Relationship between Self Concept and Environmental Awareness of College Students

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Abstract: *The present study was carried out with the objective to determine the relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of degree college students. A sample of 254 college students of Mandi and Hamirpur district were selected for the study with the help of multi-stage random sampling technique. Descriptive survey method was employed for the investigation. The investigator used Self-Concept Rating Scale developed by Dr. Pratibha Deo and Environmental Awareness Scale by Sapna Goel . Pearson's Product Moment Coefficient of correlation was used for data analysis. The major findings of the study were: 1. In case of male college students, self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other; whereas in case of female college students significant and positive correlation between self concept and environmental awareness was observed. 2. Self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other with respect to locale.3.In case of government college students, self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other; whereas in case of private college students there was reported a significant and positive correlation between self concept and environmental awareness.4. Self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other in case college students belonging to high socio-economic status; whereas in case of students belonging to low socio-economic status significant and positive correlation was reported between self concept and environmental awareness.*

Key Words: *Environmental Awareness, Self Concept, College Students.*

Introduction

Self concept is an individual's assessment of his/her status on a single trait or many human dimensions using social or personal norms as criteria. Self concept composite of ideas, feelings and attitudes that a person has about his/her own identity, worth, capabilities and

limitations such factors as values and opinions of others, especially the formal years of early childhood play an important role in the development of self concept, We develop and maintain our self concept through the process of taking action and then reflecting on what we have done what others tell us about what we have done. Self concept is not innate, but it developed or constructed by the individual through interaction with the environment and reflecting on that interaction. This dynamic aspect of self concept is important because it indicates that it can be modified or changed.

Environmental Awareness is the concept of making individual conscious about the physical, biological, social and cultural aspects of environment. The environment is linked with the life support system having six components; namely: air, land , water, flora, fauna and sunlight. These components have dynamic relationship. The most important activities through which environmental awareness can be spread, include celebration of environment days, organizing debates, declamation and painting competitions, skits, quizzes etc.

Rationale of the Study

Self Concept is an important determinant in the behavior of an individual. One's ideas about his/her own self influence one's ideas and attitudes in various fields. Self concept and environmental awareness decide the social and personal behaviour of the man. A man become what he want according to his needs, interests and thoughts. His actions are influenced by his needs, interest and thoughts. Many studies have been conducted on self concept and its relationship with different variables. Bharathi, G. (1984) conducted a study on, "A study of self-concept and achievement motivation of early adolescents." Chaddha, D.K. (1985) conducted a study on, "Self-Concept of teacher and their educational adjustment." Devid, A. (1990) conducted a study on, "A Comparative Study of Self-Concept and achievement, Motivation among adolescent girls of working and non-working mother of high socio-economic status." Suroja, N. (1997) conducted a study on, "A study of self concept and achievement-motivation of female adult's towards literacy Aziz & Shah, Ali. (1997) conducted a study on, "Relationship of responsibility and self-concept with drug addiction among University Students." Kaur, M. (2001) conducted a study on, "Self concept is relation to intellectual variables." But no study explored the relationship between self concept and environmental awareness. There is a dearth of studies in this line. Present study tried to explore the relationship between two variables. Hence the study was carried out sincerely to explore any kind of relationship between the two variables.

Objectives of the Study

1. To study the relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students in relation to gender.

2. To explore the relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students in relation to locale.

3. To find out the relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students in relation to type of college.

4. To study the relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students in relation to stream.

Hypotheses of the Study

On the basis of objectives following hypotheses were formulated:

H_{01}

a) There will be no significant relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of male college students.

b) There will be no significant relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of female college students

H_{02}

a) There will be no significant relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of rural college students.

b) There will be no significant relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of urban college students.

H_{03}

a) There will be no significant relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of Government college students.

b) There will be no significant relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of private college students.

H_{04}

a) There will be no significant relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of college students belonging to high socio-economic.

b) There will be no significant relationship between self concept and environmental awareness of college students belonging to low-economic status.

Methodology

Descriptive research deals with the relationship between variables, testing of hypotheses, and development of the generalization principles and theories. This method is considered appropriate for behavioural sciences. Descriptive survey method was used to carry out the study.

