

# Assessment of Knowledge and Attitude towards Environmental Protection Laws

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## ABSTRACT

**In light of the growing frequency and severity of natural disasters, the task of environmental protection can seem insurmountable. Tragically, the ongoing extraction of natural resources exacerbates these disasters, leading to human casualties, property damage, and environmental degradation. In this study, we sought to fill this knowledge gap by analyzing the perceptions, attitudes, behaviors, and behaviors of 320 respondents who filled out a structured questionnaire. We found that effective awareness programs, better policy communication, and stronger enforcement mechanisms are necessary to close this knowledge gap. If we are to achieve lasting environmental protection, we must work to raise public awareness and ensure that environmental laws are properly enforced.**

**Keywords: Environmental laws, Awareness, Government, Protection, Legislation**

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## INTRODUCTION

Fundamental law in India now includes environmental protection. The right to an environment free from pollution is guaranteed under the constitution of India for all citizens. The laws and regulations may require a lot of work to implement and enforce, regardless of how sound they are. Humans' careless use of the environment threatens Earth's ability to support life as we know it. Therefore, protecting the ecosystem is paramount. This is why every nation has its own set of rules and regulations in addition to its own set of guidelines for maintaining its own national environment.

To ensure that the environment can support life on Earth, Dia's ecological policies incorporate a wide variety of regulations and outcomes. The numerous natural resources of the environment, including rivers, woodlands, animals, and lakes, must be protected and improved as stated in Article 51-A. All forms of life in the natural world must also be taken into account. As a result of several problems with resource management, India is already confronted with environmental concerns. Damage to future energy supplies is a result of the over consumption of non-renewable and natural resources.

In order to have a sustainable future, environmental protection is essential. However, there are several obstacles to implementing environmental laws in developing nations like India. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, Environment Protection Act, and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act are only a few of India's many comprehensive environmental statutes. The execution of these statutes remains a formidable obstacle, notwithstanding their endeavors.

A major obstacle is the insufficiency of available resources. There is a clear disparity between the funding allocated to environmental enforcement agencies in wealthy nations like Germany—2% of the national budget—and India's 2019 allocation of just 0.5% of the national budget. Political interferences and ineffective institutional arrangements further tarnish enforcement. Corruption, a sluggish judicial system, and the tendency for politically connected companies to evade rules all contribute to a protracted legal process that makes it more difficult to hold wrongdoers responsible.

Environmental protection is often pushed to the back burner in favor of economic expansion, particularly in industrial areas such as agriculture and industry. States like Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Gujarat have seen rapid industrialization, leading to significant environmental damage and making the implementation of environmental regulations even more challenging. Furthermore, the general public's lack of understanding on the need of environmental protection limits their engagement in environmental initiatives.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Ibañez, Roger et al., (2023) The purpose of this research was to examine how well BEED students understand and feel about environmental legislation. The research was conducted using a quantitative approach, with a survey questionnaire serving as the main instrument for data collection. Though they had favorable views toward environmental regulations, the BEED students exhibited a relatively low level of understanding, according to the research. According to the results, most students did not engage in environmentally conscious conduct, and even fewer were worried about and in favor of protecting the planet. A number of pupils persisted in engaging in environmentally harmful behaviors despite being aware of the consequences for doing so and the processes for reporting such infractions in the Philippines. The percentage of individuals who actively participated in ways that benefited the environment was rather low. It follows that the BEED students at DEBESMSCAT, Cawayan, Campus lacked a comprehensive knowledge of Philippine environmental legislation. In order to raise students' awareness of and compliance with environmental regulations, the study's results showed that the BEED program's environmental education curriculum needed some work. Because students' understanding of environmental laws and their part in protecting the environment is directly related to their attitude and knowledge about these laws, it was crucial to help them better grasp these concepts. According to the research, schools should do more to encourage environmental education in the hopes that their pupils would grow up to be conscientious of the planet.

