

Attitude Levels of Secondary School Teachers Towards Environmental Education

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Abstract

The hypotheses that there exists a significant relationship between the various dimensions of leadership behavior and teachers' job satisfaction and there also exists a significant relationship between the various dimensions of leadership behavior and pupils' academic achievement have been verified by conducting an investigation. Fifty secondary school principals were tested their leadership behavior by using R.M. Stogdil's Leadership Behavior Description Questionnaire – Form XII and five hundred school teachers of the above fifty secondary schools from the five districts of Manipur State were also find out their level of job satisfaction by using P.Kumar and D.N. Mutha's Teachers' Job Satisfaction Questionnaire. Pupils' academic achievement has been collected from the results of Class Xth examination conducted by the Board of Secondary Education, Manipur. It has been found that the leadership as a whole has positively significant relationship with teachers' job satisfaction at .05 level of significance. It can also be conducted that those principals who bear all the dimensions of leadership behavior more support the teacher job satisfaction. It has also been found that most of the dimensions of leadership behavior have been significant relationship with the pupils' academic achievement. Therefore, it appears that principals who are possessing good leadership behavior play a significant role in pupils' academic achievement.

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Introduction

Environmental education is a new emerging scopes of education and it also a very effective area of study in the field of education. Simply, it is the education through environment about environment and for environment. It also studies for both style and subject matters of education. So far as the style is concerned, environmental education means as a teaching learning medium and approaches to education. As the subject matter are concerned, environmental education deals about the teaching components and constituents of the environment. But the teaching for environment is concerned, environmental education means preserving the environment and maintaining the proper ecological balance. It also includes proper environmental planning to make the surrounding aesthetically enjoyable. It is the medium and process of education and it covers man's natural relationship with his social and manmade environment. Not only this, environmental education is the relationship between man and industrialization, pollution, resource allocation, conservation, transportation, technology, energy and urban and rural planning to the total biosphere. Thus environmental education is the education which deals with man's relationship with his natural and manmade surroundings and also aimed at developing responsible actions necessary for preservation, conservation and improvement, conservation of environment and its components. Environmental education also entails practice in decision making and self-formulation of a code of behavior about issues concerning environmental quality.

Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the proposed study are given below:

- (a) To ascertain the attitude towards the environmental education of the government and private secondary school teachers.
- (b) To compare the attitudes towards the environmental education between male and female teachers of government secondary schools.
- (c) To compare the attitudes towards the environmental education between male and female teachers of private secondary schools.
- (d) To compare the attitude towards the environmental education among the male teachers of government and private secondary schools.
- (e) To compare the attitude towards the environmental education among the female teachers of government and private secondary schools.

Hypotheses of the Study

Based on the above objectives, the present investigator framed the null hypothesis. Hypotheses of the study are given below:

- (a) There may not be any significant differences in the attitudes towards the environmental education between government and private secondary school teachers.
- (b) There may not be any significant differences in the attitudes towards the environmental education between male and female teachers of government secondary schools.
- (c) There may not be any significant differences in the attitudes towards the environmental education between male and female teachers of private secondary schools.
- (d) There may not be any significant differences in the attitudes towards the environmental education between male teachers of government and private secondary schools.
- (e) There may not be any significant differences in the attitudes towards the environmental education between female teachers of government and private secondary schools.

Justification of the present Study

Environmental education aims at the development of responsible attitudes towards the sustainable development of the planet, earth, an appreciation of its beauty and an adoption of an environmental ethics. It contributes to the communication of information and to the development of understanding, skills, attitudes and values those influences the behavior of individuals, resource user group and the community. At present, the environmental education is included in the school curriculum. The children are considered to require to know, to understand, to love and to protect environment. In providing environmental education to children, their teachers certainly play important parts in different angles. It may be argued that the teachers who are well motivated, i.e., who are interested and have positive attitudes in environmental education will be in a positive to help in the development of knowledge, attitudes and skill relating to environment of the child. In this context, it may be important to ascertain how far the higher secondary school teachers are having zeal and enthusiasm in providing environmental education in two valley districts of Manipur viz. Imphal East and Imphal West Districts.

Methodology

Teachers of the whole higher secondary schools of Imphal East and Imphal West Districts of Manipur State have been considered as the population of the present study. But, the present investigator has been selected 500 secondary school teachers from one hundred (100) secondary schools by selecting five (5) teachers from each school by using simple random sampling technique.

Tools and Statistical techniques Used

For the present study, a self develop questionnaire entitles “attitude scale of Environmental Education” of 5-point attitude scale namely Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Undecided (U), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD) consisting of 28 items has been used for the collection of the data. The responses are to be scored 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 starting from Strongly Agree. The reliability of this attitude scale was found 0.80 by using split-half method. Mean, standard deviation, standard error for two means and t-test have been used as the statistical techniques for the analysis of these collected data.

