

# Environmental ethics among adolescents: A study of gender, region and Community services

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**Abstract:** *The term Environmental ethics refers to the conscientiousness to be aware of our consumption and need to recognize our individual and social responsibility to protect natural environment and look after the earth for future generation. This study was aimed to evaluate environmental ethics between adolescents and their participation towards Community service activities of higher secondary students belonging to Nainital district in Uttarakhand. The investigators employed the region, gender and participants in community services activities in addition to non participants of higher secondary students. The purposive sampling technique was employed. Mean, SD and t test was used to analyze the data. The tool used for evaluating the environmental ethics by Dr. Haseen Taj. The findings of the study revealed that there exists significant difference in the environmental ethics of participants and non participants of higher secondary students and also found a significant difference in environmental ethics among the adolescents of rural and urban area in with relation to gender.*

**Key Words:** *Environmental ethics, gender, participants and non participants.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION:

The word environment has been derived from French word 'Environner' which means to surround. The word environment may be understood as totality of our surroundings which directly or indirectly affects us. It refers to interactions and interrelationships among all living organisms with their ambiance. Human beings are the most significant living organisms on the earth as they are bestowed with the sole gift of nature i.e. brain. It is human being only who can shape and pattern the environment using their brain. All the activities carried out by human beings like technical, social, religious, cultural etc. influence many components of environment. The present day environment crisis demands change in attitude, in order that initiatives can be taken to recues the environmental from destruction (Natural Environmental Research Council, UK, 1989).

An Environmental ethics has provided a new aspect to the conservation of natural resources and it is the prime concerns of mankind. It is the assessment and conversation of human being for responsibility towards the environment and its protection. To take part in an environmental organization or voluntarily involve in various environmental activities like community services activities (NSS, NCC AND Scout and Guide) which encourage voluntaries and people to protection and conservation environment and their surroundings. We investigate whether environmental motivation towards ethical sense of responsibility, environmental consequences of our consumption and our individual and social responsibility to conserve natural resources and protection the earth from future generations which altogether may affects environmental behavior by focusing on volunteering. Now a day, environmental education has become a part of formal system of education. At primary and secondary level it is taught as composite subject by including its topics in different subjects but at higher education level it is taught as a separate subject of educational, psychological, social, emotional, civic responsibility, physical, environmental, cultural values and sense of well being in students.

The present meaning of curriculum is very broad and comprehensive. It includes the several kinds of experiences and activities that are acquired inside and outside the school by the student, (11). Community services in school and Colleges are made as a part of education for the all-round development of the adolescent and enhance their personality. As these activities are significantly included with the curriculum, and now it is called co-curricular activities, which can help in the development

The Indian Education Commission of 1964-66 has stressed, "We conceive of the school curriculum as the totality of learning experiences that the school provides for the pupils through all the manifold activities in the school or outside that are carried on under its supervision". The New Education Policy (1986) lays special emphasis on the need of co-curricular activities or formal activities. "Productive and creative activities help in the harmonious development of 4 H's: Head, Heart, Hand and Health. These activities provide for the expression of the child's manifold talents. In fact, co-curricular activities are the most useful and integral part of curricular program." (10)

There are lots of community services activity like physical activities, social activities, citizenship training activities and few environment related activities are like NCC, NSS and Scout & Guide. These activities do help the students to maintain their health, endurance, strength and growth. As they involve themselves in these activities to learn about societal values and management and play an intricate role in positive environment attitude, because youth have a stronger awareness of these issues and a greater venture in long-term sustainability, the environment is one area in which they really has to ought to take the positive lead and these activities effect may lead to change in personality of adolescents and general well-being. The NATIONAL POLICY ON EDUCATION-1986 has positively stated “The growing concern over erosion of essential values has brought to focus the need for readjustment in the curriculum in order to make education a forceful tool for the cultivation of moral and social values”.

In this research, researcher wants to explore environmental ethics among adolescents with gender, region and community services as evidences from the past researches shows that researcher focused on the environmental ethics and environmental attitude among students and teachers based on gender and age (18). Most of researches done earlier focused on environmental attitude (9), Environmental ethics among adults and adolescents in relation to their locality (12)

Whereas, this study we examine to find out the effect of community services on Environmental Ethics of adolescents in relation to gender and region.

## **2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:**

The present section of the paper deals with research evidences that focuses on environmental ethics and awareness among adolescents.

Manpreet Kaur et, all. 2016 The present study entitled ‘environmental ethics among rural and urban adolescent boys and girls’ was undertaken in the Kapurthala district of Punjab. The study was intended to compare environmental ethics of adolescents between gender and locale. Gender differences revealed that girls possessed more environmental ethics as compared to boys. And locale differences in urban adolescents were found to be more sensitive towards environment as compared to rural adolescents. And Vellaisamy (2010) conducted a study on environmental achievement in IX standard students through environmental awareness. The study examined junctions and performances of students in strengthening environmental education and environmental awareness. Correlation had been found between the achievements of the students in environmental education and awareness. And the study shows Environmental education is very important for self-fulfillment and social development. Saraff (2007) have reported that students of CBSE Board are more aware of environment than students of U.P. Board. Kumar (2007) found that students of non-government schools have more environmental understanding than students of government schools. Kaur and Kaur (2009) reported that students of private schools have more environmental awareness than students of government schools, according Sarojini (2009) conducted a study on the Level of Environmental Awareness among the School Students. The study was aimed to find the level of environmental awareness among school students and to find level of environmental awareness among school students. The result of the study indicated that the level of environmental awareness among school students was average. The urban students Studies have higher level of awareness than rural students. There was a significant difference in awareness due to the difference in education of parents

## **3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:**

- To find out the significance of difference between the Environmental Ethics of participants in community services and non-participants in relation to region.
- To find out the significance of difference between the Environmental Ethics of participants in community services and non-participants in relation to gender.

