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**ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION AWARENESS  
AMONG BAR MEMBERS: A CASE STUDY OF  
JALANDHAR BAR**

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# Environment Pollution Awareness among Bar Members: A Case Study of Jalandhar Bar

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**Abstract – Without natural environment the creation and survival of life is impossible. Man in his quest for enriching his material wealth has transcended on path of exploiting the natural resources without taking into consideration the inevitable consequences relating to the life of the human species on earth. There is a direct correlation between environmental conditions and our physiological functions. Change in climate affects our behavioural pattern in spite of our marvelous adaptability. Extreme climates and sudden change of environment have a direct influence on our lifestyle and work culture.**

**It is imperative that we soon strike a balance between our environment and industrial development. Environment can no more be sacrificed for economic growth and development. “Sustainable Development” is only way to progress which means “development that needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.” Preservation and protection of environment means the protection of the earth, its atmosphere, and its various vital resources. These are the essential ingredients of our life and existence, and should be kept alive, pure, vibrant and rich. There is paramount need to create a consciousness about the environment.**

**‘Advocates play a major role in forming an idle society. ‘Advocates have been instrumental in spearheading movements in the society for a positive change. Lawyers are the people who are most conversant with the problems of society as a whole. A lot studies have been conducted on the subject of environment But researchers have ignored to study this important aspect in legal experts of the Country. Therefore we have conducted this study entitled “Environment Pollution Awareness among Bar Members: A Case Study of Jalandhar Bar”.**

**Important Words: - Environment, Pollution, Advocates**

## INTRODUCTORY:-

Environment” is a difficult word to define. Its normal meaning relates to surroundings, but obviously that is a concept which is relatable to whatever object it is which is surrounded<sup>1</sup>. Land, water, air, plants, animals, solid wastes and other things that are surrounding us constitute our environment. To maintain a balance or equilibrium in nature, man and environment are closely intertwined with each other. Different groups of people working in different areas express environment in different ways.

## DEFINITIONS OF ENVIRONMENT

According to Business Dictionary, “The sum total of all surroundings of a living organism, including natural forces and other living things, which provide conditions for development and growth as well as of danger and damage<sup>2</sup>.”

Webster dictionary defines environment as; “that which environs or surrounds; surrounding

conditions, influences, or forces, by which living forms are influenced and modified in their growth and development<sup>3</sup>”

Dictionary definition range from ‘something that environs’ to ‘the whole complex of climatic, edaphic, and biotic factors that act upon an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determines form or survival; the aggregate of social or cultural conditions that influence the life of an individual or a community’ or, more simply, ‘surrounding; surrounding objects, regions or circumstances.<sup>4</sup>”

Most appropriate definition of environment is one by Einstein. He had once observed, “The environment is everything that isn’t me.<sup>5</sup>”

We may come across with two types of environment. One is the natural environment of the air, water, solid wastes, noise, radiation, soil, timber, wildlife and living space etc. The second one is the man-made environment that deals with work environment,

housing, technology, aesthetics, transportation, utilities, settlement, urbanization and so on.

## POLLUTION

“Pollution” is a noun derived from the transitive verb “Pollute” which means to make foul or unclean, dirty, to make impure or morally unclean<sup>6</sup>. “Pollution” also means the direct or indirect discharge by man of substance or energy into the aquatic environment resulting in hazard to human health, harm to living resources and aquatic ecosystems, damage to amenities on interference with other legitimate uses of water.

The most appropriate definition of environmental pollution would be the introduction of different harmful pollutants into certain environment that makes this environment unhealthy to live in. The most common pollutants are usually chemicals, garbage, and waste water<sup>7</sup>

The word ‘pollution means any alteration of land (soil), air or water that harms the health of human beings or other organisms.’

Life and environment are closely related to each other. Without natural environment the creation and survival of life is impossible. Man is nature’s best promise and worst enemy.

Today, the environmental problems of a technocratic, industrial society are so serious and complicated that it is threatening the very survival of life on this planet. Everybody is compelled to think about an immediate solution to these problems. We need to have a technology to re-establish the harmonious relationship between man and nature by assuring the fulfillment of the basic needs of all living beings from surroundings<sup>8</sup>.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

A lot studies have been conducted on the subject of environment. Due to paucity to time review of all these studies is not possible. A few of them have been discussed below.

**Tina Mainieria, et.al. (1997)<sup>9</sup>** in their paper ‘Green Buying: The Influence of Environmental Concern on Consumer Behaviour’ investigated the variables that predict ‘green buying’. It included awareness about environmental impacts of products, specific environmental beliefs of consumers, demographic variables, and several pro-environment behaviours other than buying behaviour. It was found that women were significantly higher than men on two aspects of green buying and on the environmental attitude scales. Home ownership was positively related to recycling behaviour.

