

“A Comparative Study of the Environmental Attitude and its impact on Life Style of Secondary level students of Urban areas in Moradabad division”

Mohd Iqrar^{1*}, Dr. Luxmi Mishra²

^{1*} Research Scholar School Of Education and Humanities IFTM University, Moradabad. E-mail Id: iqrar308@gmail.com

² Assistant Professor School Of Education and Humanities IFTM University, Moradabad. Email ID: lmishraiftmu0918@gmail.com

Corresponding Author: Mohd Iqrar^{1}

*Email ID: iqrar308@gmail.com

Summary

In today's time, environmental issues have become a matter of global concern. Urbanization, industrialization, and modern lifestyles are having a significant impact on the environment. Secondary-level urban students are not untouched by this impact. Their attitude towards the environment and lifestyle not only affects their personal development but also has far-reaching consequences for society and the environment. The environmental attitude of urban students depends on various factors, including family background, the education system, social and cultural factors, technological availability, and the role of media. Generally, urban students have more knowledge about environmental issues because they are exposed to environmental concerns through digital media, school curricula, and various awareness campaigns. Environmental studies are taught as a compulsory subject in schools, providing students with knowledge about conservation measures and their importance. However, having knowledge alone is not sufficient; it is also necessary that it is reflected in their behavior. The lifestyle of urban students is generally convenient, where they tend to consume resources extensively. High energy and water usage, excessive production of plastic and other waste, and unsustainable exploitation of natural resources have become part of their lifestyle. Additionally, digital gadgets and fast-food culture contribute to increasing their environmental footprint. On a positive note, urban students are gradually becoming more aware of environmental conservation. Research Findings: The study found a positive correlation between environmental attitude and lifestyle among secondary-level urban students in the Moradabad division. Similarly, a positive correlation was observed between environmental attitude and lifestyle among secondary-level urban girls in the Moradabad division.

Keywords: Environmental Attitude, Life Style, Secondary Level Students Urban Areas, Moradabad division

How to cite this article: Iqrar M, Mishra L. A Comparative Study of the Environmental Attitude and Its Impact on Lifestyle of Secondary Level Students of Urban Areas in Moradabad Division. Int J Drug Deliv Technol. 2026;16(21s): 391-394. DOI: 10.25258/ijddt.16.21s.39

Introduction

The environment is the foundation of human life, and every individual plays a crucial role in its protection and preservation. Due to increasing urbanization and the influence of modern lifestyles, environmental problems are becoming more serious. It becomes particularly important to study the environmental attitudes and lifestyles of secondary-level students in urban areas, as this group will lead society in the future and contribute to environmental conservation. Students in urban areas grow up in an environment rich in modern technology, facilities, and resources. Their lifestyle differs from that of rural students, as they face fewer direct shortages of natural resources. However, due to increasing consumerism, excessive resource use, and challenges in waste management associated with urban lifestyles, their impact on the environment is greater. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the environmental consciousness of urban students and how their lifestyles affect the environment.

Attitude and Awareness Towards the Environment

Attitude is a mental state that influences a person's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors. The environmental attitude of secondary-level urban students depends on

*Author for Correspondence: iqrar308@gmail.com

various factors, including family background, school education, social environment, and the role of media. At present, environmental education is being taught as a mandatory subject in schools, which is increasing students' awareness of environmental protection. Students in urban areas are directly affected by problems such as pollution, water scarcity, air quality, and waste management. They experience industrial emissions, vehicular smoke, and rising noise pollution in their daily lives. This leads students to develop a certain perspective on environmental issues. However, sometimes these problems are so intertwined with their lifestyle that they overlook the negative impacts. Through environmental education and awareness campaigns in schools, students are informed about the importance of conserving natural resources, protecting biodiversity, and proper waste disposal. Despite this, many students understand the importance of environmental protection only theoretically, and its reflection in their behavior is limited.

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Urban Lifestyle and Its Impact on the Environment

The lifestyle of students living in urban areas has a direct and indirect impact on the environment. Their daily activities reveal how they affect the environment:

- **Energy and Water Consumption:** Urban lifestyles involve high electricity and water usage. The use of electronic devices, air conditioners, and excessive lighting has become part of students' routines. Despite water scarcity, overuse for bathing, cleaning, and other activities is common. Many students understand the importance of water conservation but pay little attention to it in practice.
- **Plastic and Waste Management:** Consumerist lifestyles of urban students have increased plastic waste. Fast food, packaged products, and online shopping contribute to higher plastic usage. Although many students understand the importance of recycling and waste management, they often use products harmful to the environment due to convenience.
- **Use of Transportation:** Students in urban areas rely more on private vehicles than public transport, which is harmful to the environment. Many students use motorcycles or cars even for short distances instead of walking or cycling, increasing carbon emissions.
- **Distance from Green Spaces and Nature:** Due to the lack of green spaces in urban areas, students have less connection with nature. They spend most of their time on mobile phones, laptops, and video games, reducing their sensitivity towards nature. This can lead to negligence in their environmental behavior.

Positive Efforts Towards Environmental Conservation

Although the urban students' lifestyle negatively impacts the environment, many actively contribute to environmental protection. Students participating in eco-friendly campaigns, tree plantation programs, Swachh

Bharat (Clean India) initiatives, and green school projects show higher environmental awareness. Additionally, social media and online platforms are making students aware of environmental issues, encouraging small changes in their daily routines, such as using cloth bags instead of plastic, adopting water-saving measures, and using LED bulbs for energy conservation.

