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26. A STUDY ON THE AWARENESS OF THE STUDENTS TOWARDS HEALTH HAZARDS AND ITS IMPACT WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO CHENNAI CITY

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INTRODUCTION

The environment is a place to live our life happily. A happy life is a contented life with no problems. But the environment needs to be protected from various problems which ultimately affect the health of human beings. The environment is now being affected by various factors and is becoming a great threat all over the world. The environment is affected by air, water and sound in the form of air pollution, water pollution and noise pollution. It is not only pollution that is affecting the environment but even the usage of tobacco for example, can have a harmful effect on human lives. The study is intended to find out the awareness of the student community towards the health hazards and their impact.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1.To find out the awareness of the students regarding the health hazards and its impact on health
- 2.To bring out the remedial measures
- 3.To obtain suggestions for the same

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Aim: To find out the awareness of the students regarding the health hazards and its impact on health

PRIMARY DATA: Information to be obtained through a survey with the use of a questionnaire

SECONDARY DATA: books, references, journals, web sources

Sample size: 30

Sampling technique: convenience sampling

Tools used: percentage analysis

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Remoundou K et.al points out that the major reason for the cause of premature deaths is because of air pollution. He also says that diseases caused by air pollution like respiratory infections, heart diseases and lung cancer can be controlled by proper measures taken to control it.

Thompson RC et.al points out the harmful effects of chemicals use in the manufacture of plastics and how these cause health problems to human beings.

Rabeya Begum Raba et.al brings out the problems arising due to the water salinity that leads to unsafe drinking water in the areas of Bangladesh.

Roya Kelishadi brings out the various causes for the environmental pollution due to gas emissions and acid deposits and changes in lifestyle patterns and measures to control them. Pollution is one important factor that needs to be controlled to protect the environment and the health of mankind. There are different types of pollution namely air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution. Apart from the normal causes of pollution, we should know that pollution can also be caused by biomass such as firewood, crop residue and even cow dung cake that is used as a main source of fuel. This happens in places where these materials are used as fuel. According to the Census 2011, more than 60 per cent of people in India use biomass such as firewood, crop residue and cow dung cake as the main source of fuel. In rural areas more than 85 per cent of households use biomass as cooking fuel by directly burning them. Health hazards can be due to a number of factors like the use of tobacco, mobile phones, plastic covers, ultra violet radiation, improper garbage disposal, climatic changes, and many more.

The study was conducted to find out the awareness of the students towards the various health problems caused by the hazards in the environment. Health is one main factor that contributes to the development of the society and the nation. Human resource is one that cannot be replaced by any other resource. The healthy society will lead to advancement needed for the society.

CAUSES FOR POLLUTION CAN ALSO BE DUE TO THE FOLLOWING FACTORS:

- Tobacco smoke
- Asbestos
- Paints
- Traditional fuel
- Solid fuels
- Biomass fuels, and many more.

The researcher mentions few laws to protect

the environment that can be cited below:

General

1986 - The Environment (Protection) Act authorizes the central government to protect and improve environmental quality, control and reduce pollution from all sources, and prohibit or restrict the setting and /or operation of any industrial facility on environmental grounds.

1986 - The Environment (Protection) Rules lay down procedures for setting standards of emission or discharge of environmental pollutants.

1989 - The objective of Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules is to control the generation, collection, treatment, import, storage, and handling of hazardous waste.

1989 - The Manufacture, Storage, and Import of Hazardous Rules define the terms used in this context, and sets up an authority to inspect, once a year, the industrial activity connected with hazardous chemicals and isolated storage facilities.

1989 - The Manufacture, Use, Import, Export, and Storage of hazardous Micro-organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells Rules were introduced with a view to protect the environment, nature, and health, in connection with the application of gene technology and microorganisms.

1991 - The Public Liability Insurance Act and Rules and Amendment, 1992 was drawn up to provide for public liability insurance for the purpose of providing immediate relief to the persons affected by accident while handling any hazardous substance.

1995 - The National Environmental Tribunal Act has been created to award compensation for damages to persons, property, and the environment arising from any activity involving hazardous substances.

1997 - The National Environment Appellate Authority Act has been created to hear appeals with respect to restrictions of areas in which classes of industries etc. are carried out or prescribed subject to certain safeguards under the EPA.