**Straughan and Roberts (1999)<sup>10</sup>**, in their paper, ‘Environment Segmentation Alternatives: A Look at Green Consumer in the New Millennium’ studied the demographical and psychological variables to understand the environment conscious consumer behaviour. Study indicated that psychographic variables were much comfortable to explain the green consumer behaviour than demographic variables. **Emma, (2004)<sup>11</sup>** in his paper ‘India’s Middle Classes and the Environment’ analysed the three issues in detail: civic indifference and the public sphere; environmental activism; and Hinduism and ecological thinking. The article suggested the need to develop situated understandings of what constitutes ‘the environment’ amongst different middle class groups; rather than social and political debates.

**Geneviève, et.al (2006)<sup>12</sup>**, in their article ‘Improving environmental awareness training in business’ included issues related to organizational culture and change management. To succeed in implementing a successful environmental management initiative, the study suggested the need of understanding the environmental impacts and policies of the organization by the members of the organization through participation in environmental awareness training efforts.

**David, et.al (2009)<sup>13</sup>**, in their article, ‘An Empirical Study of Environmental Awareness and Practices in SMEs’ explored the connection between the management actions taken and pressures for improved practices. The results indicated that organizations were willing to change their business processes and environmental strategies.

**Astalin, (2011)<sup>14</sup>**, in his article ‘A Study of Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary Students and Some Educational Factors Affecting It’ had tried to found the environmental awareness among higher secondary students and some educational factors affecting it. It was found that the students who had more environmental awareness were from science stream and from CBSE, and they were the male students.

**Cheah and Phau (2011)<sup>15</sup>** in their article, ‘Attitude towards Environmentally Friendly Products: The Influence of Eco literacy, Interpersonal Influence and Value Orientation’ examined the influence of eco-literacy, interpersonal influence and value orientation on consumer’s attitude towards the environment friendly products. It was found that these factors had strong correlation with attitude of consumers.

## NEED OF THE STUDY

‘Advocates play a major role in forming an idle society’ (Justice Kurian Joseph 2014). Advocates have been instrumental in spearheading movements

in the society for a positive change. In modern times lawyers in various countries have given leadership to their nations. The reason why many great leaders in various countries were lawyers is that the legal profession is objectively in the position of producing statesmen. This is due to two reasons: -

- 1) Lawyers belong to an independent profession, they are not subordinate to the Government or to anyone else and
- 2) They are directly in contact with society in its entirety as they have to deal with all kinds of problems of people from all sections of society, unlike say, doctors who are confined to medical problems or engineers who are confined to technical problems (VGB associates).

Hence lawyers are the people who are most conversant with the problems of society as a whole. But an examination of above discussed literature review shows that researchers have ignored to study this important aspect in legal experts of the Country. Therefore we have planned this study entitled "Environment Pollution Awareness among Bar Members: A Case Study of Jalandhar Bar".

**OBJECTIVE OF STUDY**

Objective of study is to assess the environment pollution awareness level among Bar Members

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

200 practicing lawyers out of 600 members have been taken as sample on random basis for this study. But only 120 advocates responded to our queries. Hence, sample size has been curtailed further to 120 respondents only. Study is based on primary data. Data has been collected on a well-structured questionnaire. Chi-Square Test, Standard Deviation and the Kendall's Coefficient of Concordance have been used as tools to analyse the data.

**ANALYSIS**

Everything around us is environment. Everybody has to live in and bear it. Life of each individual is affected by it. In turn environment is affected by each and every action of individuals. It is creation of human activities and behaviour. But whether the human beings are aware about it? Advocates being a socially responsible class and due to their role in leading societies, must be aware of lurking dangers of environment pollution. Here an attempt has been made to analyse and know the level of awareness about environment pollution among advocates of the Jalandhar Bar.

**Table 1: Mean Rank Score Assigned To Various Problems of the Society As Per Their Intensity**

Problems	Male (N=85)		Female (N=35)	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
Corruption	3.78	1	3.43	1
Terrorism	5.68	8	5.20	7
Crime in Society	4.36	4	4.46	4.5
Drug Menace	4.33	3	4.46	4.5
Adulteration	4.25	2	5.57	8
Environmental Pollution	4.82	6	4.71	6
Poverty	4.44	5	4.09	3
Population Explosion	4.99	7	3.97	2
Kendell's K-W		0.586	chi-square	8.21

Source: Primary Data Collected from Respondents

**Various Problems of the Society as Per Their Intensity**

For both male and female respondents, as indicated by table 1, it was the corruption which attained the 1<sup>st</sup> position As far as the 2<sup>nd</sup> rank was concerned; it was secured by adulteration in case of male respondents, and population explosion in case of female respondents. The 3<sup>rd</sup> problem came out to be drug menace in male respondents and poverty in case of female respondent s. The least bothered was terrorism for male respondents and adulteration for female respondents. However both male and female respondents had given 6<sup>th</sup> rank to environment pollution. The ranking pattern showed that there was no similar pattern of various problems of society between male and female respondents. The Kendell's coefficient of concordance (0.586) also proved that there was no significant concordance in the opinion of respondents.

