

## **Swimmers attitude towards forests related to environment**

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### **Abstract**

The purpose of the study is to determine the attitude towards Environment of Swimmers. A total of 80 Swimmers (40 male and 40 female) were selected for the present study. The TAJ environmental attitude scale (TEAS) constructed by TAJ (1997) was employed to assess the level of attitude. Mean, SD and 't' test were employed to find out the significance of difference. and administered to assess the attitude of the subjects with regard to Forests related to environment. The result of the study revealed that No significant difference have been found between male and female swimmers. Conclusion of the study and suggestions for future environmental attitude research are discussed.

**Keywords:** Swimmers attitude, forests environment, forest worldwide

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### **Introduction**

A forest is a large area of land covered with trees or other woody vegetation. Hundreds of more precise definitions of forest are used throughout the world, incorporating factors such as tree density, tree height, land use, legal standing and ecological function. According to the widely used United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization definition, forests covered four billion hectares (15 million square miles) or approximately 30 percent of the world's land area in 2006.

Forests are the dominant terrestrial ecosystem of Earth, and are distributed across the globe. Forests account for 75% of the gross primary productivity of the Earth's biosphere, and contain 80% of the Earth's plant biomass.

Forests at different latitudes form distinctly different ecozones: boreal forests near the poles tend to consist of evergreens, while tropical forests near the equator tend to be distinct from the temperate forests at mid-latitude. The amount of precipitation and the elevation of the forest also affects forest composition.

Human society and forests influence each other in both positive and negative ways. Forests provide ecosystem services to humans and serve as tourist attractions. Forests can also impose costs, affect people's health, and interfere with tourist enjoyment. Human activities, including harvesting forest resources, can negatively affect forest ecosystems.

Although a forest is usually defined by the presence of trees, under many definitions an area completely lacking trees may still be considered a forest if it grew trees in the past, will grow trees in the future, or was legally designated as a forest regardless of vegetation type.

Forests may provide a diversity of ecosystem services including recycling carbon dioxide into oxygen, acting as a carbon sink, aiding in regulating climate, purify water, mitigating natural hazards such as floods, and serving as a genetic reserve. Forests also serve as a source of lumber and as recreational areas.

Some researchers state that forests do not only provide benefits, but can also incur large and significant costs to humans. Forests may impose a considerable economic burden, diminish the enjoyment of natural areas, cause a dramatic

decline in the food producing capacity of grazing land and cultivated land, reduce biodiversity remove available water for humans and wildlife, harbour dangerous and destructive wildlife, and act as reservoirs of human and livestock disease.

The management of forests is often referred to as forestry. Forest management has changed considerably over the last few centuries, with rapid changes from the 1980s onwards culminating in a practice now referred to as sustainable forest management. Forest ecologists concentrate on forest patterns and processes, usually with the aim of elucidating cause-and-effect relationships. Foresters who practice sustainable forest management focus on the integration of ecological, social, and economic values, often in consultation with local communities and other stakeholders.

Humans have generally decreased the amount of forest worldwide. Anthropogenic factors that can affect forests include logging, urban sprawl, human-caused forest fires, acid rain, invasive species, and the slash and burn practices of swidden agriculture or shifting cultivation. The loss and re-growth of forest leads to a distinction between two broad types of forest, primary or old-growth forest and secondary forest. There are also many natural factors that can cause changes in forests over time including forest fires, insects, diseases, weather, competition between species, etc. In 1997, the World Resources Institute recorded that only 20% of the world's original forests remained in large intact tracts of undisturbed forest. More than 75% of these intact forests lie in three countries—the boreal forests of Russia and Canada and the rainforest of Brazil.

Forestry in India is a significant rural industry and a major environmental resource. States of America, China, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Australia, Indonesia and Sudan. Together, India and these countries account for 67 percent of total forest area of the world. India's forest cover grew at 0.22% annually over 1990-2000, and has grown at the rate of 0.46% per year over 2000-2010, after decades where forest degradation was a matter of serious concern.

Forestry in India is more than just about wood and fuel. India has a thriving non-wood forest products industry, which produces latex, gums, resins, essential oils, flavours,

fragrances and aroma chemicals, incense sticks, handicrafts, thatching materials and medicinal plants. About 60% of non-wood forest products production is consumed locally. About 50% of the total revenue from the forestry industry in India is in non-wood forest products category. In 2002, non-wood forest products were a source of significant supplemental income to over 400 million people in India, mostly rural.

India is one of the ten most forest-rich countries of the world along with the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, etc.

Chipko movement in India started in the 1970s around a dispute on how and who should have a right to harvest forest resources. Although the Chipko movement is now practically non-existent in Uttarakhand, the Indian state of its origin, it remains one of the most frequently deployed examples of an environmental and a people's movement in developing countries such as India. What caused Chipko is now a subject of debate; some neopopulists theorise Chipko as an environmental movement and an attempt to save forests, while others suggest that Chipko movement had nothing to do with eco-conservation, but was driven primarily to demand equal rights to harvest forests by local communities.

According to one set of writers: Since the early 1970s, as they realised that deforestation threatened not only the ecology but their livelihood in a variety of ways, people have become more interested and involved in conservation. The best known popular activist movement is the Chipko Movement, in which local women under the leadership of Chandi Prasad Bhatt and Sunderlal Bahuguna, decided to fight the government and the vested interests to save trees. The residents declared that they would embrace—literally "to stick to" (chipkna in Hindi)—trees to prevent cutting of ash trees in their district.

Forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change because they act as a carbon sink—soaking up carbon dioxide that would otherwise be free in the atmosphere and contribute to ongoing changes in climate patterns. Deforestation undermines this important carbon sink function. It is estimated that 15% of all greenhouse gas emissions are the result of deforestation.

