

Abstract

Considering the importance of environmental educations in the modern world of today, it is quit necessary to take into consideration the significant role of kids and adolescents, so as to provide them with a sense of responsibility; this shall be viewed as a sacred goal. On the other hand, the best way for institutionalizing positive habits is to train them, particularly training habits during childhood which can develop into a subjective belief. Such a belief may force students to safeguard, in the best possible way, the unique ecosystem wherein they live. Therefore, in the present research, influence of training intervention regarding natural resources is investigated on awareness and attitude of girl students studying at elementary schools in the city of Zabol, Iran. This is an experimental interventional study wherein two schools were randomly selected as intervention group and three other schools were taken as control. Statistical population of the research was comprised of ۲۹۰ students (۱۴۵ students in the intervention group and ۱۴۵ ones in the control group) who were randomly divided into intervention and control groups. The intervention included three ۳۰-min courses for the students. To further enhance efficiency, a painting competition was also held among the students. In the present research, the required data was collected via a four-part questionnaire. The first part included demographic information of the participants. The second part of the questionnaire referred to interactions with natural resources. The third part of the questionnaire was related to awareness, with the fourth part evaluating the participants' attitudes toward natural resources. The collected data was analyzed using appropriate statistical tests (e.g. paired t-test, independent t-test, and Spearman's correlation test) in SPSS ۱۶ Software. Results of the research indicated that, prior to the intervention, the studied students had unfavorable attitudes toward preserving natural resources (mean scores of awareness in the intervention and control groups were ۰,۲۲ and ۰,۲۳, respectively, and mean scores of attitude in the intervention and control groups were ۰,۴۴ and ۰,۴۲, respectively). However, following the intervention, the intervention group's scores of awareness and attitude increased significantly (p -value = ۰,۰۰۱), while the control group (for which no intervention was considered) had still low scores of intervention and attitude. The research results further showed a significant relationship between students' awareness about and their attitude toward natural resources (p -value = ۰,۰۰۰). Findings of the present research showed that, holding training courses could enhance awareness and attitude of the students in the intervention group regarding natural resources (awareness and intervention scores of ۰,۳۹ and ۰,۶۴, respectively). Moreover, the intervention has resulted in enhanced attitude of the

students in the intervention group, as compared to those in the control group, showing that training interventions can be used to enhance students' awareness about and attitude toward natural resources.

Keywords: training intervention, awareness, attitude, natural resources, Zabol.



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**The Thesis Submitted to fulfill Degree of M.Sc
in the field of Watershed Management**

The Effect of Intervention Training in the Natural Resources on Knowledge Elementary School Students in zabol

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