Sample

In the present study the sample was selected randomly at two stages. At the first stage five government and five private colleges were selected from Mandi and Hamirpur district. Then 234 students were selected randomly from the ten colleges. The present study was delimited to the Hamirpur and Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh only. The sample was delimited to the 234 Degree College Students only. The study was delimited to ten colleges only.

Tools

To collect the requisite data for the study, the investigator used two tools 'Self-Concept Rating Scale developed by Dr. Pratibha Deo and the second tool was developed and standardized by Sapna Goel .

Statistical Techniques Used

In the present study, statistical techniques of 'Karl Pearson's product moment co-efficient of co-relation' was used to analyse the data.

The Result

A. *Relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students in relation to gender*

Table1: The coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the male and female college students

Group	N	Correlation	Remarks
Self-Concept Male	132	-.0173	Not Significant at .05level
Environmental Awareness Male	132		
Self-Concept Female	122	.180	Significant at .05 level
Environmental Awareness Female			

Table 1 represents the coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the male college students for N=132 is-.0173, which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis -There will be no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of male college students is accepted.

The coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the female college students for N=122 is .180, which is significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis -There will be no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of female college students is rejected.

B. *Relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students in relation to locale*

Table2: The coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the rural and urban college students

Group	N	Correlation	Remarks
Self-Concept Rural	164	.116	Not Significant at .05level
Environmental Awareness Rural	164		
Self-Concept Urban	90	.089	Not Significant at .05level
Environmental Awareness Urban	90		

From table 2 the value of coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for rural college students for N 164 is.116, which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis -There will be no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of rural college students is accepted.

The coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for urban college students for N90 is.089, which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis -There will be no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of urban college students is retained.

C. *Relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students in relation to type of college*

Table3: The coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the Government and private college students

Group	N	Correlation	Remarks
Self-Concept Government	136	-.0003	Not Significant at .05level
Environmental Awareness Government			
Self-Concept Private	118	.266	Significant at .05 level
Environmental Awareness Private			

Table 3 depics the values of coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the Government college students for N136 is-.0003, which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis -There will be no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of Government college students is retained.

The coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the private college students for N118 is .266, which is significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, the hypothesis -There will be

no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of private college students is not retained.

D. *Relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students in relation to socio-economic status*

Table 4 shows the coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for college students belonging to high economic status for N138 is.029, which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, hypothesis -There will be no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students belonging to high economic status is retained

Table4: The coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the college students belonging to high and low socio-economic status

Group	N	Correlation	Remarks
Self-Concept HSES	138	0.029	Not Significant at .05level
Environmental HSES			
Self-Concept LSES	116	.213	Significant at .05 level
Environmental LSES			

Table 4 shows the coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for college students belonging to high economic status for N138 is.029, which is not significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, hypothesis -There will be no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students belonging to high economic status is retained.

Table 4 depicts the value of coefficient of Karl Pearson's correlation for the college students for N116 is.213, which is significant at .05 level of significance. Hence, hypothesis - There will be no significant relationship between self concept and Environmental Awareness of college students belonging to low economic status is not accepted.

Findings of the Study

i. In case of male college students, self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other; whereas in case of female students it was found significant and positive correlation between self concept and environmental awareness.

ii. Self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other with respect to locale.

iii. In case of government college students, self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other; whereas in case of private college students there

was reported a significant and positive correlation between self concept and environmental awareness.

iv.   Self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other in case college students belonging to high socio-economic status; whereas in case of students belonging to low socio-economic status significant and positive correlation was reported between self concept and environmental awareness.

Educational Implications

Every study is supposed to contribute to theory or educational practice. Self concept and environmental awareness were not correlated to each other with respect to locale. But in case of sex it was not found correlated to each other. Same is the case with Government College students and students belonging to high socio-economic status. But in case of female college students, private college students and students belonging to low socio-economic status positive and significant correlation was reported. In order to minimize these differences adequate programs like workshops, seminars, tutorials should be organized for the groups, in order to obtain desirable results. This will further enhance the environmental awareness and responsibility towards the environment of the college students.

Conclusion

After scanning the results it was found that self concept and environmental awareness were correlated to each other for some groups and for some these were not correlated. For those groups , where the correlation was reported positive and significant; environmental awareness can be enhanced by boosting self concept.

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