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*The relationship between  
gender and environmental  
mindset*

**Topic:**

**The relationship between gender and environmental mindset**

**Table of Contents**

<b>Environmental issue .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Research Question.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Connection between Environmental Issue and Research Question .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Planning.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Results .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Analysis .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Application.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Appendix.....</b>	<b>9</b>

## **Environmental issue**

The mindset that human beings have with regards to the environment is extremely crucial to understand, so that the implications of that on the environment can be looked upon in a better and clearer way. The way human beings regard the environment and the attitude that they have towards it is really crucial to understand. The mindset of human beings is what eventually dictates their behavior towards it.

I personally felt that it would be very interesting to see the mindset that the youngsters at ASC COBHAM international school have. I also felt that there would exist a difference in the mindset of the genders, which is why I chose to study the relationship between gender and environmental mindset.

## **Research Question**

What is the effect between the gender and the environmental mindset of students at the ASC COBHAM international school?

## **Connection between Environmental Issue and Research Question**

I personally feel that all environmental issues can be well tackled if we study people's mindset. The only thing that determines a person's behavior towards the environment is the way they think and the way they feel about the environment. Taking care of the environment is crucial since we all are a part of this environment. In order to live a healthy life, it is essential that we take care of the very environment that we are a part of. If we pollute it with contaminants, then we will be the ones at the end of the day who will be suffering as a result of it. In addition to that, a dirty environment is what gives way to all kinds of diseases.

Furthermore, this nature is what gives us fresh oxygen to breathe. If we take care of the environment, then we are also essentially setting a good example for other people to follow. In order for us to take care of the environment this way, it is essential to understand the mindset that people have towards the environment. This is why, this is the sole focus of my study. I aim to see the difference in the mindset between males and females at the ASC COBHAM international school.

### **Planning**

The population for this study were all the students who were a part of the ASC COBHAM international school. The sample size that I chose for this study was 50, because this is a number large enough to be representative of the entire population. Out of these 50 students, 25 were males and 25 were females. I ensured that there were an equal number of both so that it would be an accurate judgment of both genders and their mindsets.

In order to choose the sample size, I chose probability sampling. In this method of sampling, all participants have an equal chance of being selected. Since I had the sampling frame, which was all the students in the ASC COBHAM international school, I chose to go with this method. I also felt that this method would be extremely unbiased. I got a list of all male students studying at the ASC COBHAM international school and then I picked out 25 from that, and I did exactly the same for the female students at the school. Given that there were time and resource constraints for me as a student, I felt that this sample size was large enough to give me results that were substantial.

The tool that I used to gather data was a questionnaire. This questionnaire was open ended. I wanted to find out the reasons behind the mindsets of the students and that is why I chose to go for this kind of approach. This questionnaire is also attached in the appendix at the end of this report for purposes of reference.

It is really important to take care of the ethical considerations when any living being is involved in the research. The participants of the research should not be harmed in any way possible and it is imperative to take care of this aspect when conducting research. All of the participants of this research were given prior information about this research and its purpose. They were given the free choice to be a part of this study and were told that their contribution to this study could very well be helpful in gauging the effect that social media advertising has on buyer behavior. They were made to be a part of this study without any force being used on them. They were initially asked if they had around ten minutes of their valuable time to spare. After that, they were made to fill this questionnaire.

## **Results**

The results of this survey showed that 22 out of 25 males were technocentric. They had absolute faith in technology and they were of the view that it is humans who have absolute control over nature. They do accept the fact that environmental problems exist, but then at the same time, they also don't feel that these problems should be solved by a reduction in industry. In addition to that, they also feel that these are the kind of problems that have to be solved by way of science.

The only thing that these people believe in the most is the advancement of technology because they think that the fast pace at which the world is evolving today, technology is the only way to go. They feel that all kinds of environmental problems that exist today can be solved by way of technology. They place more importance in technology than they place on the importance of environmental protection.

On the other hand, it was seen that 20 out of 25 females were anthropocentric. This meant that they placed the most amount of importance to human beings. They regarded human beings as the most important entities in the world. They believed that it is human beings that are more important than any other creatures that have been created. They also feel that human beings hold more importance than the environment itself.

