



STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AMONG RURAL AND URBAN ANGANWADI WORKER-HOMEMAKERS

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ABSTRACT

Natural resources are very vital for human life as rich surrounding as healthy environment for wellbeing and sustainable development and human resource development is necessary to conserve the nature through proper limited consumption for community sustainability. Employed anganwadi worker-homemakers as the individual can form the base of the society and morality at its end is important for maintaining balance a strong environmental ethic can make many lifestyle changes to significantly reduce their personal impact on learners. As anganwadi worker-homemakers of ICDS centers' contribute at large scale for nation as 'courtyard shelter' of public basic health caretaker and education-provider to expecting and lactating mothers, neonates, preschool children and adolescent girls in Urban and rural settings. Environmental ethics helps the individual's decision making ability to decide fair and unfair action in concern environmental elements and problems. This assumption motivate the researchers to review secondary data and set objectives to study comparative environmental ethics of 100 urban and rural anganwadi worker-homemakers in Nagbhid Tahsil of Chandrapur district by survey method to investigate this problem with environmental ethics scale EES of Hussin Taj Bangluru. Collected data was analyzed by using statistical tools mean, co-relation t-test etc. for conclusion that there is no significant difference between level of environmental ethics of urban and rural anganwadi worker-homemakers.

Keywords: Environmental ethics, Sustainable development Human values, Urban and rural settings, Anganwadi worker-homemaker, Decision making ability etc.

INTRODUCION

Anganwadi Workers homemakers are the implementers of Integrated Child Development

Scheme. Apart for the healthcare knowledge that possesses and gained over a period of time, Anganwadi worker women are so entrenched in the general affairs of



the household that she is in a better position to understand the real malady behind the healthcare issues. These latent problems of the household or community could range from relationship issues, daily hassles, sanitation, nutrition, social, peer pressure, and much more.

The definition of health – the physical, mental, social, spiritual wellbeing of an individual, the Anganwadi worker perhaps has the best insight into the people's health of her region. An anganwadi worker homemakers are well versed in the ways of the area, knows the people by their names, interacts with them on regular basis and may also has an personal relationship with the people. Anganwadi workers need to have good communication skills. They are usually adept in using the right language, metaphors and allusions for convincing people to act in a certain way. Religious customs and sentiments work best for them.

The Anganwadi worker women also convinced the people

from defecating on open land. From shaming the defecators, convincing the women of the house, to citing the sacred texts that emphasized cleanliness and took the sanitary hygiene of the village to much higher level than one can imagine. Some Anganwadi workers may be very enterprising. Like the ones in Tamil Nadu, they have taken the initiative of growing kitchen gardens to help meet the nutritional needs and achieve the objectives of reducing mal nutrition of 0-6 year olds. So far 200 kitchen garden initiatives have been undertaken where Anganwadi workers will be trained in laying the gardens and growing crops, on one cent of land allotted to them.

Thus with minimum qualification to boot, an Anganwadi worker-homemakers are deemed in their duties. Their understanding, communication skills and approach is needed to implement the grand projects of the state and central Governments, making them the most vital link in delivering the



health for all mission and environmental conservation.

As per guidelines, the responsibilities of Anganwadi Workers are showing community support and active participation in executing the programme, to conduct regular quick surveys of all families, organize pre-school activities, provide health and nutritional education to families especially pregnant women as to how to breastfeeding practices etc., motivating families to adopt family planning, educating parents about child growth and development, assist in the implementation and execution of Kishori Shakti Yojana to educate teenage girls and parents by organizing social awareness programmes etc., identify disabilities in children and so on.

. The biophysical environment is the biotic and abiotic surrounding of an organism or population, and consequently includes the factors that have an influence in their survival, development, and evolution. The expression "*the environment*" often refers to a

singular global environment in relation to humanity. Moral responsibility normally implies knowledge, capacity, choice, and value significance. That is to say, if a person is morally responsible to do something, then he (a) knows of this requirement, (b) is capable of performing it, (c) can freely choose whether or not to do it, and (d) the performance thereof affects the welfare and/or liberty of other beings. Because one's response to these requirements reflects upon his value as a moral person.

Poor environmental quality has its greatest impact on people whose health status is already at risk. Therefore, environmental health must address the societal and environmental factors that increase the likelihood of exposure and disease.

Global Environmental Health

Water quality is an important global challenge. Diseases can be reduced by improving water quality and sanitation and increasing access to adequate water and sanitation facilities.



