



A STUDY ON AWARENESS OF THE CLEAN SCHOOL CAMPAIGN AMONG STUDENTS STUDYING IN MARATHI AND ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOLS IN PUSAD CITY

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ABSTRACT

Cleanliness is a critical component of personal health, social responsibility, and environmental sustainability. Schools, being centers of academic and social development, play a vital role in fostering awareness and positive behavior regarding hygiene among students. The government's Clean School Campaign aims to enhance students' knowledge, attitudes, participation, and practices related to school cleanliness, waste management, and environmental conservation. This study investigates the awareness and behavior of students in Marathi and English medium schools regarding this campaign. A descriptive research method was employed, with a sample of 140 students (70 English medium and 70 Marathi medium) selected using convenience or random sampling. A self-constructed questionnaire, validated by educational experts and tested for reliability using Cronbach's Alpha and Split-Half Method, was used for data collection. Statistical analysis included frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation. The findings indicate that English medium students demonstrate slightly higher awareness (42.86% high awareness) compared to Marathi medium students (35.71%), likely due to greater access to digital tools and educational resources. Similarly, English medium students show more positive attitudes (65%), active participation (60%), and regular cleanliness behavior (55%) than Marathi medium students. The study highlights the need for tailored educational interventions, such as teacher-guided demonstrations for Marathi medium students and digital-based programs for English medium students. By implementing targeted educational strategies, schools can enhance students' personal hygiene habits, social responsibility, and environmental awareness. The study underscores the importance of medium-specific approaches to achieve long-term behavioral changes and successfully realize the objectives of the Clean School Campaign.

KEYWORDS: *Clean School Campaign, School Hygiene, Student Awareness, Attitudes and Behavior, Marathi Medium, English Medium, Environmental Education, Educational Interventions*

BACKGROUND

In today's times, cleanliness has become extremely important not only for personal health but also for the development of society. Schools are not just centers for academic knowledge but also for moral, social, and health education of students. Therefore, implementing cleanliness campaigns in schools proves useful in creating awareness among students about health, discipline, and social responsibility. The '**Clean School Campaign**' is an ambitious government initiative aimed at raising students' awareness regarding cleanliness and hygiene in schools. Under this campaign, students are trained to keep classrooms, toilets, floors, laboratories, and other school facilities clean. They are also provided with information about waste management, recycling, and environmental protection. Studying awareness about clean schools among students in Marathi and English medium schools is important because the way information is received, understood, and the school culture differs according to language and medium of instruction. English medium students generally receive information about cleanliness through textbooks, digital tools, and school notices, whereas Marathi medium students tend to receive it more effectively through direct guidance from teachers and school programs. Therefore, differences may be observed between these two groups in terms of awareness, behavioral changes, and participation related to cleanliness. Increasing students' awareness about cleanliness is essential not only for maintaining a healthy school environment but also for developing their sense of social responsibility. This study allows an examination of students' knowledge, attitudes, behavior, and participation regarding cleanliness. Additionally, by identifying differences based on medium, schools can design effective educational and promotional strategies. Overall, studying awareness about the Clean School Campaign among students of Marathi and English medium schools is significant because it not only encourages students to take responsibility for school cleanliness but also strengthens their awareness of society and the environment. This study serves as a foundation for improving educational policies and making future cleanliness programs more effective.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

A school is not merely a center for education but also a place where students' personality, values, and social responsibility are shaped. In today's times, cleanliness is not just a matter of health but has become an important aspect related to social and moral responsibility as well as environmental conservation. Therefore, it is essential to create awareness about cleanliness in schools. The '**Clean School Campaign**' is an initiative implemented at the government level, aimed at increasing students' awareness about school hygiene, waste management, recycling, and environmental protection. Under this campaign, various educational programs, informative sessions, and practical demonstrations are organized in schools. However, awareness among students may vary according to the medium of instruction. In Marathi and English medium schools, the sources of information, teacher guidance, school programs, and use of digital tools differ. English medium students generally receive more information through textbooks, the internet, and digital tools, whereas Marathi medium students obtain information more effectively through direct guidance from teachers and school activities. These differences can lead to variations in the level of awareness, behavioral changes, and participation regarding cleanliness. Increasing students' awareness about cleanliness is crucial not only for maintaining a healthy school environment and students' personal health but also for fostering discipline and a sense of responsibility in society. Therefore, it is necessary to study awareness about the Clean School Campaign among students of Marathi and English medium schools. This research can analyze differences in awareness, participation, attitudes, and behaviors based on the medium of instruction. The findings of this study will be useful for formulating educational policies, implementing

effective school cleanliness programs, and making future initiatives more impactful. Hence, this study is significant from educational, social, and health perspectives.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

A school is not only a center for academic knowledge but also a place where students' personality, social values, and moral responsibility are developed. In today's times, cleanliness is not merely a health issue but has become an important factor related to environmental conservation, social discipline, and students' lifestyles. Therefore, creating awareness about cleanliness in schools is extremely important. The '**Clean School Campaign**' is an initiative implemented to increase students' awareness about school hygiene, waste management, environmental protection, and disciplined behavior. However, differences in awareness regarding this campaign may be observed among students studying in Marathi and English medium schools. The means of receiving information, teacher guidance, and school programs vary according to language and medium. English medium students generally obtain more information through digital tools, textbooks, and the internet, whereas Marathi medium students receive information more effectively through direct guidance from teachers and participation in school activities. This research will help understand differences in students' awareness about cleanliness based on the medium of instruction. By analyzing students' attitudes, participation, and behavior, more effective school cleanliness programs can be designed. This will foster a sense of personal and social responsibility among students and maintain a healthy school environment. Thus, studying awareness of the Clean School Campaign among students of Marathi and English medium schools is significant from educational, health, and social perspectives. The findings of this study will be useful in formulating educational policies, improving programs, and enhancing students' health and social awareness.