1998 - The Biomedical waste (Management and Handling) Rules is a legal binding on the health care institutions to streamline the process of proper handling of hospital waste such as segregation, disposal, collection, and treatment.

1999 - The Environment (Siting for Industrial Projects) Rules, 1999 lay down detailed provisions relating to areas to be avoided for siting of industries, precautionary measures to be taken for site selecting as also the aspects of environmental protection which should have been incorporated during the implementation

of the industrial development projects.

2000 - The Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000 apply to every municipal authority responsible for the collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing, and disposal of municipal solid wastes.

2000 - The Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Rules have been laid down for the regulation of production and consumption of ozone depleting substances.

2001 - The Batteries (Management and Handling) Rules, 2001 rules shall apply to every manufacturer, importer, re-conditioner, assembler, dealer, auctioneer, consumer, and bulk consumer involved in the manufacture, processing, sale, purchase, and use of batteries or components so as to regulate and ensure the environmentally safe disposal of used batteries.

2002 - The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) (Amendment) Rules lay down such terms and conditions as are necessary to reduce noise pollution, permit use of loud speakers or public address systems during night hours (between 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight) on or during any cultural or religious festive occasion

2002 - The Biological Diversity Act is an act to provide for the conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge associated with it

WATER

1882 - The Easement Act allows private rights to use a resource that is, groundwater, by viewing it as an attachment to the land. It also states that all surface water belongs to the state and is a state property.

1897 - The Indian Fisheries Act establishes two sets of penal offences whereby the government can sue any person who uses dynamite or other explosive substance in any way (whether coastal or inland) with intent to catch or destroy any fish or poisonous fish in order to kill.

1956 - The River Boards Act enables the states to enroll the central government in setting up an Advisory River Board to resolve issues in inter-state cooperation.

1970 - The Merchant Shipping Act aims to deal with waste arising from ships along the coastal areas within a specified radius.

1974 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act establishes an institutional structure for preventing and abating water pollution. It establishes standards for water quality and effluent. Polluting industries must seek permission to discharge waste into effluent bodies.

The CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) was constituted under this act.

1977 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act provides for the levy and collection of cess or fees on water consuming industries and local authorities.

1978 - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Rules contains the standard definitions and indicate the kind of and location of meters that every consumer of water is required to affix.

1991 - The Coastal Regulation Zone Notification puts regulations on various activities, including construction, are regulated. It gives some protection to the backwaters and estuaries.

AIR

1981 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act provides for the control and abatement of air pollution. It entrusts the power of enforcing this act to the CPCB .

1982 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Rules defines the procedures of the meetings of the Boards and the powers entrusted to them.

1982 - The Atomic Energy Act deals with the radioactive waste.

1987 - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act empowers the central and state pollution control boards to meet with grave emergencies of air pollution.

1988 - The Motor Vehicles Act states that all hazardous waste is to be properly packaged, labelled, and transported.

The above laws have been sourced from: Environmental policy-making in India – The process and its pressure, TERI report.

Indian Environmental Legislations, list from the MOEF web site.

Strengthening Environmental Legislations in India, document by Centre for Environmental Law, WWF.

SOME OF THE MEASURES THAT CAN BE ADOPTED TO CONTROL POLLUTION

→ Awareness on the harmful effects of biomass

→ Using biogas instead of biomass

→ Producing gobar gas using cowdung as an alternative instead of cowdung

→ Fuel efficient & smokeless cooking stoves

→ Cross ventilation, window above stoves

The above measures can be cited as examples to control pollution , as there are several measures to control the different types of pollution.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE STUDY

The study was intended to find out the awareness of the students with regard to the environmental health hazards and their impact

on the health of human beings.