Emerging Issues in Environmental Health

Environmental health is a dynamic and evolving field. While not all complex environmental issues can be predicted, some known emerging issues in the field are

a. Climate Change - It is projected to impact sea level, patterns of infectious disease, air quality, and the severity of natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and storms.

b. Disaster Preparedness – It is for the environmental impact of natural disasters as well as disasters of human origin includes planning for human health needs and the impact on public infrastructure, such as water and roadways.

c. Nanotechnology - The potential impact is significant and offers possible improvements to i. Disease prevention, detection, and treatment 2. Electronics

3. Clean energy 4. Manufacturing and 5.Environmental risk assessment

Thus nanotechnology may also present unintended health

risks or changes to the environment.

d. The Built Environment
Features of the built environment appear to impact human health influencing behaviors, physical activity patterns, social networks, and access to resources.

e. Exposure to Unknown Hazards

Every year, hundreds of new chemicals is introduced to the market. It is presumed that some of these chemicals may present new, unexpected challenges to human health, and their safety should be evaluated prior to release.

These cross-cutting issues are not yet understood well enough to inform the development of systems for measuring and tracking their impact. Further exploration is warranted. The environmental health landscape will continue to evolve and may present opportunities for additional research, analysis, and monitoring.

f. Blood Lead Levels
In 2017 also, there are



approximately 4 million houses or buildings that have children living in them who are potentially being exposed to lead. Nearly half a million children ages 1 to 5 have blood lead levels at or above 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$), which is currently the reference level at which CDC recommends public health actions be taken. Even blood lead exposure levels as low as 2 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) can affect a child's cognitive function. Since no safe blood lead levels have been identified for children, any exposure should be taken seriously. However, since lead exposure often occurs with no obvious signs or symptoms, it often remains unrecognized. CDC's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program is committed to the Healthy People 2020 goals of eliminating childhood lead exposures and decreasing disparities in the differences in average risk of lead exposure based on race and social class as public health concerns.

Sustainable development has as its goal the improvement of negative effects of environmental pollution having in regard the need to satisfy the present and future generation. Recognition and clarification of the values, attitudes and concepts concerned with human relationship to culture biophysical environment. The individual forms the base of the society and morality at its end is important for maintaining balance. Individuals committed to a strong environmental ethic can make many lifestyle changes to significantly reduce their personal impact on the planet. Environmental ethics helps the individual's decision making ability to decide fair and unfair action in concern environmental elements and problems.

While ethical issues concerning the environment have been debated for centuries, environmental ethics did not emerge as a philosophical discipline until the 1970s. Its emergence was the result of increased awareness of how the



rapidly growing world population was impacting the environment as well as the environmental consequences that came with the growing use of pesticides, technology, and industry.

Women's attitude and the environment

The rural women tend to have a closer relationship with land and other natural resources, which promotes a new culture of respectful use and preservation of natural resources and the environment, ensuring that the following generations can meet their needs. Besides considering how to achieve appropriate agricultural production and human nutrition, women want to secure access to the land. Women's perspectives and values for the environment are somewhat different from men's. Women give greater priority to protection of and improving the capacity of nature, maintaining farming lands, and caring for nature and environment's future. Repeated studies have shown that women have a stake in environment, and this stake is

reflected in the degree to which they care about natural resources.

Today, women struggle against alarming global trends, but they are working together to effect change. By establishing domestic and international non-governmental organizations, many women have recognized themselves and acknowledge to the world that they not only have the right to participate in environmental dilemmas but they have different relationship with environment including different needs, responsibilities, and knowledge about natural resources. This is why women are affected differently from men by environmental degradation, deforestation, pollution and overpopulation. Women are often the most directly affected by environmental issues, so they become more concerned about environmental problems. Studies have shown the direct effects of chemicals and pesticides on human health. According to United Nations Chronicle journal researchers have found an association between breast cancer



and the pesticide DDT and its derivative DDE; and also one study by the World Health Organization has found that women who are exposed to pesticides face a higher risk of abortion.^[29] These kinds of health problems cause women to feel more responsible regarding environmental issues.

Gender and perception of the environment

The environmental degradation caused while men have had dominance over women, and women's large investment in environmental sustainability, some have theorized that women would protect the Earth better than men if in power. Although there is no evidence for this hypothesis, recent movements have shown that women are more sensitive to the earth and its problems. They have created a special value system about environmental issues. Throughout history men have looked at natural resources as commercial entities or income generating tools, while women have tended to see the environment as a resource

supporting their basic needs. As an example, rural Indian women collect the dead branches which are cut by storm for fuel wood to use rather than cutting the live trees. An example of female prominence in the defense of natural forests comes from India in 1906. However, protested by physically hugging themselves to the trees to prevent their being cut down, giving rise to the 'Chipko movement', an environmentalist movement initiated by these Indian women. This conflict started because men wanted to cut the trees to use them for industrial purposes while women wanted to keep them since it was their food resource and deforestation was a survival matter for local people.

Reviews

In the early 1960s, an interest in women and their connection with the environment was sparked. Starting in the 1980s, policy makers and governments became more mindful of the connection between the environment and gender issues. Changes began to be made



regarding natural resource and environmental management with the specific role of women in mind. According to the World Bank in 1991, "Women play an essential role in the management of natural resources, including soil, water, forests and energy...and often have a profound traditional and contemporary knowledge of the natural world around them". In return, the effects the environment has on the health and well-being of women. The gender-environment relations have valuable ramifications in regard to the understanding of nature between men and women, the management and distribution of resources and responsibilities and the day-to-day life and wellbeing of people.