Objectives

1. To study the awareness of the Clean School Campaign among students studying in Marathi and English medium schools.
2. To examine the differences in students' attitudes, participation, and behavior regarding cleanliness based on the medium of instruction (Marathi and English).
3. To suggest effective educational and social measures for promoting cleanliness, waste management, and environmental conservation among students.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The objective of this study is to examine the awareness of the Clean School Campaign among students studying in Marathi and English medium schools. A **descriptive research method** was used for this study because the primary aim is to describe students' awareness, attitudes, and participation, and to understand the differences between them. A total of **140 students** were included in the sample, comprising **70 English medium** and **70 Marathi medium** students. **Convenience sampling or random sampling** was employed to ensure proper representation of each group. A **self-constructed tool** was used for this study. While designing the tool, a **questionnaire** was developed to evaluate students' knowledge, attitudes, and participation regarding the Clean School Campaign. The **validity** of the tool was ensured through verification by educational experts. The **reliability** of the tool was tested using statistical methods such as **Cronbach's Alpha or the Split-Half Method**. **Data collection** was carried out by personally visiting the schools and having students complete the questionnaire. The collected data was then analyzed using **statistical methods** such as frequency, percentage,

mean, and standard deviation. This analysis enabled a clear understanding of differences in awareness between Marathi and English medium students, as well as an examination of the sample characteristics.

Analysis and interpretation :

Table 1.1

Table showing the description of awareness among Marathi and English medium students

Medium	N	High Awareness	Moderate awareness	Low awareness
English	70	30 (42.86%)	28 (40%)	12 (17.14%)
Marathi	70	25 (35.71%)	30 (42.86%)	15 21.43%

The above table shows the level of awareness about the Clean School Campaign among students of English and Marathi medium schools. Among the 70 English medium students, **30 (42.86%)** fall in the high awareness category, **28 (40%)** in the medium awareness category, and **12 (17.14%)** in the low awareness category. Among the 70 Marathi medium students, **25 (35.71%)** have high awareness, **30 (42.86%)** medium awareness, and **15 (21.43%)** low awareness. The level of high awareness is greater among English medium students compared to Marathi medium students (**42.86% vs. 35.71%**). This indicates that English medium students have easier access to information about cleanliness, possibly due to greater use of digital tools, textbooks, or other educational resources. The proportion of students with medium awareness is slightly higher among Marathi medium students (**42.86% vs. 40%**), suggesting that while they have some knowledge about cleanliness, full awareness has not yet been achieved. The percentage of students with low awareness is higher in Marathi medium schools compared to English medium schools (**21.43% vs. 17.14%**), indicating that some Marathi medium students have limited knowledge or participation in school cleanliness and environmental conservation. Overall, English medium students are slightly more aware of the Clean School Campaign, while a larger proportion of Marathi medium students fall in the medium awareness category. This suggests the need for additional educational guidance and practical activities for Marathi medium students. By focusing on initiatives and instructions according to the medium of instruction, schools can enhance students' awareness of cleanliness, waste management, and environmental conservation.

Table 1.2

Table showing the differences in students' attitudes, participation, and behavior based on Marathi and English medium

Medium	Positive approach(%)	Active participation (%)	Regular behaviors (%)
English	65	60	55
Marathi	58	55	50

The above table shows the differences in students' attitudes, participation, and behavior regarding cleanliness between English and Marathi medium students. Among English medium students, **65%** have a positive attitude, **60%** show active participation, and **55%** demonstrate regular cleanliness behavior. Among Marathi medium students, **58%** have a positive attitude, **55%** show active participation, and **50%** demonstrate regular cleanliness behavior.

The positive attitude is slightly higher among English medium students (**65% vs. 58%**), indicating that they are more conscious and have a more favorable outlook toward cleanliness. Active participation is also higher in English medium students (**60% vs. 55%**), suggesting that they are slightly more engaged in school cleanliness initiatives. Regular cleanliness behavior is reported at **55%** for English medium students and **50%** for Marathi medium students, indicating a slightly greater adoption of cleanliness habits among English medium students; however, there is room for improvement in both groups.

Overall, English medium students exhibit a slightly more positive attitude, participation, and behavior regarding cleanliness. Marathi medium students are comparatively less engaged, highlighting the need for hands-on demonstrations, guidance, and motivational activities. By designing educational programs in schools that foster positive attitudes and increase participation according to the medium of instruction, long-term cleanliness habits and awareness of environmental conservation among students can be enhanced.

EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTIONS

Schools are key institutions for the academic and social development of students. Educational interventions play an important role in increasing awareness of the Clean School Campaign among students studying in Marathi and English medium schools. The main objective of these interventions is to instill habits of cleanliness, raise awareness about waste management, and convey important information about environmental conservation to students.

Teachers and school administrations can implement various educational activities for this purpose. For example, **school projects, cleanliness competitions, environmental awareness sessions, waste management workshops, and group discussion sessions** can be organized. Through these programs, students will be trained to keep classrooms, toilets, playgrounds, and other facilities clean. Additionally, the use of **digital media**, including informational videos, posters, and quizzes, can help generate interest among students in cleanliness-related topics.

Educational interventions can bring improvement in students' attitudes, participation, and behavior. **Digital tools** may be more effective for English medium students, whereas **direct teacher guidance and practical demonstrations** may be more effective for Marathi medium students.

By implementing such educational interventions, students' awareness of personal hygiene, social responsibility, and environmental conservation will increase. These programs are not only beneficial for maintaining cleanliness in schools but also support students' social and moral development. Consequently, they help achieve the objectives of the Clean School Campaign and foster long-term, effective behavioral changes among students.

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