ABSTRACT

The entire world community of environmental scientists warns that the health of the planet is rapidly deteriorating, and a prime cause of the crisis is hidden in the human behaviour. The human behavior takes shape during school education. School plays a dominant role to enhance the environmental sensitivity among young receptive minds. Hence, the need to study the status of environmental sensitivity, as action skills are developed at the secondary stage.

The problem of the study is 'Environmental Sensitivity among IX standard students - A Study’. The objectives of the study are: 1) To analyse the textbooks of IX standard and identify the environmental components therein, 2) To find out the various co-curricular activities undertaken in schools related to environmental components in the textbooks, 3) To find out the level of environmental sensitivity among secondary school students, 4) To find out the gender difference in environmental sensitivity among secondary school students, 5) To compare the environmental sensitivity among rural and urban secondary school students, 6) To study the relationship between environmental co-curricular activities and environmental sensitivity among secondary school student. 7) To suggest measures to develop environmental sensitivity among secondary school students.

The sample consists of 828 students including 498 male and 330 female students from 18 secondary schools from Chiplun Tahsil of District Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. The random sampling method was used for the selection of schools and the division of IX standard from each school. All Head masters of the selected schools were
also covered in the study. The tools used were: 1) Environmental Sensitivity Inventory for secondary school students (ESI), 2) Co-curricular Activities Questionnaire for students (CCAQ), 3) Co-curricular Activities Questionnaire cum-check list for Head masters (CCAQCH), and 4) Interview for students. The tools were prepared in Marathi and administered. Percentage, mean, \( t \)-test and chi-square were used for the analysis of data.

The major conclusions of the study are: 1) The textbook entitled "Aapale Paryavaran" (Our Environment) contains enriched environmental content than other textbooks. 2) Very less weightage is given to "environment" in the Morning Assembly. 3) Schools face the shortage of environmental experts, infrastructure and time for enhancing the environmental sensitivity among students. 4) Majority of students of secondary school level has the moderate environmental sensitivity level. 5) There is significant difference in the environmental sensitivity of male and female secondary school students favouring male students. 6) There is significant difference in the environmental sensitivity of rural and urban secondary school students favouring urban students. 7) There is no relationship between environmental sensitivity levels and participation levels of students in environmental co-curricular activities. 8) The motivation for enhancing environmental sensitivity among students given by parents is low.

Finally, recommendations and suggestions for further research are made.