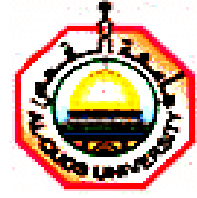


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School of Public Health

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Environmental Awareness Among School-Age Children in Gaza - Palestine

Amal Khalil I. Sarsour

M.P.H Thesis

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**Environmental Awareness Among School-Age Children in
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Declaration

I certify that this thesis submitted for the degree of Master is the result of my own research, except where otherwise acknowledged, and that this thesis (or any part of the same) has not been submitted for a higher degree to any other university or institution.

Signed

Amal Khalil Ibrahim Srasour

Date : December / 2006

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Abstract

Nurturing and science education play a significant role in developing a positive attitude toward the environment. Several researchers have shown that there is an important link between environmental science education and environmental awareness and attitude. According to this importance, the Ministry of Education and Higher education conducted the first Palestinian Environment and Health curriculum for males only in the high basic school in Gaza Strip and West Bank since the educational year 2001/2002.

The purpose of this study is to determine the level of environmental awareness and attitude among students of class 9 in the governmental high basic school in Gaza city, and their relationships with gender, residential area and grade of students' scores achievement at school. Also, to investigate the relation between environmental awareness and attitude. The researcher constructed a questionnaire composed of two sections, the first section was to measure students' environmental awareness by applying multiple choice questions test, and the second section was a tool to measure the attitudes of students' toward their environment.

The study was applied in eight governmental high basic schools selected in a stratified random way from four areas of Gaza city according to Gaza municipality distribution, with four male schools and four female schools. The questionnaire was completed by 400 students of class 9 in the governmental high basic school children in Gaza city for the educational year 2005 – 2006 with equal numbers of male and female students in the study sample. SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) software version 11.5 was used to process the data. The results indicated that the study students' have a relatively moderate level of environmental awareness, with a mean score of 16.85 (total : 24 score) and percentage of their environmental awareness level was 70.2%. While their positive

attitude toward the environment was low with a mean of 19.30 scores (total: 30 score) with a percentage of about 64.33%. There are significant differences in the level of environmental awareness and attitude based on gender. One of the most interesting results is that, males have a significantly higher environmental awareness than females, while females have shown more positive attitude toward environment than males. In addition, significant differences are found in the students' environmental awareness and attitude based on students' place of residence favoring resident area, that the level of environmental awareness and attitude among students of this area was higher than those of other three areas in Gaza city (popular area, recent area and agricultural area). Also, significant differences are found in the students' environmental awareness and attitude according to grade of students' study achievement at school favoring students whose grades were higher than 90 %, which indicates that there is a direct proportional relation between the level of environmental awareness and attitude with students' grade. The results show that there is a positive significant relationship between environmental awareness and attitude among the study population. According to this result, it can be postulated that good background in environmental knowledge could eventually lead to development of positive attitude toward the environment. Therefore, it is important to enrich our students' background in environmental knowledge and awareness, especially for the female students who do not have the opportunity to learn about environment through environmental curriculum in their school which was conducted on males only until the date of conducting this study. The findings of this study may be useful it accentuate the importance of improving our students' environmental awareness and attitude to insure protecting our Palestinian environment from further deterioration.

تلعب التربية والتعليم دوراً هاماً في زيادة وتنمية اكتساب التوجهات الايجابية نحو البيئة. حيث أكد العديد من الباحثين وجود ارتباط بين التعليم البيئي وزيادة درجة الوعي والتوجه نحو البيئة. بناءً على ذلك قامت وزارة التربية والتعليم العالي بتطبيق منهاج الصحة والبيئة على طلاب المرحلة الأساسية العليا في المدارس الحكومية في قطاع غزة والضفة الغربية وذلك في بداية العام الدراسي 2001-2002 م.

تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى وصف مستوى الوعي البيئي والتوجه نحو البيئة لدى طلبة الصف التاسع من المرحلة الأساسية العليا في المدارس الحكومية لمدينة غزة، ودراسة علاقة مستوى الوعي والتوجه نحو البيئة ببعض المتغيرات كمتغير الجنس، مكان السكن والمستوى التحصيلي للطلاب في المدرسة. إضافة إلى دراسة العلاقة بين درجة الوعي البيئي لدى الطلبة ودرجة توجهاتهم نحو البيئة. لتحقيق هذا الهدف، قامت الباحثة بإعداد استبانة مكونة من قسمين، القسم الأول عبارة عن اختبار من نوع الاختيار من متعدد لقياس مستوى الوعي البيئي، و القسم الثاني عبارة عن أداة قياس لتحديد توجهات الطلبة نحو البيئة.

