

# A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDE OF ECO-CLUB STUDENTS AND NON ECO-CLUB STUDENTS OF PUNJAB

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## Abstract

The present investigation has been undertaken to compare the environmental attitude of class IX students of Eco-club students and non eco-club students of Bathinda, Kapurthala and Fatehgarh Sahib Districts of Punjab in relation to their gender. The study was conducted based on randomly selected districts one each from low, average and high HDI (Human resource Development Index). The sample of the study comprised of 600 students- 200 from each district[100 male students (50 Eco-Club members and 50 non eco-club students) and 100 female students(50 Eco-Club members and 50 non eco-club students). The tool used in this study includes Taj Environmental Attitude Scale. The data was analysed using Mean, S.D. and t-test techniques. The findings of this study revealed that the environmental attitude of eco-club students is significantly higher than non eco-club students. The study also revealed that there is no significant difference in environmental attitude of eco club girls and boys.

## Introduction

In the changing modern social scenario, there is a crisis of environmental awareness and eco friendly practices thus leading to a negative code of behavior towards the environment. The major challenge facing present day society is the need for developing values to protect our environment especially amongst our future generations. The protection and preservation of environment has now become a globally challenging issue. Environmental Education considers the environment in its totality and a continuous life long process beginning at the pre school level and continuing through all stages. It also utilizes various educational approaches to teach and learn about and from the environment with stress on practical activities and first hand experiences. It is through this process of education that people can be sensitized about the environmental issues. (<http://punenvis.nic.in>).

The scheme of Eco Clubs was evolved by Govt. of India to extend non formal proactive system of imparting Environmental Education to school children by involving them in various environmental activities. This began

informally with the concept of the 'Eco-Club' arising in 1986 and was known as a 'Scheme'. Financial assistance was provided on a case to case basis with no institutional framework. A proposal for introduction of National Green Corps Programme was made at the Conference of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) of the State Governments and Union Territories during 29-30 January 2001 at Coimbatore. Then the flagship Programme i.e.National Green Corps(NGC) Programme was developed and formal framework was provided for the Eco-Clubs in the schools from Class V-XII to succeed in various parts of the country. Broadly the eco clubs work as "agents of change crating a spirit of conservation and mobilizing citizens into environmental action."

### **Operational Definitions of the terms**

**Eco-Club:** It connotes a group of 30-50 school children expressing interest in environmental related issues and is supervised by a teacher in-charge. This group carries on the activities related to environment and is given a fixed grant by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

**Eco-Club Students :** The students who are the members of the eco-club in the school and who participate in the activities conducted by the school eco-club.

**Non Eco- club Students:** The students who are not the members of Eco-club of the school.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The study was aimed at achieving the following objectives:

- 1) To compare the environmental attitude of all eco-club students and non eco-club students.
- 2) To compare various dimensions of environmental attitude of eco-club students and non eco-club students .
- 3) To compare the environmental attitude of eco-club member boys and girls.
- 4) To compare various dimensions of environmental attitude of eco-club member boys and girls.
- 5) To compare environmental attitude of eco-club students and non eco-club students in three districts of Punjab
- 6) To compare environmental attitude of eco-club students in relation to their gender in three districts of Punjab

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

- 1) There is no significant difference in environmental attitude of eco-club students and non eco-club students.
- 2) There lies no significant difference in the environmental attitude of eco-club students in relation to their gender
- 3) There is no significant difference in the environmental attitude of eco-club students of the three districts of Punjab
- 4) There is no significant difference in the environmental attitude of eco-club students of the three districts of Punjab in relation to their gender.

### **Methodology**

#### **Sample**

The present study was conducted on Class IX students of P.S.E.B( Punjab School Education Board) affiliated schools of Bathinda , Kapurthala and Fatehgarh Sahib districts of Punjab. The districts have been randomly chosen from Low, Average and High Human Development Index(HDI) respectively . A sample comprising 600 students was chosen out of which 200 students from each district was taken . 100 students from each district were members of eco-club in the schools and 100 were non eco-club students out of which 50 students were male and 50 were female.

#### **Research Tools**

For the present study , the data was collected with the help of the Environmental Attitude Scale standardized by Dr. Haseen Taj . this test is intended to measure environmental attitude of individuals. TEAS has 61 items spread over various dimensions - Health & Hygiene, Wild Life, Forests, Polluters, Population explosion and Environmental Concern.

#### **Statistical Analysis**

Mean, Standard Deviation(SD) and t-test have been used for analysing the data.

#### **Procedure**

The students of P.S.E.B. affiliated schools were requested to fill the questionnaires.