TABLE 1 SHOWING THE GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS

	No. Of respondents	Percentage
MALE	20	67%
FEMALE	10	33%
Total	30	100%

DIAGRAM SHOWING THE GENDER OF THE RESPONDENTS

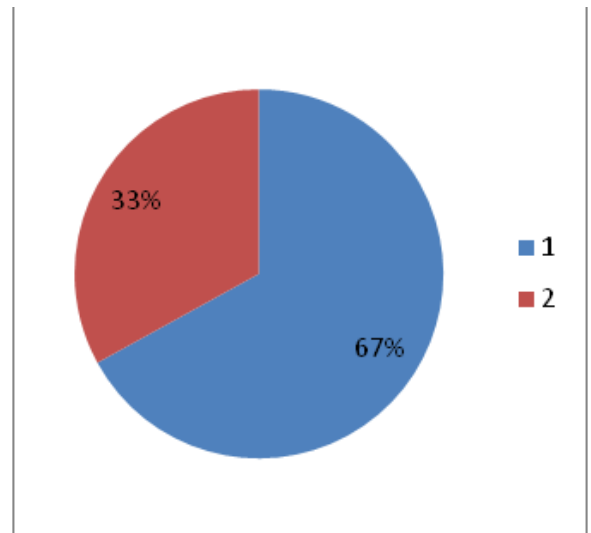


TABLE 2 SHOWING AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS REGARDING HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION ON HEALTH

	No. Of respondents	Percentage
YES	23	77%
NO	7	23%
Total	30	100%

DIAGRAM 2 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF ULTRA VIOLET RADIATION ON HEALTH

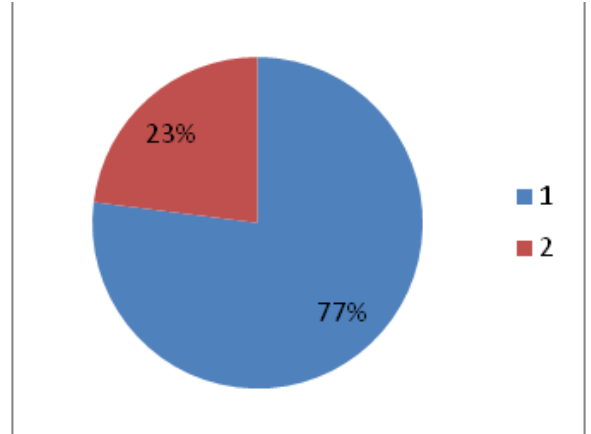


TABLE 3 SHOWING AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE RISK DUE TO SMOKING

	No. Of respondents	Percentage
YES	26	87%
NO	4	13%
Total	30	100%

DIAGRAM 3 SHOWING AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE RISK DUE TO SMOKING

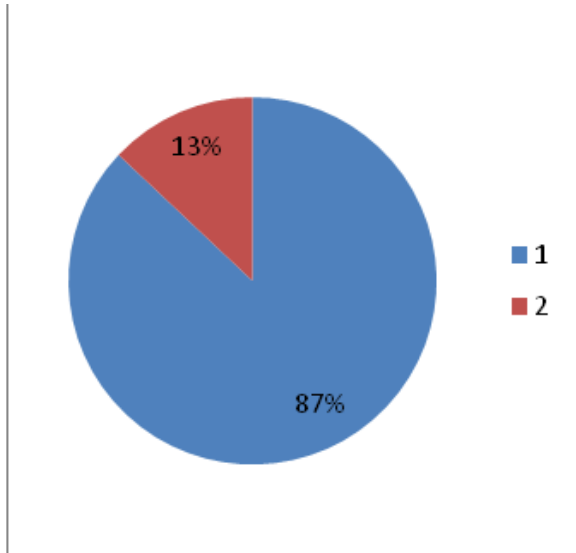


TABLE 4 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING HEALTH PROBLEMS DUE TO AIR POLLUTION

	No. of respondents	Percentage
YES	18	60%
NO	12	40%
Total	30	100%

DIAGRAM 4 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING HEALTH PROBLEMS DUE TO AIR POLLUTION

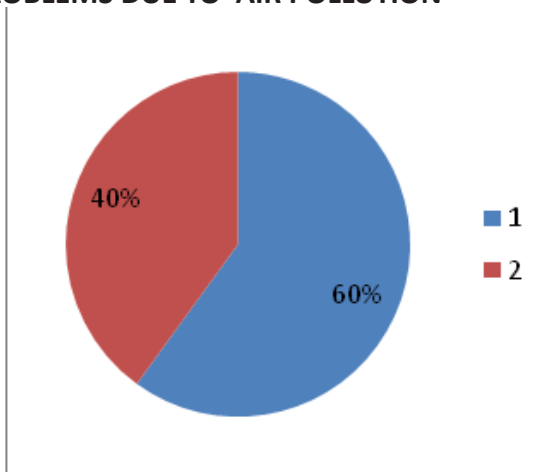


TABLE 5 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT THE RISK DUE TO THE USAGE OF MOBILE PHONES

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
YES	16	53%
NO	14	47%
TOTAL	30	100%