## **4. HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY:**

- There would be no significance of difference between the Environmental Ethics of participants in community services and non-participants in relation to genders (females and males)
- There is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of urban females and males adolescents.
- There is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of the adolescent female and male of the rural area.
- There is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of the adolescent female of rural and the urban area.
- There is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of the adolescent male of rural and the urban area.

## **5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:**

### **5.1 Sample:**

The study will be conducted on 60 Adolescents students (Class 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>) age ranges between 15 to 19 years among which, 30 participants who are activity involved in community services and the rest 30 not enrolled in community services or the non-participants in community services will be taken up for the study. The population will be collected from Nainital District, Uttarakhand.

**5.2 Tools to be employed:**

The following test / tools are to be employed to collect the relevant data:-

**5.3 Environmental Ethics Scale:**

This scale is constructed by Haseen Taj (2001). This scale consists 45 items and measures Environmental Ethics of all types of individuals. It was found sufficiently reliable and valid with norms in forms of Means and S.D. and Stanine for different groups. It can be successfully used for 14 to 55 years age group of both genders.

**6. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA:**

**TABLE-1:** Difference between Genders (female) and (male) with respect to environmental ethics

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	P. Value
Environmental Ethics	Female	30	128.32	4.98	6.2	.00
	Male	30	122.10	8.66		

Table 1- above table indicate that the adolescents females and male were found to differ significantly over the environmental ethics at .05 level of significance as the p value is < .05 therefore, we reject the null hypothesis by stating that there is no significant difference in the environmental ethics among adolescents females and male participants students. As a result the Females were found to have more sensitivity towards their environment than male.

**TABLE-2:** Difference between genders (females) and (males) of urban area with respect to environmental ethics.

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	P. Value
Environmental Ethics	Female	30	129.4	3.38	2.867	.002
	Male	30	126.53	3.30		

**Table 2-** indicate that the urban adolescents females and males were found to differ significantly on environmental ethics at .05 level of significance as p value is < .05 so we reject the null hypothesis which stating that there is no significant difference the environmental ethics of the urban adolescents females and males students therefore, Urban females were found to have more sensitivity towards their environment than the urban males.

**Table-3:** Difference between genders (females) and (males) of rural area with respect to environmental ethics.

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	P. Value
Environmental Ethics	Female	30	127.23	6.05	9.57	.000
	Male	30	117.67	10.05		

**Table 3** indicate that the rural adolescents females and were found to differ significantly on environmental ethics at .05 level of significance as p value is < .05 so we reject the null hypothesis which stating that there is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of rural adolescents females and males students. Rural females were found to have more sensitivity towards their environment than the rural adolescent’s males.

**Table-4:** Difference between adolescents females of rural and urban area with respect to environmental ethics.

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	P. Value
Environmental Ethics	Female	30	129.4	3.379	2.166	.092
	Female	30	127.23	6.04		

**Table 4** - the p value is .092 which is greater than table value therefore at .05 we accept the null hypothesis which stating that there is no significant difference between the females of urban and rural area on environmental ethics. So as a result it's concluded that adolescent's female of both urban and rural students, show equal sensitivity towards their environment.

**Table-5:** difference between adolescent males of rural and urban area with respect to environmental ethics.

Variables	Groups	N	Mean	SD	Mean Difference	P. Value
Environmental Ethics	Male	30	126.53	3.29	8.86	.000
	Male	30	117.67	10.05		

**Table 5** the male adolescents of urban and rural area were found to differ significantly on environmental ethics at .05 level of significance as p value is < .05 so we reject the null hypothesis which stating that there is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of adolescents' male of urban and rural area students. Urban adolescents were found to have more sensitivity towards their environment than the adolescents' male of rural area.

## 7. CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY:

Female students are more active than Male students regarding environmental issues for a variety of social, cultural, and biological reasons. In support to these arguments, women predominate within the overall grassroots of the Environmental Justice movement in Uttarakhand. Although the previous research reports shows that women shown stronger environmental concern and attitudes than men and although there has been a growing awareness of the importance of gender in the willingness to act environmentally. From this research analysis it's found that there is significant difference between the adolescent females and males students, with respect to the environmental ethics. The adolescents Female's students were found to have more sensitivity towards the environment as compare to the adolescent's male's students. However Females students of both rural and urban area were found to score more on environmental ethics than adolescents' males students. As a result the adolescents Female's students of both urban and rural area were observer to hold a same level of sensitivity towards their environment and the male adolescents students of urban area showed more sensitivity as compare to the male students of rural area.

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