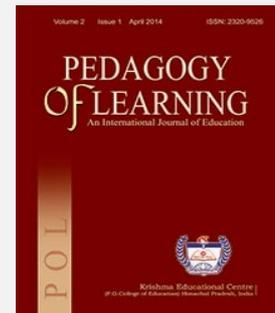


PEDAGOGY OF LEARNING (POL)
International Refereed/ Peer Reviewed
Journal of Education
E-ISSN: 2395-7344, P-ISSN: 2320-9526
Abstracted and indexed in: Google Scholar,
Research Bib, International Scientific
Indexing (ISI), Scientific Indexing Services
(SIS), WorldCat, Cite Factor,
Impact Factor: 0.787(GIF)
Website: <http://pedagogyoflearning.com>



Environmental Awareness among the Scheduled Tribe Slum Inhabitants

DOI: 10.46704/pol.2020.v06i03.003

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Article History:

Received: 22 July 2020, Received in revised form: 28 July 2020

Accepted: 30 July 2020, Published online: 30 July 2020

Abstract

In the later part of the 20th century modernization is the most important factor for the migration of the people from different rural and tribal areas to urban areas in search of works. Majority of these migrants were very poor and have settled mostly in the periphery areas of the towns forming slums. Most of them were not conscious about their environment before migration. The present article speaks about the Environmental Awareness of the Scheduled Tribe Slum Inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation Area. The findings of the study reported that a very high percentage of scheduled tribe slum inhabitants of both the sexes and total sampled inhabitants were very much conscious of their environment.

Keywords: Tribal, Slum, Environment, Awareness, Migration

INTRODUCTION

In India the people live mainly in Rural, Tribal, Urban and Industrial areas. The urban areas inhabitants mainly of two types according to their place of habitation. (1) Urban in-habitants and (ii) Slum in-habitants. Majority slum inhabitants live in the periphery areas of the cities / towns. They come from different places on migration, mainly in search of works and live in groups forming slums. These people belong to different casts like General Caste, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled tribes. After staying in the slum areas and working in the urban sectors, charges come in their life style. The present study has been made to know the environmental awareness developed among the Scheduled Tribe Slum in-habitants live in different slum areas of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area and suggest measures in the light of the findings.

Objectives of the Study

The present study has been conducted with the following objectives;

1. To display the Environmental awareness of Men and Women Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area.
2. To compare the Environmental awareness of Men and Women Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation area.
3. To suggest measures in the light of the findings.

Tools Used: A pre-prepared questionnaire with three different choice answers for each question (one correct answer and other two in-correct answers) was given to each respondent. The respondents were asked to give tick(✓) mark on their choice answer for each question. In a few cases (where the respondents could not read and understood the questions clearly) the researcher used the said questionnaire as an interview schedule and collected the responses by asking questions and telling three choice answers for each question.

Sample: 50 men and 50 women scheduled tribe slum inhabitants were randomly selected from different 5(five) big slum areas of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area.

Delimitations of the Study

The present study was delimited to,

1. Slum areas of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area.
2. It was further de-limited to 50 (fifty) men and 50(fifty) Women Scheduled Tribes randomly selected from 5 (five) different big slum areas.
3. In the present article out of the 10 (ten) questions in the environmental awareness area (asked to the respondents) the responses to first 4 (four) questions have been analyzed and interpreted.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

Environment helps a person for leading a better life. The life pattern changes when the environment changes. In the present article the analysis of first 4 (four) questions asked to the S.T. Slum inhabitants gives clear picture about their environmental awareness.

Before analyzing and interpreting the responses (of the Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area) it is essential to know the stability of the percentages of responses to a particular question.

Stability of percentage for sample size 50 and sample size 100.

The stability of the percentage of the slum inhabitants' responses to a particular item (Question) were found out by using formula given by Garrett (1979), p-197.

$$\sigma \% = \sqrt{\frac{PQ}{N}} = \sqrt{\frac{68 \times 32}{50}} \% = 6.60\%$$

(S.E. of 68%)

The 0.99 confidence interval for the population percentage is 68.00% ± 2.58 x 6.60% or from 50.98% to 85.02%. So in the present study the lower limit of the total responses of 68.00% and above in 0.99 confidence level will not be less than 50.00%.

