This will create the much needed awareness for prioritisation of economic activities in the country to make the best use of relatively limited available natural resources. Keeping in mind the above factors the study tries to draw the attention of academicians, policy makers, rural people and their urban brethren towards: (i) sustainable methods of environmental management, (ii) a holistic approach with multidisciplinary, multi location and multi institutional involvement, and (iii) making the practice of SWOT analysis an inbuilt mechanism in resource management for sustainable development.

Ramakrishna B. M and Jayasheela (2010) have noticed that any country's environmental problems are related to the level of its economic development, the availability of natural resources and the lifestyle of its population. In India, rapid growth of population, poverty, urbanization, industrialization and several related factors are responsible for the rapid degradation of the Environment. Environmental problems have become serious in many parts of the country, and hence cannot be ignored.

The main environmental problems in India relate to air and water pollution particularly in metropolitan cities and industrial zones, degradation of common property resources which affect the poor adversely as they depends on them for their livelihood, threat to biodiversity and inadequate system of solid waste disposal and sanitation with

consequent adverse impact on health, infant mortality and birth rate. In India, efforts are being made on for the environmental management in a sustainable manner.. At all levels of education provisions have been made for the knowledge of environment and its conservation. In the country many centres are providing special training for environmental management. The programmes of environmental awareness have been launched through media. India is an active member of International Organizations concerning environment. Several programmes are going on under UNEP. The Government has recently started emphasizing the combined use of regulatory and economic instruments for improving environmental quality. There is a need for coordination between government agencies, NGOs and the public for the proper management of Environment quality and to achieve sustainable development in the country.

Ministry of Environment and Forests GOI (2011) has reported that aims to generate greater awareness and environmental consciousness amongst our citizens. The objective of the report, therefore, is to generate a national debate among various stakeholders on the key environmental issues and challenges that must be addressed to ensure a rapid and sustained economic growth.

Statement of the Research Problem

Environmental degradation is really a threat towards the flora and fauna in this world. The major reason for the environmental degradation is the exploitation of natural resources. As a state of environmental diversity, Kerala also experiences severe environmental exploitation at full fledged level. Even though our government has taken number of measures to reduce the environmental exploitation, the depth of environmental degradation is still widening. In such situation our new generation has to get full awareness about the need of better environment for the healthy sustenance. So it is the duty of teachers and pupils to make awaken of our citizen against the blind exploitation of our environment. Although our teacher and pupils are aware of the environmental issues it is doubtful that at what level they interfere in such issues. Therefore it is very significant to assess their interference level on the environmental issues in Kerala.

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the interference level of teachers in Palakkad District on the environmental issues in Kerala.
2. To Examines the interference level of pupils in Palakkad District on the environmental issues in Kerala

Hypothesis of the Study

1. There is no significant difference in the interference level between teachers and pupils in Palakkad District on the environmental issues in Kerala.

Methodology of the Study

The present study is based on primary data. A Stratified random sampling method was used to select the sample respondent. The data were collected from the six higher secondary school teachers and pupils of Palakkad District in Kerala. Out of 120 teachers, I selected ten percentage of the total population that was 12 as sample size of the teachers. And also out of 300 pupils, I selected ten percentages as sample respondents that was 30. Thus, total sample size of teachers was 12 and pupils were 30 taken to analyses the interference level of teachers and pupils in Palakkad District on the environmental issues in Kerala.

Results and Discussion

Table.1 Size of the Sample Respondents of the Study

SI. No	Particular	Size of Sample Respondents	Total Population
1	Teachers	12	120
2	Pupils	30	300

Source: Primary Data

In the given table1 revealed that the size of sample respondents of teachers and pupils interference level in the environmental issues. It could be observed that 12 teachers and 30 pupils from six schools were selected as sample size in the study.

Table.2 Classification of Environmental issues Aware / Unaware Respondents

SI.No	Particular	No. of Teacher Respondents	Percent	No. of Pupil Respondents	Percent
1	Aware	12	100.00	20	66.67
2	Unaware	0	0.00	10	33.33
	Total	12	100.00	30	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Note: Figure in Parentheses is percentages to the total

Classifications of environmental issues aware and unaware respondents were presented in table.2. In total, all the teachers were well aware about the environmental issues of Palakkad district in Kerala. In the case of pupils 66.67 per cent of the respondents were aware about the environmental issues and 33.33 per cent of them were unaware about these issues. It found that teachers were well aware about the environmental issues than the 'pupil respondents' in the study area.