The basis of their belief is the fact that human beings hold intrinsic value and are much superior to animals, plants and mineral resources. They believe that all other kinds of resources in the world are made for the benefit of man and that it is man who holds the most amount of importance. They believe that all of these resources can be exploited for the benefit of mankind. They believe that the essence of human creation is superiority to other beings, even the environment.

### **Analysis**

It was seen that there was a huge difference between the responses of the males and the females. The results that came out of this study were very much expected. Males are generally seen to be more interested in technology as they see technology as the way forward. They are seen to be very interested in all kind of technological advancements that take place

in the world. They are seen to be extremely interested in the new gadgets that come out each year. That is why this kind of response from the males was expected. The 3 males who called themselves ecocentric were seen as outliers, because they were very few in number. They believed that taking care of the environment is integral because we are also a part of this environment and that we as human beings are caretakers of this environment. They said that we need to take care of this environment and we need to conserve it so that it remains intact or those that come after us. They were of the view that we humans are also a product of this environment and that is why we need to respect it and take extreme care of it.

The females on the other hand were seen to be highly anthropocentric. This was not surprising either. Generally, at the school it is seen that most female students opt for humanity courses. From that, it can be well justified that they believe in the superiority of human beings over the other creatures that are created. They believe that it is human beings who have control over other creatures and the environment and that is why they regard human beings as highly superior.

Out of 25 women, 1 was technocentric. This is a negligible result since it is again an outlier. A plausible explanation for this can be seen in the fact that this female might be one who was interested in all new technological advancements. She might be one who was like the men in this regard. 4 out of 25 women were ecocentric. This again was too small of a number and so it isn't regarded as a significant result either. It can be seen that these women felt that the environment needed to be protected by us since we are products of the environment. If we don't protect the environment, then we as human beings will see its repercussions.

## **Conclusion**

From the results of this study, it can be summarized that the males are technocentric on the whole, whereas the females are anthropocentric. Out of a total of 50 students, only 7 students in total were ecocentric. This is a really small number and only accounts for 14% of the total people. This sheds light on the fact that most people in the school are not ecocentric.

This has very important implications. It sheds light on how people don't care as much for the environment as they should. This can have detrimental effects on the environment in the future. If people don't put the environment before themselves, then the resources will get depleted at a much faster pace. This means that the future generations will not get to live in this world as we see it today. When people don't have a mindset of caring for the environment, then that will directly be seen in their actions.

The main strength of the method that I used to gather the data was that I was able to gather the relevant objective information that I needed as part of this study. I wanted to understand the gender differences in mindset towards the environment and the questionnaire that I developed allowed me to do that. However, there are also certain limitations. I wanted to expand this research on a larger scale so that I could get data from the maximum amount of people, but that was not really possible due to constraints of time and resources. This is why I had to conduct my research on a total of 50 people.

## **Application**

Since this research has allowed for understanding that there does exist a problem in the mindset of the students with regards to the environment, I feel that a very viable solution to



this could be that the school should hold educational seminars that have relevant people educated in the environmental field coming in and discussing the importance of taking care of the environment. I feel this is a good solution and will be able to work wonders due to the fact that there is a lack of awareness in the people about the importance of taking care of the environment. They are not fully aware of the kind of impact this mindset can have on the environment.

Various environmentalists can be contacted by the school and they can be called in to conduct seminars every month. This can help inculcate the love for the environment in the hearts of the students. These sessions should focus on telling the students how crucial it is to take care of the environment. The fact that should be stressed the most should be that if we don't take care of the environment then at the end of the day, it will be us only who will suffer.

Additionally, another step that the school could take is that they could introduce a course about environmentalism and the students should be encouraged to take that course so that they can be taught all about the little steps that they can take a day at a time to contribute to making the environment a better place to be in. They should be taught how they can be much better citizens of the world by being change agents and contributing positively to making the world a better place to be in.

## Appendix

### Survey

1. What is your gender?

- Male
- Female

2. According to your own view of yourself, which do you think describes you best?

- Ecocentric
- Anthropocentric
- Technocentric

3. Why do you view yourself this way?

4. Do you think this has an impact on the environment? If yes, how?

5. How do you think others view you? Why?

6. How do you think you can make the environment a better place to live in?



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