

Study of Status of Awareness about Environmental Protection Laws among Undergraduate Students

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ABSTRACT

In the present paper, attempts were made to identify the status of level of awareness about environmental protection laws existing in our country among undergraduate students. The survey was conducted among students through self-designed questionnaire. The study revealed that the level of awareness about environmental protection laws for the student those who have completed 12th standard from Science stream were found to be 29.6%, Commerce- 29.6% and Arts-40.7% stream students.

I. INTRODUCTION

The conservation and protection of environment and natural resources is essential for maintaining environmental balance. It is our duty to take proper steps for protecting our environment through various level such as organisation of various activities, environmental legal awareness campaigns, competitions, involvement of NGO and voluntary organisations, etc. In addition to this, it is necessary to create awareness about various existing environmental protection laws, legal provisions and policies among students.

In this paper, the primary data were collected through questionnaire. The questions based on various existing environmental laws were included in the questionnaire and the gender-wise level of awareness were represented.

Legal framework relating to Environment Protection in India (including provisions) :-

- The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- The Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2006.
- Environment protection is mentioned in the Indian Constitution as part of Directive Principles of State Policy as well as Fundamental Duties.

II. METHODS AND MATERIALS

The aim of the present study is to measure the status of level of awareness about environmental protection laws to the regular undergraduate students. Although several studies have been conducted about environmental laws but very less attention was paid on awareness among students.

The objectives of the study are :-

1. To study the level of status of awareness about environmental protection laws among undergraduates students.
2. To study the gender-wise difference in the level of status of awareness.
3. To study the difference in the level of status of awareness among students having Science, Commerce and Arts background (at school education).

Self-prepared questionnaire on environmental protection laws consisting of ten questions were employed for collecting primary data. The questionnaire was given to undergraduate students selected on random basis. In addition to this, some recommendations were given on the basis of interpretation and analysis of primary data collected through survey.

Questionnaire on Environmental Laws :-

The following questions were included in the questionnaire:-

- Q.1) Do you know about the laws related to Environmental Protection?
- Q.2) Do you know about the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?
- Q.3) Do you think the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 helps to conserve and protect water resources?
- Q.4) Are you aware about the role of Central Pollution Control Board?
- Q.5) Do you think that legal awareness regarding Environmental Laws is necessary?
- Q.6) Are you aware about the punishment prescribed under various Environmental Laws?
- Q.7) Do you know about the objectives of UN conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972?
- Q.8) Do you know about the role of Ministry of Environment and Forests?
- Q.9) Do you know about the role of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010?
- Q.10) Whether the existing Environmental Laws are sufficient?

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of present study are discussed as follows:

- 88.9% of students know about the laws related to Environmental Protection.
- 96.3% of students know about the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- 77.8% of students think the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 helps to conserve and protect water resources.
- 88.9% of students aware about the role of Central Pollution Control Board.
- 96.3% of students thinks that legal awareness regarding Environmental Laws is necessary.
- 85.2% of students are aware about the punishment prescribed under various Environmental Laws.
- 66.7% of students know about the objectives of UN conference on Human Environment in Stockholm in 1972.

- 77.8% of students know about the role of Ministry of Environment and Forests
- 77.8% of students know about the role of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- 59.3% of students think that the existing Environmental Laws are sufficient.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

The researcher concludes the present paper with recommendations which are-

- The researcher recommends that environmental laws and provisions for the protection of environment should be included in the school and college curriculum.
- The student should be sensitized by involving them in organisation and participation in various activities such as Environment Day, World Wildlife Day, World Water Day, Environment Awareness Campaigns, guest lectures on various issues related to environmental laws, conferences, symposia etc.
- The students interaction with NGO working in environmental sector should be motivated at various platforms.
- The education institutes should execute memorandum of understanding and collaboration with environment related institute, laboratories, legal forums, clubs and centres for providing more facilities to the undergraduate students.
- To create more awareness about environmental protection laws, library should be enriched with books, e-books, magazines, news letters, CD'S and other learning materials.
- The laws colleges and institutes working in legal education should be involved at various platforms to improve the present status of awareness about environmental protection laws among undergraduate students.

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VI. REFERENCES

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