Table.3 Details About Environmental Issues Involvement of the Respondents in the study

SI. No	Particular	No. of Respondents Teacher	Percent	No. of Respondents Pupils	Percent
1	Yes	9	75	18	60
2	No	3	25	12	40
3	Total	12	100.00	30	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Note: Figure in Parentheses is percentages to the total

Details Involvement of the Respondents on the Environmental Issues is given in table.3. It revealed that 75 per cent of the teachers were involved in environmental issues and remaining 25 per cent of them were not involved. In the case of pupils 60 per cent of them involved in all environmental issues.

Table.4 Details about the Methods of Interference in Environmental Issue of the Respondents

Sl.No	Particular	No. of Teacher Respondent	Percent	No. of Pupil Respondent	Percent
1	Social Group & Natural Club	2	16.67	5	16.67
2	Groups in Social Media	4	33.33	7	23.33
3	Writing, Creative art work & Documentary	2	16.67	3	10.00
4	Government and Court	0	0.00	1	3.33
5	Direct Strikes	1	8.33	2	6.67
6	No interference	3	25.00	12	40.00
	Total	12	100.00	30	100.00

Source: Primary Data

Note: Figure in Parentheses is percentages to the total

Details of interference of respondents and the way by which they act on environmental issues have been presented in the given table.4. In total, 33.33 percent of the teachers interfered in environmental issues through Social media and 16.67 percent of them interferes through Social groups and natural club and also writing, creative art work and Documentary presentations. It proved that only few people adopted direct strikes Method. In the case of pupils 23.33 percent of them interferes in environmental issues through Social media and 16.67 percent of the pupils were interferes through social group and natural club. Only 10 percent of the Pupils interference in environmental issues through their writings and Documentary presentations and followed by direct strikes (6.67%) and Government Authority and Court (3.33%) of the respondents interference in social issues in the study area. It revealed that teachers and pupils were interferes in the environmental issues through social media, writings and documentary form.

Table .5 Correlation between Teachers and pupils involvement of Environmental issues

		Teachers	Pupils
Teachers	Pearson Correlation	1	.176**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.003
	N	42	42
Pupils	Pearson Correlation	.176**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.003	
	N	42	42

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

Hypothesis (Ho)

There is no significant relationship in the interference level between teachers and pupils in Palakkad District on the environmental issues in Kerala. Correlation Results for the interference level of Teachers and pupils in Palakkad District on the environmental issues in Kerala is given table 5. The table reveals that there is significant relationship between teachers and pupils interference level in environmental issues, it was also statistically significant at 1 percent level. So null hypothesis was rejected and alternative hypothesis was accepted that is., There is significant relationship between teachers and pupils interference in environmental issues of the study area.

Major Findings of the Study

- The study found that 12 teachers and 30 pupils from six schools were selected as sample size in the study.
- It could be observed that teachers were well aware about the environmental issues than the pupil's respondents in the study area but in the case of pupils 66.67 per cent of the respondents were aware about the environmental issues and 33.33 per cent of them were unaware about these issues.
- The study revealed that 75 per cent of the teachers were involved in environmental issues and remaining 25 per cent of them were not involved.
- The study found that 33.33 percent of the teachers interference in environmental issues through Social media and 16.67 percent of them interferences through Social groups and natural club and also writing, creative art work and Documentary. It proved that only few teachers adopted direct 'strike Method'. In the case of pupils 23.33 percent of the them interference in environmental issues through Social media
- It revealed that teachers and pupils were interferences in the environmental issues through social media, writings and documentary presentations.

Conclusion

Nowadays civilized world upholds the concept of sustainable development method. Therefore all the Government agencies are utilizing the suggestions of the experts, environmentalists, and the Geologists in their development projects or programmes. However, unfortunately environmental exploitation still happens in the whole world. As per the focus of the study revealed that the interference of teachers and pupils in the environmental issues through social media, writings and documentary presentation were high. The study pointed out that teachers were well aware about the environmental issues than the pupil's respondents in the study area but in the case of pupils 66.67 per cent. 75 percent of the teachers were involved in environmental issues and remaining 25 per cent of them were not involved. In such circumstances it is very essential to utilize the help of teachers and Pupils against the blind exploitation of our environment. Thereby the study

can assure a better environment not only to the present generation but also the future world.

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