#### **Data Analysis and Interpretation**

The gathered data was tabulated and analysed using the above mentioned statistical measures. The data is presented in the following tables:

**Table -1**  
Mean, S.D. and t-value of environmental attitude of Eco-club and non eco-club students

Group	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Level of significance
Eco-club	300	191.4	10.29	598	2.52	Significant at 0.05 level
Non Eco-club	300	165.02	14.99			

**Table 2**  
Mean, S.D. and t-value of areas of environmental attitude of Eco-club and non eco-club students

Areas	Group	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Health & Hygiene	EC	15.53	0.88	3.97	Significant at 0.01 level
	NEC	13.51	1.26		
Wild Life	EC	19.84	1.45	3.83	Significant at 0.01 level
	NEC	16.27	1.48		
Forests	EC	15.72	0.92	3.91	Significant at 0.01 level
	NEC	13.55	1.27		
Polluters	EC	81.59	4.44	2.29	Significant at 0.01 level
	NEC	70.34	6.42		
Population Explosion	EC	15.71	0.92	5.52	Significant at 0.01 level
	NEC	13.50	1.27		
Environmental Concern	EC	43.92	2.35	7.71	Significant at 0.01 level
	NEC	37.87	3.48		

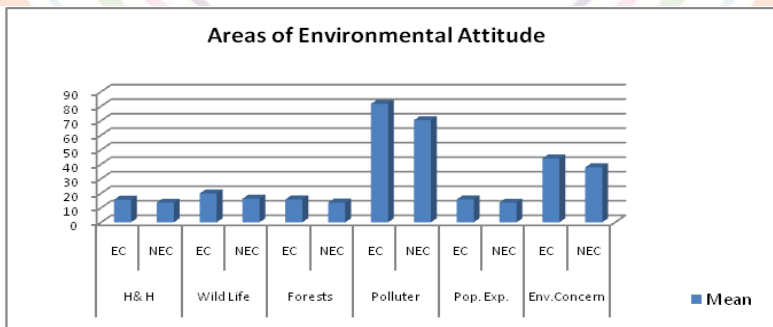


Fig.1:Mean value of areas of Environmental attitude of eco-club and non eco-club students

**Table 3**  
**Mean , S.D. and t-value of Environmental attitude of Eco-club boys and girls**

Group	N	Mean	SD	df	t-value	Level of significance
Boys	150	191.02	10.78	298	0.53	Not significant at 0.05 level
Girls	150	191.77	9.78			

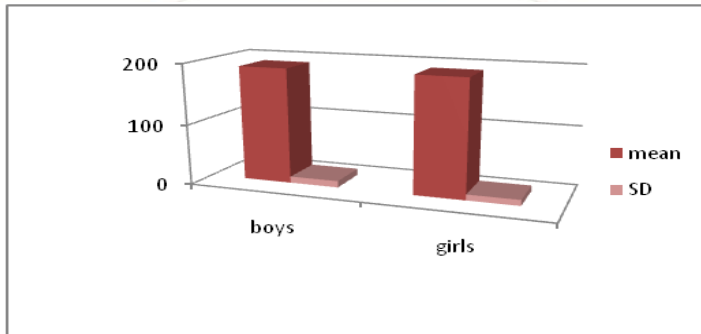


Fig.2: Mean and Standard Deviation of Environmental attitude of Eco-club member boys and girls

**Table 4**  
**Mean,S.D and t-values of Areas of Environmental attitude between all Eco-club member boys and Eco-club member girl students**

Areas	Group	Mean	SD	t-value	Level of Significance
Health & Hygiene	Boys	15.53	0.88	0.94	Not significant at 0.01 level
	Girls	15.52	0.90		
Wild Life	Boys	18.86	1.16	0.50	Not significant at 0.01 level
	Girls	18.95	1.07		
Forests	Boys	15.66	0.95	0.20	Not significant at 0.01 level
	Girls	15.79	0.87		
Polluters	Boys	81.42	4.66	0.49	Not significant at 0.01 level
	Girls	81.77	4.22		
Population Explosion	Boys	15.68	0.97	0.41	Not significant at 0.01 level
	Girls	15.75	0.85		
Environmental Concern	Boys	43.87	2.49	0.71	Not significant at 0.01 level
	Girls	43.97	2.21		

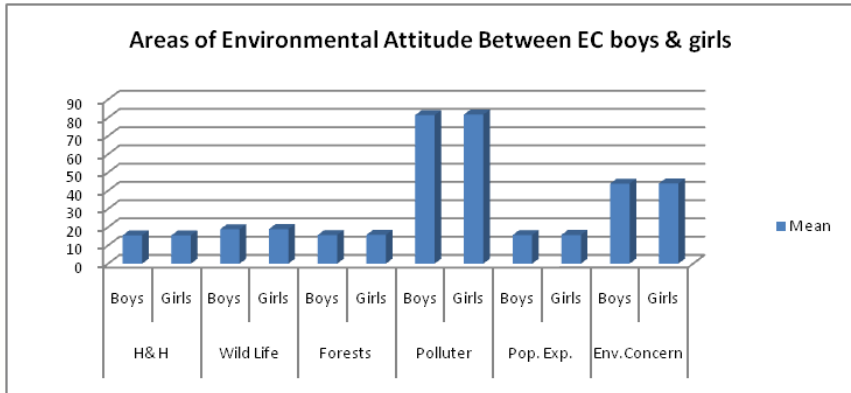


Fig 3 Environmental attitude between eco-club boys and eco-club girls

**Table 5**  
F-value of Environmental Attitude of Eco-Club and Non eco-club students with respect to their gender and districts i.e Bathinda , Kapurthala and Fatehgarh Sahib

	Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F Value	Level of Significance
Environmental Attitude of Eco Club & Non Eco-club students	Between Groups	37387.36	2	18693.68	22.15	Significant at 0.01 level
	Within Groups	166249.8	197	843.91		
	<b>Total</b>	203637.16	199			

**Table 6**  
F- value of Environmental Attitude of Eco-Club students with respect to their gender and districts i.e Bathinda , Kapurthala and Fatehgarh Sahib

Variable	Sources of Variation	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F Value	Level of Significance
Environmental Attitude of Eco-Club students	Between Groups	5187.84	2	2593.92	28.92	Significant at 0.01 level
	Within Groups	26636.16	297	89.68		
	<b>Total</b>	31824	299			



## Results and Discussion

Table 1 represents the Mean, S.D and t-value of environmental attitude of eco club member students and non eco-club students. For degrees of freedom 598, the obtained t-value is 2.52 which is greater than table value of t-1.96 at 0.05 level of significance. It means that there is a significant difference between the environmental attitude of eco-club member students and non eco-club students.

Table 2 shows the Mean and SD values of eco club and non eco club students for various dimensions of Environmental Attitude . The value of t for the environmental attitude area -Health & Hygiene has come out to be 3.97 for df = 298 which is more than the table value of 2.59 at 0.01 level of significance. Similarly the computed values for dimensions of environmental awareness i.e Wildlife, Forests, Polluters, Population Explosion and Environmental Concern have been computed as 3.83,3.91,2.29 and 5.52 respectively. All these values are more than table value of t. It means that there is a significant difference in various dimensions of environmental attitude between eco-club and non eco-club students.

Table 3 represents the Mean, S.D and t-value of environmental attitude of ecoclub boy students and eco-club girl students. For degrees of freedom 298, the obtained t-value is 0.53 which is smaller than the table value of t-1.97 at 0.05 level of significance. It means that there is no significant difference in the environmental attitude between eco-club member boys and eco-club girls.

Table 4 shows the Mean and SD values of eco club and non eco club students for various dimensions of Environmental Attitude . The value of t for the environmental attitude area -Health & Hygiene has come out to be 0.94 for df = 148 which is less than the table value of 2.59 at 0.01 level of significance. Similarly the computed values for dimensions of environmental awareness i.e Wildlife, Forests, Polluters, Population Explosion and Environmental Concern have been computed as 0.50,0.20, 0.41 and 0.71 respectively. All these values are less than table value of t. It means that there is no significant difference in various dimensions of environmental attitude between eco-club boys and eco-club girl students.

Table 5 shows that F value is computed to be 22.15 which is significant at 0.01 level for (df=2,197). It denotes that there is a significant difference in

eco club students of the three districts of Punjab i.e. Bathinda, Kapurthala and Fatehgarh Sahib in relation to eco-club and non eco club members.

Table 6 shows the F value found to be 28.92 which is significant at 0.01 level for (df=2,297). It denotes that there is a significant difference in eco club students of the three districts of Punjab i.e. Bathinda, Kapurthala and Fatehgarh Sahib in relation to gender.

### **Findings of the Study**

1. The environmental attitude of eco-club member students is higher than the non eco-club students.
2. Class IX students who are members of eco-club in the school have more environmental attitude than non eco-club students for various areas of environmental attitude.
3. The environmental attitude of eco-club member boys and eco-club girls does not differ significantly.
4. For various areas of environmental attitude, eco-club boys do not differ significantly .
5. There is a significant difference in eco club students of the three districts of Punjab i.e. Bathinda, Kapurthala and Fatehgarh Sahib in relation to eco-club and non eco club members.
6. There is a significant difference in eco club students of the three districts of Punjab i.e. Bathinda, Kapurthala and Fatehgarh Sahib in relation to gender.

### **Conclusion**

The concept of eco-clubs has been an effective way in inculcating environmental attitude among the students. A lot of activities are conducted in the schools with eco-clubs so that the students develop responsible and pro-environmental behavior. Hence more and more students should be made members of the eco-clubs for inculcation of environmental attitude among the students.

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**URLs**

[http://punenvis.nic.in/ENV\\_EDUCATION/EE\\_Formal.htm](http://punenvis.nic.in/ENV_EDUCATION/EE_Formal.htm) accessed on 28th September, 2014

The logo for 'Pratibha Spandan' is a large, circular emblem. It features the words 'Pratibha' and 'Spandan' in a stylized, cursive font, stacked vertically. The text is light purple and is set against a background of several concentric, overlapping circles in various colors: orange, green, blue, and pink. The overall design is soft and artistic.