

Awareness on ecological changes among college students

B. V. M. Anirudh, V. Vishnu Priya*, R. Gayathri

ABSTRACT

Aim: The aim of this study is to conduct a survey on awareness on ecological changes among college students. **Introduction:** The environment affects our health in an exceeding number of ways. Environmental risks have been proved to have a considerable impact on human health, either directly by exposing individuals to harmful agents or indirectly by disrupting essential ecosystems. **Materials and Methods:** This is a questionnaire-based study. A set of questionnaire is framed and an online survey was conducted among college students using surveyplanet.com. 100 college students have taken the survey, and the results were statistically analyzed. The participants volunteered for the survey. **Results:** From the above survey, 100 college students have participated and have answered the given questions. **Conclusion:** Students care about the environment, but they still are not properly aware of the consequences of not treating the environment properly. “The earth is what we all have in common” let’s protect it together.

KEY WORDS: Deforestation, Environment, Industries, Pollution

INTRODUCTION

Environmental issues and our perceptions of their current and future health effects have modified over the decades. About 20–40 years back, public health was most involved regarding localized environmental degradation, as exemplified by air and water pollution. A few of the localized environmental issues of the 20th century have been resolved, at least within the richer parts of the planet.^[1]

Functions inherent to forest provide solutions to water availability and cooling. By evapotranspiration, trees recharge atmospheric moisture, contributing to rain regionally and in distant locations.^[2-4] Cooling is explicitly embedded within the capacity of trees to capture and spread the sun’s energy.^[5] Forests currently cover only about one-third of the earth’s surfaces. Between 2000 and 2012, there is lot of urban growth, agricultural land conversions, logging, and forest fires which resulted in the loss of some 1.5–1.7 million km² of tree cover or 3.2% of world forest cover is lost in due course of time.^[6-10] Erosion, desertification, and salinization of fertile soils threaten the food production necessary for a quickly

increasing world population, of which a large part is already malnourished.^[11] Human freshwater use for irrigation, drinking, and household purposes exceeds the available supplies and requires withdrawal from groundwater stocks. Several populations already experience freshwater shortages, and also, the supply of safe water is more threatened by chemical pollution which has already reached the ends of the planet.^[12]

In 2012, air pollution caused the deaths of around 7 million individuals worldwide and was a major risk issue for a number of pollution-related diseases, including respiratory infections, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, stroke, and lung cancer.^[2] The health effects caused by air pollution might cause difficulty in respiration, wheezing, coughing, asthma, and worsening of existing respiratory and cardiac conditions.^[13] Marine pollution occurs when harmful effects result from the entry into the ocean of chemicals, particles, industrial, agricultural, and residential waste, noise, or the spread of invasive organisms. 80% of marine pollution comes from land. Air pollution is also a contributing issue by carrying off pesticides or dirt into the ocean. Land pollution and air pollution have proven to be harmful to marine life and their habitats.^[14] Noise is thought to

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Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

*Corresponding author: V. Vishnu Priya, Department of Biochemistry, Saveetha Dental College, Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences, Saveetha University, Chennai – 600 077, Tamil Nadu, India. E-mail: drvishnupriyav@gmail.com

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have auditory and non-auditory health impacts. Environmental noise causes both psychological and physiological non-auditory health effects, and the evidence for the non-auditory effects is growing. Specifically, road traffic is the most common source of community sound pollution. The foremost important non-auditory effects of traffic noise are annoyance and sleep disturbance. Annoyance is a feeling of displeasure that may lead to adverse emotions together with irritability, stress, fear, and even depression, and it is related to health-related quality of life.^[15-22]

E-waste is a rising problem given the volumes of e-waste being generated and the content of both poisonous and valuable materials in them. This fast-growing waste stream is accelerating because the global market for personal computers is a way from saturation, and the average life span of a computer is decreasing speedily.^[23]

Destruction of the habitats of different species, introduction by humans of non-native species, pollution of air, water, and soil, and overharvesting by hunting and fishing have led to an enormous extinction of plant and animal species. Biodiversity losses might indirectly threaten human health by impairing ecosystem services.^[24]

Global warming can severely influence the health of living beings. Excess heat can cause stress which can result in blood pressure and heart diseases. Crop failures and famines, which are an immediate consequence of heating up of earth, can cause a decline in human body resistance to viruses and infections. Global warming may additionally transfer numerous diseases to different regions as individuals can shift from regions of higher temperatures to regions of relatively lower temperatures. Warmer oceans and different surface waters might result in severe cholera outbreaks and harmful infections in some styles of seafood.^[25]

This study shows whether the college students are aware of the changes going around our environment.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This is a questionnaire-based study.

A set of questionnaire is framed and an online survey was conducted among college students using surveyplanet.com.

One hundred college students have taken the survey and the results were statistically analyzed.

The participants volunteered for the survey.

RESULTS

From the above survey, 100 college students have participated and have answered the given questions.





DISCUSSION

This study shows that 99% of the students are aware of the importance of our environment, but only 74% have planted trees. 61% do not litter on the road and 55% sort their home waste into renewable and non-renewable waste. 59% rate the pollution of our country as very bad and they think that the causes of pollution are mainly from vehicles and industries. 82% think that people who are causing pollution should be charged heavily. 90% of the people are aware that waste is being dumped in water bodies. The increased presence of plastic on the ocean surface has resulted in more serious problems where it leads to the dropping of oxygen level in the water, severely affecting the survival of marine species.

CONCLUSION

Students care about the environment, but they still are not properly aware of the consequences of not treating the environment properly. “The earth is what we all have in common” let’s protect it together.

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