Table – A
Showing the School & Teachers Sample of the Study

District	Government Schools				Private Schools			
	No. of Schools	Male	Female	Total	No. of Schools	Male	Female	Total
Imphal East	25	75	50	125	25	75	50	125
Imphal West	25	75	50	125	25	75	50	125
Total	50	150	100	250	50	150	100	250

Table – B
Showing Means and Standard Deviations of the Attitude of Secondary School Teachers towards Environmental Education

Sl. No.	Categories of Teachers	Mean	S.D.
1	Male Teachers	117.85	12.71
2	Female Teachers	112.38	28.81
3	Private Secondary Teachers	119.53	9.91
4	Government Secondary Teachers	110.75	29.29
5	Government Male Secondary Teachers	120.05	9.92
6	Private Secondary Male Secondary Teachers	115.75	13.85
7	Government Female Secondary Teachers	119.00	9.88
8	Private Secondary Female Secondary Teachers	105.75	38.41

Table – C
Showing Significance of Mean of the Attitude of Government and Private Secondary School Teachers towards Environmental Education

Category of School	Total Nos. of School	Mean	S.D.	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Significance
Govt.	50	110.50	29.29	4.37	2.01	Significantly Different
Private	50	119.53	9.82			

d.f.= 98, $t_{tab} = 1.99$ at .05 level of significance

Analysis

It can be interpreted from the Table – C that the calculated t - value is greater than the tabulated t - value. It means that there is significant difference in the attitudes of secondary government teachers towards the environmental education. It shows that there is no similarity between government and private secondary school teachers in the present study towards the attitudes of environmental education.

Table – D
Showing Significance of Mean of the Attitude of Male and Female Government
Secondary School Teachers towards Environmental Education

Category of Gender	Total Nos. of School	Mean	S.D.	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Significance
Male	150	120.05	9.92	1.28	0.82	No Significantly Different
Female	100	119.00	9.88			

d.f= 248, $t_{tab} = 1.97$ at .05 level of significance

Analysis

It has been found that there is no significant difference between the male and female primary teachers towards the attitudes of environmental education.

Table – E
Showing Significance of Mean of the Attitude of Male and Female Private Secondary
School Teachers towards Environmental Education

Category of Gender	Total Nos. of School	Mean	S.D.	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Significance
Male	150	115.75	13.85	4.03	2.48	No Significantly Different
Female	100	105.75	38.41			

d.f= 248, $t_{tab} = 1.97$ at .05 level of significance

Analysis

This table shows that there is more deviation among female teachers than male teachers of secondary school towards the attitude of environmental education. Not only this, there also has been found a significant difference between male and female private school teachers towards this attitude.

Table – F
Showing Significance of Mean of the Attitude of Male Private Secondary School
Teachers towards Environmental Education

Category of School	Total Nos. of School	Mean	S.D.	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Significance
Government	150	120.05	9.92	1.40	3.07	No Significantly Different
Private	150	15.75	13.85			

d.f= 248, $t_{tab} = 1.97$ at .05 level of significance

Analysis

This difference between the attitude of male teachers of government and private secondary schools also have been found a significant at .05 level of significance. It means that there is also found a different attitude towards environmental education of male teachers of these two categories of schools.

Table – G
Showing Significance of Mean of the Attitude of Female Private Secondary School Teachers towards Environmental Education

Category of School	Total Nos. of School	Mean	S.D.	SE _D	t-ratio	Level of Significance
Government	100	119.00	9.88	3.96	3.07	No Significantly Different
Private	100	105.75	38.41			

d. f = 248, $t_{tab} = 1.97$ at .05 level of significance

Analysis

For female secondary teachers of government and private schools, there is also having been found a significant difference towards the present attitude.

Main Findings

1. It has been found a significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental education between government and private secondary school teachers of Imphal East and Imphal West districts of Manipur State. It is also important to note that the SD of government primary school teachers is 29.29 and it indicates a greater variability among the teachers of government secondary schools towards the attitudes of environmental education than the teachers of private secondary schools (SD = 9.92).
2. No significant difference between male and female teachers of government secondary schools has been found towards the attitudes of environmental education. There is similar variability of environmental education. There is similar variability between male and female teachers of government secondary schools.
3. There is a significant difference between male and female private secondary teachers towards the attitudes of environmental education and it also has a larger variability among the female teachers (SD = 38.41) than the male teachers (SD = 13.85).
4. The result indicates a significant difference between the male teachers of government and private secondary schools towards the attitudes of environmental education. The larger variability towards this attitudes have been found among male teachers of private secondary schools (SD = 13.85) than the male teachers of government secondary schools.
5. There is also a significant difference between female teachers of government and private secondary schools. The greater variability in this attitude is also found among the female teachers of private secondary schools (SD = 38.41) than the female teachers of government secondary schools (SD = 9.88)

Educational Implications

The present study attempts to investigate the present status of teachers' perceptions of environmental education. Results and findings of this study can provide important insights into the development of environmental education as a practical issue. In general, teachers in this study are found to show a moderate level of environmental concern. Not only this, teachers in this study can also regard the important goals of environmental education. They also express the need for in service training in order to accomplish these goals. This study highlights the importance of personal and organizational factors resource support and the nature. It also shows that most of the teachers have a great concern towards environmental education and positive attitudes towards promoting environmental education.

Delimitations

1. The present study has been confined only to the secondary schools of Imphal East and Imphal West Districts of Manipur.
2. Only two variables viz. sex of the teachers and categories of schools i.e private and government secondary schools are considered.
3. Only five hundred secondary school teachers from one hundred schools are considered as the sample of the study.

Suggestions for Further Study

1. The same study can be conducted by taking a large sample.
2. More items of the attitudes towards environmental education can also be undertaken.
3. Another variables viz. trained or untrained teachers, teaching experiences, atmosphere of the school and etc. can be included as the variable of the study.

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