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Attitude of swimmers towards wild life 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 administered to assess the attitude of the subjects with regard to wild life related to environment. The result of the study revealed that No significant differences have been found between male and female swimmers. Conclusion of the study and suggestions for future environmental attitude research are discussed.

Keywords: Attitude, swimmers, wild life related, environment

Introduction

Human-wildlife conflict refers to the interaction between wild animals and people and the resultant negative impact on people or their resources, or wild animals or their habitat. It occurs when growing human populations overlap with established wildlife territory, creating reduction of resources or life to some people and/or wild animals. The conflict takes many forms ranging from loss of life or injury to humans, and animals both wild and domesticated, to competition for scarce resources to loss and degradation of habitat.

Conflict management strategies earlier comprised lethal control, translocation, regulation of population size and preservation of endangered species. Recent management approaches attempt to use scientific research for better management outcomes, such as behaviour modification and reducing interaction. As human-wildlife conflicts inflict direct, indirect and opportunity costs, the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict is an important issue in the management of biodiversity and protected areas.

As human populations expand into wild animal habitats, natural wildlife territory is displaced. Reduction in the availability of natural prey/food sources leads to wild animals seeking alternate sources. Alternately, new resources created by humans draw wildlife resulting in conflict. The population density of wildlife and humans increase with overlaps in geographical areas used increasing their interaction thus resulting in increased physical conflict. Byproducts of human existence offer un-natural opportunity for wildlife in the form of food and sheltered interference and potentially destructive threat for both man and animals. Competition for food resources also occurs when humans attempt to harvest natural resources such as fish and grassland pasture.

The direct dependence of hunter gathers on natural ecosystems for their food, and the intimate knowledge of the natural world that this requires, is generally reflected in their beliefs and attitudes toward nature and wildlife. Such peoples commonly view themselves as inseparable from the natural ecosystems and wildlife around them (Gottlieb 1996, Wilber 2000). Animals are often regarded to be another kind of people, or as spirit beings, who can be appealed to for help and protection. Rituals are commonly performed to show respect, gratitude and reverence for the animal-spirits, with the hope of promoting continued hunting success. Other rituals to influence natural events, such as the coming of rain, are also not uncommon in hunter-gatherer cultures. These literal beliefs in magic, ritual and fusion of humans with the natural world are often termed animism (Richerson *et al.* 1996, Wilber 2000). Examples of such beliefs toward nature are shown in both the traditions of numerous Native American cultures, and in the

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beautifully executed portraits of bison, deer, salmon and other animals in the caves of France by the hunter-gatherer ancestors of modern day Europeans. Humans worldwide lived in tribal, hunter-gatherer societies for most of their evolutionary history, and some anthropologists argue that we therefore feel most at ease in circumstances that mimic such societies. These circumstances include open settings with views of wildlife (or livestock as substitutes for wildlife), living in areas near water, and egalitarian social groups with frequent interactions with close family members and at most a few dozen members of the same culture (Wilson 1984, Richerson and Boyd 2000).

Man is damaging the earth in various ways, not the least of which is through environmental pollution. Products of erosion, sewage and industrial wastes have been polluting environment for long, but the problem has become more and more acute with the population pressure increasing constantly at an alarming rate.

Present trend of modernization has made the man to manufacture more and more products for his utility and comfort. The race is ever continuous, new products being offered before utilization of the earlier ones. Time has come for the man to realize that the crisis of his existence is looming over his head.

Researcher had therefore undertaken the present study to assess and analyze the attitude of Swimmers towards wild life related to environment. Swimmers constitute a distinct category of Sports persons who are not only constantly exposed to vagaries of water and thus can be expected to have wider exposure to environmental conditions as compared to other athletes.

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 wild life related to environment.

Hypotheses

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

Definitions and explanation of the terms

Attitude: Fishbein and Ajzen (1975) ^[9] define attitude as “a learned predisposition to respond in a consistently favorable manner with respect to a given object”.

- ✓ Wild Life related to environment: The term has been used in the present study to include all animals, birds, insects, aquatic creatures living in state of nature, not domesticated or tamed.
- ✓ 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 wild life 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 wild life related 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 (strongly disagree). The range of scores was from 6 to 24 with the higher scores indicating the more favorable attitude towards wild life related 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.

To find out the direction of the differences, mean SD and 't' values were worked out with regard to the two gender groups on the variable wild life related to environment. and the same have been presented in the following table

S. No	Group	Mean	SD	't' value
1	Male Swimmers	15.50	2.612	.318
2	Female Swimmers	15.33	2.303	

Status of male and female swimmers on variable wild life related to environment:-

Findings

The mean values with regard to male and female swimmers on the variable wild life related to environment were 15.50 and 15.33 respectively, The result indicated that the male swimmers were having edge over their female counterparts but 't' value therefore was not found significant

Conclusion

On the basis of the finding of study, No significant differences have been found between male and female swimmers. Hypotheses therefore, stand rejected.

Suggestion

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

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