DIAGRAM 5 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF RESPONDENTS ABOUT THE RISK DUE TO THE USAGE OF MOBILE PHONE

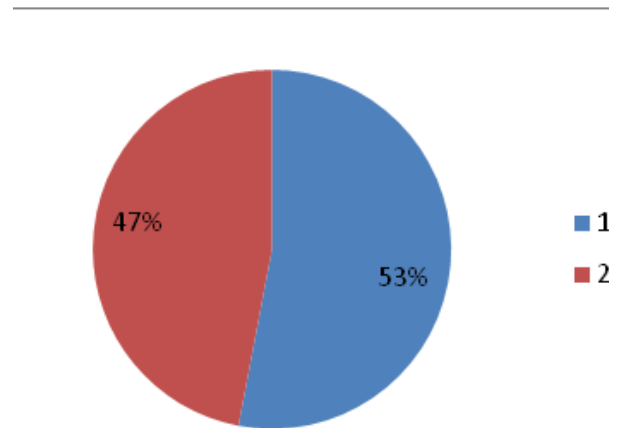


TABLE 6 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF NOISE POLLUTION

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Yes	17	57%
No	13	43%
Total	30	100%

DIAGRAM 6 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF NOISE POLLUTION

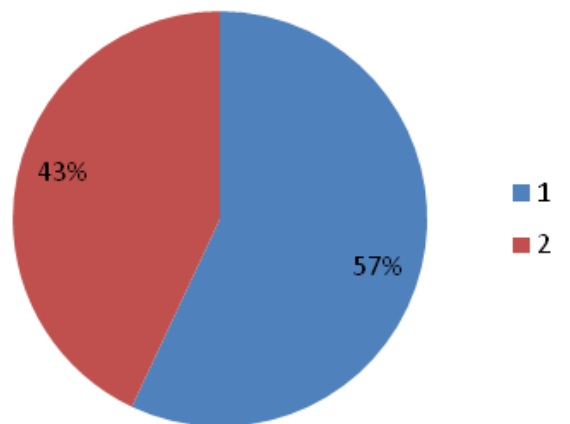


TABLE 7 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS TO THE GLOBAL CLIMATIC CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTH

	No. of respondents	Percentage
YES	21	70%
NO	9	30%
Total	30	100%

DIAGRAM 7 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS TO THE GLOBAL CLIMATIC CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON HEALTH

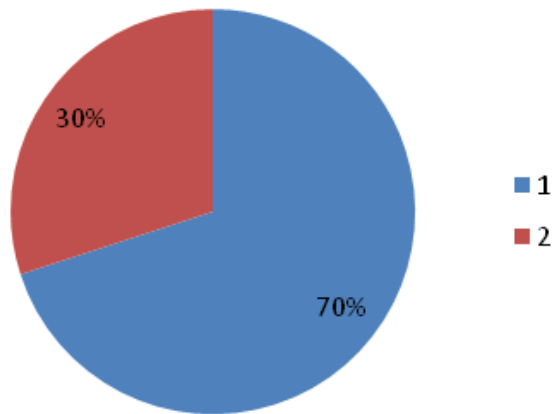


TABLE 9 SHOWING THE DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE IN A PROPER MANNER BY THE RESPONDENTS

	No. Of respondents	Percentage
YES	18	60%
NO	12	40%
Total	30	100%

DIAGRAM 9 SHOWING THE DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE IN A PROPER MANNER BY THE RESPONDENTS

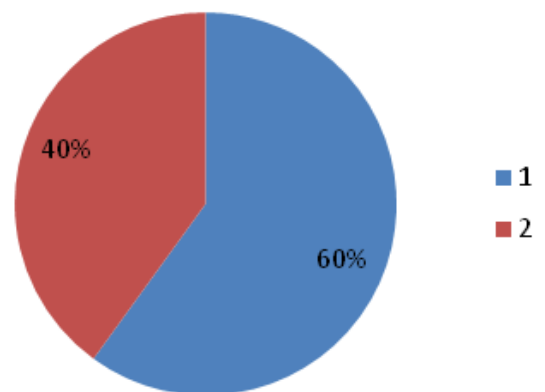


TABLE 8 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE USE OF PLASTICS AND THE RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH IT