Similarly,

Pedagogy of Learning (POL)

Vol. 6 (3), July 2020 © Pedagogy of Learning & the authors.
Peer Reviewed Journal, E-ISSN: 2395-7344, P-ISSN: 2320-9526
Web: <http://pedagogyoflearning.com>

$$\sigma \% = \sqrt{\frac{64 \times 36}{50}} \% = 6.79\% \text{ (S.E. of 64\%)}$$

The 0.95 confidence interval for the population percentage is 64.00%± 1.96 x 6.79% or from 50.69 to 77.31. Hence in the present study the lower limit of the responses 64.00% to 67.00% in 0.95 confidence levels will not be less than 50.00%.

Similarly for sample size 100 the stable percentage of responses in 0.99 confidence level is 63% and above and in 0.95 confidence level is between 60 to 62%.

Q.1. why will we not cut trees?

Protection of trees helps in forming rain and trees leave oxygen during photosynthesis. In the above question out of the three choice answers, “Else there will be less rainfall and shortage of oxygen” is the correct and best answer. The table-1 tells about the responses of the Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area to this question.

Table -1: Reasons for protecting trees

Sl. No.	Choice Answers	S.T. Men	S.T. Women	Total
1.	Else there will be shortage of fuel wood.	2/4	3/6	5/5
2.	Tree gives shadow	7/14	9/18	16/16
3.	Else there will be less rainfall and shortage of oxygen	41/82	38/76	79/79
	Total-	50/100	50/100	100/100

(The figures in the Numerators indicate the total numbers and that of the Denominators indicate the corresponding percentages)

The table-1 clearly speaks that, a highly stable, 82% of scheduled tribe men, 76% of scheduled tribe women and 79% of total scheduled tribe slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar M.C. area responded to the correct and best choice answer (i.e.) “Else there will be less rainfall and shortage of oxygen” given to them in the Sl. No.3. The responses to other two choice answers in the Sl. No.1 and 2 were very poor. Further the responses shows that, the S.T. men slum in-habitants were more aware of than S.T. Women slum in-habitants. This shows that majority S.T. slum in-habitants (both men and women) of Bhubaneswar M.C. area were quite aware of the bad effects of cutting trees.

Q.2. what type of manure you will apply to the vegetable plants in the garden?

The plants are the source of natural oxygen which we breathe. Not only oxygen but an also vegetable plant gives us food materials. For better growth of plants we apply manures. The manures are of two types. Organic manures and in-organic / chemical manures. The chemical manures have bad effect both on soil and vegetables. The organic manures include cow dung, decay, decomposed organic material etc. In the above question “Organic Manure” is the correct and best choice answer. The table-2 speaks about the responses of the scheduled tribe slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality corporation area to this question.

Table -2 Type of manure to be applied to vegetable plants.

Sl. No.	Choice Answers	S.T. Men	S.T. Women	Total
1.	Organic Manure	44/88	41/82	85/85
2.	Chemical Manure	6/12	9/18	15/15
3.	Sandy Soil	-	-	-
	Total	50/100	50/100	100/100

(The figures in the Numerators indicate the total numbers and that of the Denominators indicate the corresponding percentages).

The table-2 clearly says that, a highly stable, 88% of schedule tribe men, 82% of Scheduled Tribe women and 85% of the total S.T. slum respondents of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area responded to the correct and best choice answer (i.e.) “Organic Manure” given to them in the Sl.No.1. The responses to the choice answer in the Sl. No.2 were very poor both by the men, women and total respondents and there was nil response to the choice answer given in the Sl. No.3. Further the responses indicate that the men Scheduled Tribes were more aware about the use of manures than women scheduled tribes.

This shows that, majority S.T. Slum inhabitants (both men & women) of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area were very much aware about the types of manure to be used for the vegetable plants. This shows their environmental awareness as the organic manures help to grow plants properly and keeps environment unpolluted.