Moyel, Mohammad et al., (2023) This study aims to fill a knowledge vacuum in the literature by collecting data on the negative impacts of low environmental awareness on the environment in Basrah Governorate, Southern Iraq, from a variety of social sectors. This study looks at the environmental problems in Basra Governorate through the lens of how much the lack of knowledge about Environmental Law No. 27 of 2009 contributes to them. This pilot study found that, among a statistically significant portion of the population, there is a general ignorance of environmental laws and regulations which may have far-reaching effects on people's perspectives and actions in this area. A total of 309 responses were examined using principal component analysis (PCA) to identify similarities, differences, and associations between the various questions. The results of this poll show that Iraqi Environmental Law is unknown to the general public. Additionally, there was determined to be minimal environmental concern. However, there was no consistent or definitive data on gender, socioeconomic background, or degree of education.

Geng, Meng-Meng & He, Ling-Yun. (2021) The question of whether or not environmental control laws enacted by the government can satisfy the needs of locals in terms of environmental quality is an important one. One way to get a feel for whether environmental regulations have produced "ecological benefits for the people" is to look at how the general population feels about them. This research used an ordered probit model to examine the relationship between environmental awareness and regulation as well as the degree to which respondents were satisfied with environmental governance using data from the 2013 Chinese General Social Survey (CGSS). Compliance with environmental regulations significantly increases satisfaction with environmental governance, but environmental awareness significantly decreases it. The positive correlation between environmental regulation and satisfaction with environmental governance is modified when the level of public environmental awareness is considered, according to our findings. The results of the robustness test confirmed this.

Anthwal, Sushma & Bahuguna, Dr Rajesh. (2018) As a result of the aggressive and rapid pace of urbanization, India's environmental problems are becoming a worldwide concern. The provision of environmental services is hindered by environmental deterioration. When more pollution is dumped into the air, water, and soil than the system can absorb, the quality of these essential resources declines. The physical and economic conditions of a certain location determine the kind of environmental problem that exists there. The challenges faced by India differ from those faced by industrialized nations due to the country's status as a developing economy, its large population density, its reliance on agriculture as a source of employment, and the significant proportion of rural regions. Knowledge about environmental protection concerns contributes to environmental degradation, as this article demonstrates.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### Research Design

The present study adopts an analytical research design.

### Sources of data

The current research is founded on the primary and secondary sources of data in order to provide a full and valid analysis. The primary data will be obtained directly by use of respondents using a structured questionnaire. Secondary data were also collected using different reliable sources which included research journals, books, government reports, policy documents, official websites and past research studies among others.

### Sampling Technique

A simple random sampling technique was employed.

**Sample Size**

A total of 320 respondents were selected from Athani taluka, Karnataka for the study.

**Data Collection Methods**

The study is based on primary data collected through a structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed to capture demographic details, knowledge about environmental laws, awareness levels, and practices related to environmental protection.

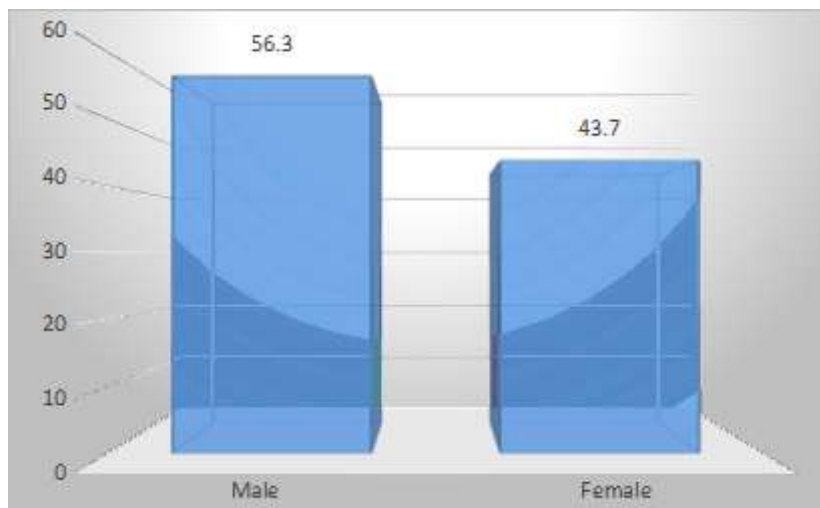
**Tools and Techniques Used**

The collected data were analyzed using Percentage Analysis and ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) to examine the differences in respondents' perception regarding environmental protection laws.

**DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION**

**Table 1: Demographic profile of the respondents**

Particulars		Frequency	Percentage
Gender	Male	180	56.3
	Female	140	43.7
	Total	320	100.0
Qualification	Graduation	190	59.4
	Post-Graduation	130	40.6
	Total	320	100.0



**Figure 1: Gender of the respondents**

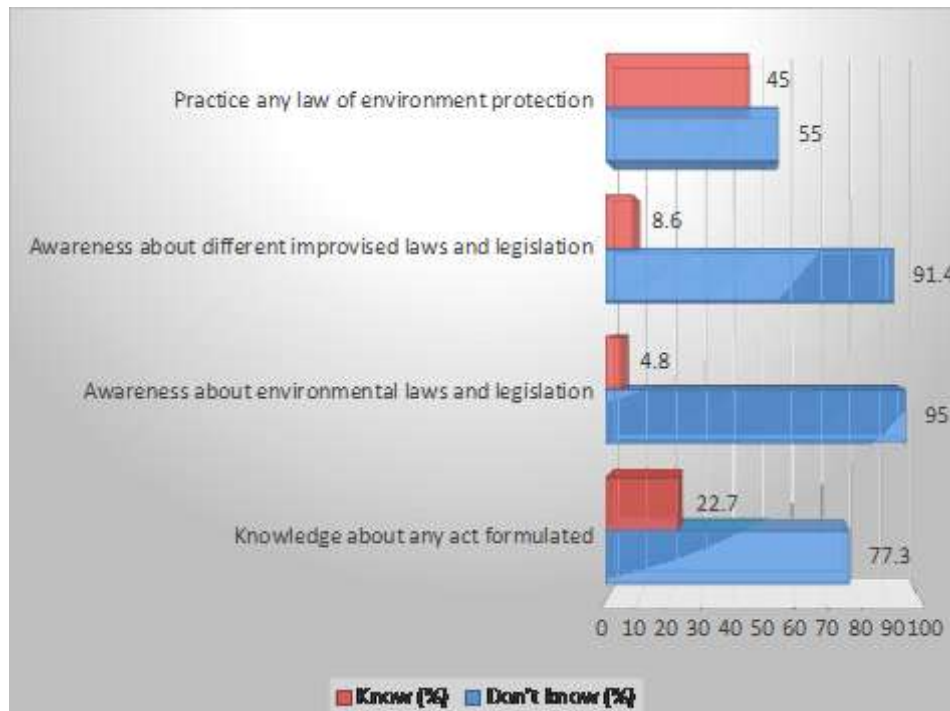


**Figure 2: Qualification of the respondents**

Out of a total of 320 participants, the demographic profile shows that men make up the majority with 180 responses (56.3%) and women with 140 (43.7%). In terms of educational background, 130 respondents (40.6% of the total) have a master's degree or above, and 190 respondents (59.4% of the total) have a bachelor's degree.

**Table 2: Knowledge, Awareness and Practice Level Regarding Environmental Protection Laws**

Particulars	Don't know (%)	Know (%)
Knowledge about any act formulated	77.3	22.7
Awareness about environmental laws and legislation	95.2	4.8
Awareness about different improvised laws and legislation	91.4	8.6
Practice any law of environment protection	55.0	45.0