	No. of respondents	Percentage
YES	24	80%
NO	6	20%
Total	30	100%

DIAGRAM 8 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE USE OF PLASTICS AND THE RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH IT

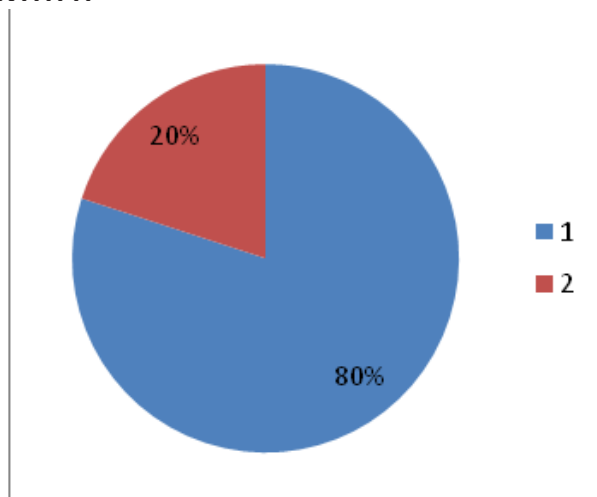
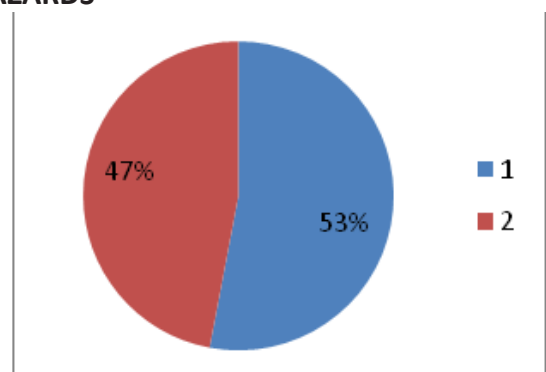


TABLE 10 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE VARIOUS LAWS RELATING TO PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FROM VARIOUS HEALTH HAZARDS

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
YES	16	53%
NO	14	47%
TOTAL	30	100%

DIAGRAM 10 SHOWING THE AWARENESS OF THE RESPONDENTS REGARDING THE VARIOUS LAWS RELATING TO PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FROM VARIOUS HEALTH HAZARDS



FINDINGS

→ Majority of the respondents were aware of the health problems caused by the pollution in the environment

→ Most of the respondents know that laws exist to protect the environment

→ The male respondents very well know about the adverse effect of the use of tobacco

→ More than half of the respondents know the harmful effects of the radiation caused by the cell phones as they are using the mobile phones for longer hours

→ Most of the respondents say that the effect of noise pollution is little when compared to the other types of pollution

→ The awareness regarding the harmful effects of climatic changes is lesser

→ Most of the respondents know the harmful effects of the plastic covers over the environment

→ With regard to garbage disposal, the respondents said that it is disposed properly in their homes as they segregate the wastes accordingly

SUGGESTIONS

→ The respondents are interested to contribute to the protection of the environment

→ They are able to convey the harmful effects of tobacco usage to their friends and influence very few to stop the usage of tobacco

→ The respondents do know that there are laws to protect the environment but not in detail

→ The respondents want to limit the usage of their cell phones as it causes harmful effects due to its radiation

→ The respondents also said that they have reduced the use of plastic covers in many places

CONCLUSION

The environment needs to be protected from various health hazards. It is the duty of each one of us to undertake measures that can contribute to protect the environment. It can also be in form of avoiding plastics for example and using paper bags or cloth bags instead. The study was able to find out the awareness of the respondents regarding the environmental health hazards and obtain suitable measures from the respondents for the same. This small study will serve as a small drop of rain that will help to make a healthy society.

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