Deforestation is a particular concern in tropical rainforests because these forests are home to much of the world's biodiversity. For example, in the Amazon around 17% of the forest has been lost in the last 50 years, mostly due to forest conversion for cattle ranching. Deforestation in this region is particularly rampant near more populated areas, roads and rivers, but even remote areas have been encroached upon when valuable mahogany, gold and oil are discovered.

WWF has been working to protect forests for more than 50 years. With a focus on protected areas management and sustainable forestry, WWF works with governments, companies, communities and other stakeholders to promote certification for responsible forest management practices, combat illegal logging, reform trade policies and protect forested areas.

Man is damaging the earth in various ways, but the problem has become more and more acute with the deforestation constantly at an alarming rate. Environmentalism is a concern with the preservation of the natural environment.

The situation at present is hardly any better. There may not be such mass mortality, but according to the World Health Organization, more than one billion people are under threat from pollution. It is impossible to evaluate the degree of

damage the public has suffered from throwing garbage and waste to the sea. This habit is still going on.

We see that Forests is one of the greatest dangers for humankind. This reference to pollution in the Quran at a time when there was no environmental awareness is remarkably interesting. The Quran was not penned like books that are products of the human mind under the influence of social and sociological realities in due consideration of the current issues. It is sent by God, Lord of all times and beings. Knowledge unavailable at the time of its descent, problems of the past and of the future are all present in the Quran. Man is the author of his own destruction. The verse serves as a warning to redress his wrongdoings. The more we expend effort to counteract our past shortcomings, the better we can protect ourselves against catastrophes. Ecology must be our common concern.

### **Objectives of the study**

The study has following objectives:

To assess the views and attitudes of Swimmers representing Junior National Level towards Environment.

To find out the attitudinal differences between male and female swimmers towards Forests related to environment.

### **Hypotheses**

There would be significant differences between male and female swimmer in their attitude on the variable Forests related to environment.

### **Definitions and explanation of the terms**

Attitude: Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) <sup>[8]</sup> define attitude as "a learned predisposition to respond in a consistently favorable manner with respect to a given object".

Forests: Forests are essentially a community-technically known as 'ecosystem' and it mainly includes plant community of plant species in which trees are dominant part of vegetation, animals, soils, shrubs, herbs, mammals, birds, worms, insects, etc.

Environment: Environment is the immediate surrounding space around man. It includes abiotic (physical) components, also called non living components such as air, water, sunlight, soil, temperature, minerals, rocks, etc. and biotic components, also called living

Swimmers: The term for the purpose of the study denotes those swimmers who had participated in Junior National Swimming / Aquatic competition.

### **Method and procedure**

The objective of the study was to view and assess attitude of national level swimmers towards Forests related to environment to accomplish the objective of the study, procedure adopted in selection of subjects, selections of test, method of scoring and statistical design adopted have been described in this part.

### **Selections of subjects**

For the purpose of this study, a total number of 80 swimmers (40 males and 40 females) who had participated in junior national swimming competition were selected purposively.

### **Selection of Test**

As per the suitability, availability and validity, the TAJ environmental attitude scale (TEAS) constructed by TAJ

(1997) was selected and administered to assess the attitude of the subjects with regard to Forestsrelated to environment.

**Method of Scoring**

The scoring of the response sheet of each subject was done with the help of the manual of the test. Each item alternative was assigned a weightage ranging from 4(strongly agree) to 1 (stongly disagree). The range of scores was from 5 to 20 with the higher scores indicating the more favorable attitude towards Forestsrelated to environment and vice versa.

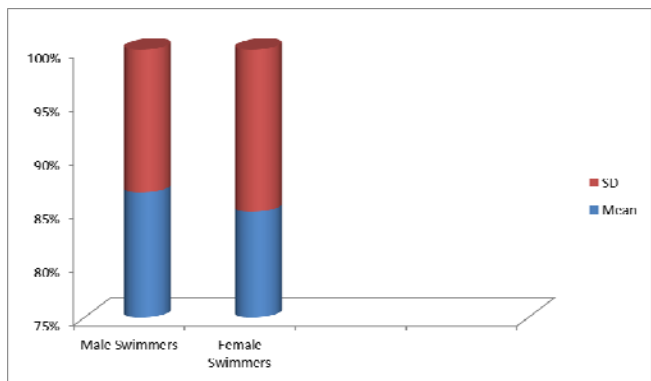
**Statistical Design**

The collected data was statistically analyzed. Mean and SD were calculated with regard to all the groups t-test was used to find out the direction of differences between the groups. Mean, SD and ‘t’ values with regard to male and female swimmers on the variable Environment Polluters.

S. No	Group	Mean	SD	‘t’ value
1	Male Swimmers	14.43	2.218	-.598*
2	Female Swimmers	14.75	2.629	

\* $p < 0.05$

A perusal of figures in table shows that the mean and SD values pertaining to male swimmers were 14.43 and 2.218 respectively and the same with regard to female swimmers were 14.75 and 2.629 respectively. These difference were not found to be significant ( $p < 0.05$ ), ‘t’ value being -.598\*.



**Findings**

With regard to variable environment polluters, male swimmers had mean values of 14.43 and female swimmers had mean value of 14.75 and it was noted that ‘t’ value being -.598 was not found significant at 0.05 level of confidence.

**Conclusion**

The differences between male and female swimmers were not found to be significant. Female swimmers were found to be little bit better on this variable as compared to male swimmers. Hypotheses, therefore, been rejected.

**Suggestion**

A similar study may be under undertaken on athletes belonging to other games.

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