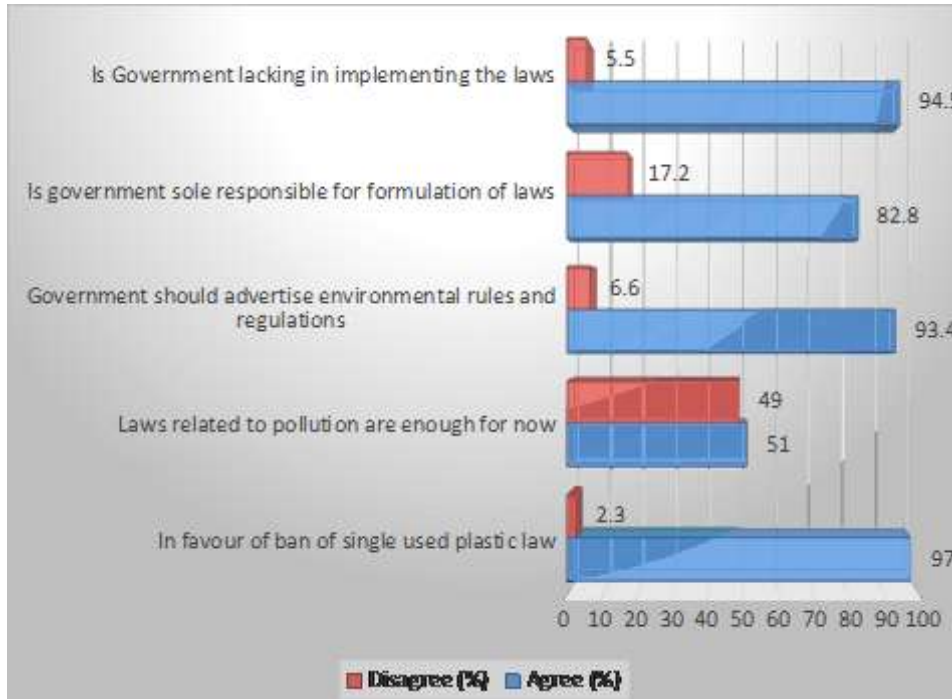


**Figure 3: Knowledge, Awareness and Practice Level Regarding Environmental Protection Laws**

Table 2 displays the results showing that the respondents did not have a high degree of understanding or experience with environmental protection regulations. While 22.7% are aware of environmental actions, 77.3% claim being unaware of any such legislation. On a similar note, just 4.8% of respondents said they were aware of environmental regulations and legislation, while 95.2% said they were completely unaware. Nearly nine in ten people (91.4% to be exact) don't know anything about the recently amended rules and regulations, while only 8.6% were informed. Meanwhile, just 45.0% of people polled said they actually observe environmental protection rules, while 55.0% said the opposite.

**Table 3: Respondents' Views on Environmental Legislations**

Particulars	Agree (%)	Disagree (%)
In favour of ban of single used plastic law	97.7	2.3
Laws related to pollution are enough for now	51.0	49.0
Government should advertise environmental rules and regulations	93.4	6.6
Is government sole responsible for formulation of laws	82.8	17.2
Is Government lacking in implementing the laws	94.5	5.5



**Figure 4: Respondents' Views on Environmental Legislations**

According to the data in Table 3, most people are in favor of environmental laws and think they should be enforced properly. A whopping 97.7 percent of those who took the survey support outlawing single-use plastics. There is a near-even split in view on whether or not present regulations pertaining to pollution are enough; 51.0 percent think they are, while 49.00 percent disagree. Government promotion of environmental laws and regulations is supported by a vast majority of respondents (93.4%). More than eighty-two percent of people also think that environmental legislation should be drafted by the government. It is worth mentioning that nearly all respondents (94.5% to be exact) believe that the government is not doing enough to enforce these rules.

**Table 4: Comparison of Respondents' Perception on Environmental Protection Laws**

Source of Variation	Sum of Squares (SS)	Mean Square (MS)	F-value	Significance (p-value)
Between Groups	4285.72	2142.86	18.47	0.000
Within Groups	1392.64	116.05		
Total	5678.36			

The results of the analysis of variance (ANOVA) test that was performed to investigate the variations in how the respondents perceived environmental protection regulations are displayed in Table 4. There is a significant difference between the computed F-value of 18.47 and the matching p-value of 0.000, with the former falling below the conventional 0.05 level of significance. This proves that there is a substantial statistical difference between the categories. As a result, the opinions of the respondents do not differ significantly. When it comes to environmental protection regulations, the results reveal that there is a wide range of respondents' understanding, familiarity, and behavior.

### CONCLUSION

The major reasons they impact and cause obstacles in implementing environmental policy are people's lack of knowledge and environmental consciousness. There is a general lack of environmental consciousness among Indian citizens. Consequently, teaching about environmental legislation should be a priority. Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should also regularly arrange field trips, seminars, workshops, and awareness campaigns to educate the public and enhance their comprehension of environmental laws. Environmental regulations, their importance, and the reporting procedure should be brought to the public's attention through focused awareness programs. In order to protect the environment for current and future generations, it is critical that all relevant parties collaborate to enforce environmental laws. This includes governments, businesses, nonprofits, and communities.

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