Q3. Where will you throw the garbage?

The garbage of the house should be thrown at a distance place from the home, otherwise bad smell, insects, germs etc. will enter in the house which will create an unhygienic atmosphere in the house and invite diseases to the family. It is should not also be thrown in the river or canal or pond as it will pollute the water.

In the above question out of the three choice answers “in a place away from home” is the correct and best choice answer. The table-3 speaks about the responses of the Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation Area to this question.

Table-3 Proper place to throw garbage

Sl. No.	Choice Answers	S.T. Men	S.T. Women	Total
1.	In the river or canal.	2/4	4/8	6/6
2.	In a place away from home.	37/74	36/72	73/73
3.	Back side of home	11/22	10/20	21/21
	Total-	50/100	50/100	100/100

(The figures in the Numerators indicate total numbers and that of the Denominators indicate the corresponding percentages.)

The table-3 clearly speaks that a highly stable 74% of S.T. men, 72% of S.T. women and 73% of the total S.T. sampled slum inhabitants had responded to the correct and best choice answer (i.e.) to throw the garbage, “in a place away from home”. This clearly indicates that, the Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar M.C. Area were quite aware of, “how to protect the environment and keep it unpolluted”.

The responses to the choice answer in the Sl.No.1 (i.e.) “in the river or canal” was very poor. But to the choice answer given in the Sl. No.3 (i.e.) “back side of home” was, 22% for S.T. men, 20% for S.T. women and 21% for the S.T. total sample. These responses might be the reflection of their habits as they throw garbage in the back side of their homes regularly due to shortage of place.

Q4. Where will you pass stool?

Previously many people were passing stool in the open field and other small open places. As a result there was every possibility of anal infection, intestine worm infections etc. One should pass stool in a latrine. In the above question out of the three choice answers “in the latrine” is the correct and best answer.

The table-04 speaks about the responses of the Scheduled Tribe Slum Inhabitants of the Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation Area about the proper place to pass stool.

Table-4 Proper place to pass stool

Sl. No.	Choice Answers	S.T. Men	S.T. Women	Total
1.	In the open field	5/10	7/14	12/12
2.	In the bank of canal	2/4	4/8	6/6
3.	In the latrine	43/86	39/78	82/82
	Total	50/100	50/100	100/100

(The figures in the Numerators indicate the total numbers and that of the Denominators indicate the corresponding percentages)

The table-4 clearly speaks that, a highly stable percentage, 86% of the men S.T., 78% of the women S.T. and 82% of total S.T. sampled Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area had responded to the correct and best choice answer to pass stool(i.e.) “in the latrin” given in SL. No.3. These responses clearly indicates that, the Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area S.T. Slum inhabitants were quite aware of how to protect environment clean and unpolluted.

The responses to the choice answers given in the Sl.No.1(i.e.) “in the open field” and in Sl.No.2(i.e.) “in the bank of Canal” were very poor and quite unstable.

This clearly shows that, the Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation area were quite aware of, how to maintain a clean and unpolluted environment.

MAJOR FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The analysis of the responses of the S.T. Slum Inhabitants of Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation Area about their Environmental Awareness clearly indicates that, a very high percentage of Scheduled Tribe Slum inhabitants of both the sexes and total sampled inhabitants were very much conscious of their environment. This might be the effect of different literacy and awareness programs conducted in the slums.

Since still a few S.T. slum inhabitants were not aware about their Environment, steps may be taken by different Govt. and Non-Govt. agencies to make them aware about their environment through different programmes like meetings discussion, door to door campaign etc.

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How to cite this article:

Pati, K.P. and Pati, S.P. (2020). Environmental awareness among the scheduled tribe slum inhabitants. *Pedagogy of Learning*, 6 (3): 15-19. Available at: <http://pedagogyoflearning.com>.

Pedagogy of Learning (POL)

Vol. 6 (3), July 2020 © Pedagogy of Learning & the authors.
Peer Reviewed Journal, E-ISSN: 2395-7344, P-ISSN: 2320-9526
Web: <http://pedagogyoflearning.com>