تم تطبيق الدراسة في ثمان مدارس حكومية من المرحلة الأساسية العليا والتي تم اختيارها بطريقة الطبقات العشوائية لتكون موزعة على أربع مناطق سكنية في مدينة غزة بناءً على تقسيم بلدية غزة للمدينة، بحيث اشتملت العينة على أربع مدارس للذكور و أربع مدارس للإناث، وقام بالإجابة على أسئلة الاستبانة 400 طالب وطالبة بالتساوي من الصف التاسع للمرحلة الأساسية العليا في مدينة غزة للعام الدراسي 2005-2006. تم تحليل نتائج الدراسة باستخدام برنامج الحاسوب الإحصائي SPSS version. 11.5.

أظهرت نتائج الدراسة أن مستوى الوعي البيئي للطلبة (عينة الدراسة) كان متوسط نسبيا ، حيث بلغ المتوسط الحسابي لإجابات الطلبة على فقرات الاستبانة الخاصة بقياس درجة الوعي البيئي لديهم على 16.85 من الدرجة الكلية وبالغة 24 درجة ونسبة الوعي البيئي لدى الطلبة 70.2%. بينما اتسمت توجهات طلاب عينة الدراسة نحو البيئة بأنها منخفضة (متدنية) نسبيا، حيث بلغ متوسط إجابات الطلبة التي تعكس توجهاتهم نحو البيئة 19.33 درجة من الدرجة الكلية وبالغة 30 درجة وبنسبة 64.33%. كما أظهرت النتائج وجود فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية في مستوى الوعي البيئي و التوجهات نحو البيئية لدى الطبة يعود لمتغير الجنس. الجدير بالاهتمام في هذه النتيجة أنه بينما أظهرت النتائج أن مستوى الوعي البيئي لدى الطلاب أعلى منه لدى الطالبات ، أظهرت النتائج أن مستوى التوجه الايجابي لدى الطالبات نحو البيئة أعلى منه لدى الطلاب.

كما أظهرت النتائج وجود فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية في مستوى الوعي البيئي والتوجه نحو البيئة تعزى لمنطقة السكن، حيث بلغت نسبة الوعي البيئي والتوجه نحو البيئة بين طلبة المنطقة السكنية أعلى من النسبة بين طلبة المناطق الثلاثة الأخرى في مدينة غزة (المنطقة الشعبية، المنطقة الجديدة، والمنطقة الزراعية). أظهرت النتائج وجود فروق ذات دلالة إحصائية في مستوى الوعي البيئي والتوجهات نحو البيئة بين الطلبة يعزى لمستوى التحصيل العلمي في درجات الطالب في المدرسة، فقد كانت نسبة الوعي البيئي والتوجه نحو البيئة أعلى بين الطلبة الذين حصلوا على درجات أعلى من 90% ، حيث أظهرت النتائج وجود علاقة طردية بين درجة الوعي والتوجه نحو البيئة مع درجة التحصيل العلمي لدى الطالب في المدرسة. أما فيما يتعلق بدرجة ارتباط مستوى الوعي البيئي مع التوجه نحو البيئية فأظهرت النتائج وجود ارتباط موجب ودال إحصائيا بين مستوى الوعي البيئي والتوجه نحو البيئية لدى طلاب الصف التاسع الذين اشتملت عليهم الدراسة.

بناءً على ذلك توصي الباحثة بزيادة الاهتمام برفع مستوى المعرفة و الوعي البيئي لدى أبنائنا الطلبة خصوصا الطالبات اللواتي لم يحصلن على نفس الفرصة التي حصل عليها الطلاب في تعلم المفاهيم

البيئية من خلال المنهاج المطبق عليهم في المدارس الحكومية للمرحلة الأساسية العليا دون الطالبات وذلك حتى تاريخ إجراء هذه الدراسة.

نتائج الدراسة قد تكون فرصة لتسليط الضوء وإبراز مدى أهمية تحسين ورفع مستوى الوعي البيئي و تعزيز التوجه نحو البيئة لدى طلابنا وطالباتنا لضمان حماية بيئتنا الفلسطينية والحفاظ عليها ووقف المزيد من تدهورها.

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