Gupta, Grewal and Rajput [1981] The difference between environmental awareness of formal and non-formal education centers of urban and rural areas of Bhopal, so elementary education should be universalized to develop environmental based curriculum.

Gupta A.[1986] study of Nagpur school teachers' attitude was favorable toward environmental education apart from constraints in implementation.

Shiva, Vandana.[2005] The Impoverishment of the Environment: Women and Children Last. Environmental Philosophy: From Animal Rights to Radical Ecology

Need of the study

As environmental ethics helps define man's moral and ethical obligations toward the environment. Human values as a factor of looking at environmental ethics are the things that are important to individuals that they then use to evaluate actions or events. In other words, humans assign value to certain things and then use this assigned value to make decisions about whether something is right or wrong. Human values are unique to each individual because not everyone places the same importance on each element of life. For example, a person living in poverty in an



undeveloped country may find it morally acceptable to cut down the forest to make room for a farm where he can grow food for his family. However, a person in a developed country may find this action morally unacceptable because the destruction of forests increases carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, which can negatively impact the environment. Environmental ethics, along with human values, make for challenging philosophical debates about man's interaction with the environment. Water and air pollution, the depletion of natural resources, loss of biodiversity, destruction of ecosystems, and global climate change are all part of the environmental ethics debate. Within the discipline of environmental ethics there are tough ethical decisions humans must consider. For example:

- Is it acceptable for poor farmers in undeveloped countries to cut down forest to make room for farmland, even if this action harms the environment?
 - Is it morally wrong for humans to continue to burn fossil fuels knowing that this action leads to air pollution and global climate changes?
 - Is it ethically permissible for man to build a hydroelectric dam knowing that this will disrupt the migration pattern of certain fish, leading to their extinction?
 - Does rural and urban anganwadi worker-homemakers have a moral obligation to restore the natural environment destroyed by their mining techniques?
- On above background the researchers motivate to investigate the related problems to know in detail the woman or environment relation.

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OBJECTIVES

1. To study of environmental ethics status among rural anganwadi worker-homemakers.



2. To study of environmental ethics status among urban anganwadi worker-homemakers.
3. To compare the environmental ethics status of rural and urban anganwadi worker-homemakers

HYPOTHESES

1. The rural and urban anganwadi worker-homemakers have no any status of environmental ethics, if found, it may be by chance.
2. There is no difference between environmental ethics status among urban and rural anganwadi worker-homemakers.

METHODOLOGY

For this study to investigate the socio-environmental responsibilities is done by adopting survey method of descriptive research.

RESEARCH AREA - The environmental ethics of urban and rural anganwadi worker-homemakers of research area the Nagbhid Tahsil of Chandrapur district was selected.

THE SAMPLE - It was limited to 100 out of total 203 available as per online census data 2017 where 50 sample is urban and 50 are rural anganwadi worker-homemakers for research investigation. Urban and rural settins were decided on the basis on local population below and above 5000

THE TOOL -Investigation was used a well-structured questionnaire i.e. Environmental Ethics scale [EES] of Hussin Taj Bangluru based on the selected parameters. It consists of total 45 questions which are of 8 positive and 37 are of negative types. Answers or responses are of three alternatives as not agree, partly agree and fully agree with marks respectively viz. 1,2 and 3. Thus total marks ranges 70 to 135 can be differentiated as environmental ethics status level 70-90 – low, 90-105 - middle, 105-120 – moderate and above 120 is good or higher. The test is originally in English which was translated in Marathi – a local language for convinces of sample selected for the study.

**PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION –**

The test was administered through trained college P. G. research students of Home economics of N. H. college, Bramhapuri. Dist. - Chandrapur as messengers.

DATA ANALYSIS - Collected primary data as responses was tabulated and analyzed by using statistical tools mean, co-relation t-test etc. to conclude the result of the study.

RESULT DISCUSSION

Collected data was summarized in nutshell as shown in table below, as it is descriptive in nature.

FINDINGS

- There is positive level and higher status of environmental ethics and higher status among

urban anganwadi –worker-homemakers than rural one.

- With regard with the environmental ethics status of urban and rural anganwadi worker-homemakers do not differ significantly.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, there was the conclusion that there is no significant difference between level of environmental ethics of urban and rural anganwadi worker-homemakers.

S.N.	Score of EE scale	Degree of status	TotalUrban	Rural	
	N=100 NU=50 NR=50				
1.	Above 120	higher with positive	25	14	11
2.	105 - 120	Moderate	29	15	14
3.	90 – 105	Average	26	14	12
4.	70 – 90	Lower	20	07	13



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