Through eco-friendly activities, projects, and discussions in schools, students can be encouraged to develop a sense of sustainable development. Secondary-level urban students exhibit a mixed attitude towards the environment. They are aware of environmental problems but are still lagging in making fully sustainable changes in their lifestyle. Modern urban lifestyles, consumerism, and excessive use of digital devices often make their environmental behavior impractical. However, through education and awareness campaigns, students can be motivated towards environmental protection. If schools and society work to instill positive environmental habits in students, they can play a significant role in environmental conservation in the future. It is essential that environmental education be implemented in a practical manner so that students adopt environmental protection not only theoretically but also in their daily lives, moving towards a green and sustainable future.

Need and Importance

In the present time, environmental issues such as climate change, air and water pollution, biodiversity loss, and over-exploitation of natural resources have become a serious concern for the entire world. The impact of these problems is particularly significant on people living in urban areas, where increasing population, industrialization, and urbanization have deeply affected environmental balance. In this context, it becomes extremely important to study the environmental attitudes of students studying at the secondary level in urban areas and the impact of these attitudes on their lifestyle, as these students are future responsible citizens of society and the nation. If a positive attitude towards the environment is developed in them at an early stage, they can become aware of sustainable development and adopt environmentally friendly practices in their daily lives. Students at the secondary level are at a crucial stage of personality development, during which their thinking, habits, and perspectives are shaped.

Related Review of Literature

A study by Severin (2020) examined environmental attitudes among secondary school students in rural and urban areas, revealing significant differences in their perceptions and behaviors toward environmental issues. Alam and Zakaria (2021) analyzed urban bases of environmental awareness in Sylhet City, Bangladesh, highlighting the influence of factors such as gender, education, and income on environmental concern and behavior.

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A study by Kirbiš (2023) examined how educational characteristics of young people and their parents impact youth's environmental attitudes, emphasizing the role of family background in shaping environmental perceptions.

Martins (2025) explored the environmental attitudes of early and middle adolescents in rural and urban regions, highlighting the influence of geographical context on environmental perceptions.

Research Gap

The reviewed studies provide valuable insights into the environmental attitudes of secondary-level students, emphasizing factors such as geography, family background, gender, education, and income. However, most research primarily focuses on identifying differences in awareness or attitudes rather than examining how these attitudes translate into actual lifestyle choices and daily behaviors. Additionally, while urban contexts have been studied, there is limited exploration of the comparative impact of environmental attitudes on lifestyle specifically among urban secondary students. Therefore, a clear gap exists in understanding the direct relationship between environmental attitudes and lifestyle patterns in urban adolescents, warranting focused empirical investigation.

Problem Statement:

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Objectives:

Definition of Hypotheses

- To study the environmental attitudes of students studying at the secondary level in urban areas of the Moradabad division and their impact on lifestyle.
- To study the environmental attitudes of female students studying at the secondary level in urban areas of the Moradabad division and their impact on lifestyle.

Hypotheses:

- A positive correlation is found between the environmental attitude and lifestyle of secondary-level students studying in urban areas of the Moradabad division.
- A positive correlation is found between the environmental attitude and lifestyle of secondary-level female students studying in urban areas of the Moradabad division.

Data Collection Tools

For the present research, data was collected through personal contact with students studying at the secondary level in urban areas of the Moradabad division, using a questionnaire as the primary tool.

Sample:

For the present study, 150 male students and 150 female students studying at the secondary level in the urban areas of the Moradabad division were included.

Tools

To measure attitude towards the environment – Questionnaire developed by Professor M. Rajamanickam.

Table Number – 1

The status and interpretation of the correlation between the attitude towards the environment and lifestyle of students studying at the secondary level in urban areas of the Moradabad division.

Urban Area Male Students	towards	Number (N)	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Correlation (r)	Significance of Correlation
Attitude	Environment	150	148	0.512	Positive
Lifestyle					

Explanation:

In Table 1, the correlation between the environmental attitude and lifestyle of students studying at the secondary level in urban areas of the Moradabad division was found to be **0.512**. At the **0.05 significance level**, the critical value is **0.098**, and at the **0.01 significance level**, it is **0.128**. The obtained value is greater than both these critical values, indicating that there is a **moderately strong positive correlation** between the two variables.

Table Number – 2

Correlation Status and Explanation Between Urban Female Students' Environmental Attitude and Their Lifestyle at the Secondary Level in the Moradabad Division

Urban Area Female Students	towards	Number (N)	Degrees of Freedom (df)	Correlation (r)	Significance of Correlation
Attitude	Environment	150	148	0.673	Positive
Lifestyle					

Explanation –

In Table 2, the correlation between urban female

students' attitude towards the environment and their lifestyle at the secondary level in the Moradabad

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division was found to be **0.673**. At the **0.05 significance level**, the value is **0.098**, and at the **0.01 significance level**, the value is **0.128**. The obtained value is greater than both these values, which indicates that there is a **higher-than-average positive correlation** between the two variables.

Conclusion

- A positive correlation was found between the environmental attitude and lifestyle of secondary-level students studying in urban areas of the Moradabad division.
- A positive correlation was found between the environmental attitude and lifestyle of secondary-level female students studying in urban areas of the Moradabad division.

Suggestion

For the study on “A Comparative Study of the Environmental Attitude and Its Impact on Lifestyle of Secondary Level Students of Urban Areas in Moradabad Division,” it is suggested to adopt a mixed-method approach combining quantitative surveys and qualitative interviews. Standardized tools like the Environmental Attitude Scale can be used to assess students’ awareness, concern, and behaviors towards the environment. Additionally, lifestyle patterns, including consumption habits, mobility, and recreational activities, should be analyzed. A comparative analysis between different schools or demographic groups will provide insights into how environmental attitudes shape everyday behaviors and promote sustainable practices among urban secondary students.

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