ATTITUDE AND AWARENESS ABOUT ENVIRONMENT AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION OF HIGHER PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN MYSORE (INDIA) AND IN HAMEDAN (IRAN) – A COMPARATIVE STUDY

ABSTRACT

The present investigation is essentially a descriptive-cum-comparative study on Attitude and Awareness about Environment and Attitude towards Environmental Education of Higher Primary School Teachers in Mysore (India) and in Hamedan (Iran). The study is conducted with the following purpose.

(i) To study the levels and to compare the Environmental Attitude, Environmental Awareness and Attitude towards Environmental Education of higher primary school teachers of Mysore (India) and Hamedan (Iran).

(ii) To study the difference in Environmental Attitude and Environmental Awareness and Attitude towards Environmental Education among higher primary school teachers of Mysore (India) and Hamedan (Iran) separately and together with respect to their background variables like, gender, academic qualification, length of experience and area of specialisation.

(iii) To study the main effect and interaction effect of Environmental Attitude and Environmental Awareness on Attitude towards Environmental Education of the higher primary school teachers of Mysore (India) and Hamedan (Iran).

In the present study, Environmental Attitude and Environmental Awareness and Attitude towards Environmental Education are considered as dependent variables and country, gender, academic qualification, length of experience and area of specialisation are considered as independent variables. In the case of last objective, Attitude towards Environmental Education is considered as a dependent variable.
whereas Environmental Attitude and Environmental Awareness are considered as independent variables. The sample for the present study was drawn using random sampling technique and consisted of 1000 higher primary school teachers selected from 93 schools [500 teachers from 45 schools in Mysore (India) and 500 teachers from 48 schools in Hamedan (Iran)].

The data was collected using Taj Environmental Attitude Scale (TEAS), Environmental Awareness Test (EAWT) and Attitude towards Environmental Education Scale (AEES) and was analysed using SPSS package version 14.0 with statistical techniques like t-test, one-way ANOVA, two-way ANOVA and Duncan’s Multiple Range Test.

The study revealed that majority of teachers in Hamedan (Iran) have high level of Environmental Attitude whereas majority of teachers in Mysore (India) have moderate level of Environmental Attitude. Majority of teachers in both the cities exhibited moderate level of Environmental Awareness and high level of Attitude towards Environmental Education; teachers from Hamedan have higher mean scores than those from Mysore on all the three variables. In both the countries, no difference is found between male and female teachers {except in Environmental Awareness in the case of Hamedan (Iran) teachers}, Science and Arts teachers in all the three variables whereas difference is found among teachers with different academic qualification and length of teaching experience in Environmental Attitude, Environmental Awareness and Attitude towards Environmental Education. There is main effect of Environmental Attitude and Environmental Awareness separately but no interaction effect on Attitude towards Environmental Education.