It is interesting to note, that problems which are constituents of environmental pollution has found higher rank in the study as compared to problem of environmental pollution which has been ranked 6<sup>th</sup>. It shows that Bar Members are not fully aware of the serious dimensions of environmental pollution.

**Table 2: Mean Rank Score Assigned To Various Forms of Environment Pollution as Per Their Danger Level**

Environment Pollution	Male (N=85)		Female (N=35)	
	Mean	Rank	Mean	Rank
Air Pollution	2.71	1	2.83	1
Water Pollution	3.72	2	4.31	4.5
Noise Pollution	4.12	4	4.40	6
Industrial Pollution	3.99	3	4.31	4.5
Chemical Pollution	4.53	5	4.00	3
Solid Wastage Pollution	4.56	6	4.60	7
Cultural Pollution	4.69	7	3.57	2
Kendall's K-W		0.612	chi-square	7.34

Source: Primary Data Collected from Respondents

**Various Forms of Environment Pollution as Per Their Danger Level**

Going by the results, as presented in Table 2, it is clear that the most dangerous environment pollution was air pollution for male and female respondents. The 2<sup>nd</sup> most dangerous environment pollution came out to be water pollution in case of male respondents and cultural pollution for female respondents. The 3<sup>rd</sup> most dangerous environment pollution was industrial pollution in male respondents and chemical pollution in case of female respondents. The least dangerous EP i.e.7<sup>th</sup> rank was cultural pollution for male respondents and solid waste pollution for female respondents. However 6<sup>th</sup> rank had been given to solid waste pollution by male respondents and to noise pollution by female respondents. The ranking pattern showed that there was no similar pattern of 'various forms of EP as per their danger level' between male and female respondents. The Kendall's coefficient of concordance (0.612) also proved that there was no significant concordance in the opinion of respondents.

Above analysis shows an important variation in male and female thinking about social issues. Male advocate respondents consider Cultural pollution least dangerous whereas female advocate respondents consider it second most dangerous pollution for society.

**Table 3: Extent of Agreement on Various Reasons of Environmental Pollution**

Reasons of Environment Pollution	Male (N=85)		Female (N=35)		t-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1.Lack of awareness among masses	4.21	0.47	4.20	0.53	0.10
2.Greed of industrial houses	4.22	0.52	4.20	0.53	0.19
3.Changed life pattern of society	3.98	0.62	4.14	0.49	1.36
4. Lack of effective legal system	4.14	0.62	4.14	0.55	0.00
5. Poor implementation of law	4.26	0.52	4.20	0.53	0.57
6. Lack of govt. will to regulate system	4.16	0.67	4.26	0.56	0.78

Source: Primary Data Collected from Respondents

**Various Reasons of Environmental Pollution**

It is important to know the views of male and female respondents if, in their opinion, what are the reasons for EP. The respondents registered their opinions on the reasons for EP as strongly agree (5), agree (4), neutral (3), disagree (2) and strongly disagree (1).

The analysis given in Table 3 showed that the strongest agreement of respondents came out to be on 'poor implementation of law' in case of male respondents and 'lack of government will to regulate system' in case of female respondents. The second greatest agreement was on the aspect of 'greed of industrial houses' in case of male respondents and 'lack of awareness among masses', 'greed of industrial houses' and 'poor implementation of law' in case of female respondents. Similarly, the 3<sup>rd</sup> greatest agreement was on 'lack of awareness among masses', in male respondents and 'changed life pattern of society' and 'lack of effective legal system' in female respondents. No significant agreement was found between the opinions of male and female respondents.

Mean value of "Extent of Agreement" on various reasons was more than 4 in all cases except in "Change Life Pattern of Society" where it has a value of 3.98 in case of male respondents. Such a high mean value shows that all above stated reasons were highly responsible for environmental pollution.

**Various Reasons of Ineffective Control over Environmental Pollution**

The respondents were asked to register their opinion about the various reasons of ineffective control over environmental pollution in terms of

‘strongly disagree’, ‘disagree’, ‘neutral’, ‘agree’ and ‘strongly agree’. These responses were assigned weights in the respective order of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Weighted mean scores were calculated. The results are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4: Extent of Agreement on Various Reasons of Ineffective Control over Environmental Pollution**

Reasons of Ineffective Control	Male (N=85)		Female (N=35)		t-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1. Govt. policy to control it is ineffective	4.19	0.75	4.20	0.47	0.07
2. Govt. machinery is incompetent to control it	4.01	0.84	4.17	0.45	1.06
3. Legal mechanism to control it is insufficient	3.94	0.84	4.14	0.43	1.34
4. Legal process is too lengthy	4.15	0.70	4.14	0.49	0.08
5. Corruption in Govt. machinery is Responsible for it	4.20	0.67	4.14	0.49	0.48
6. Political interference is responsible For it	4.22	0.82	4.17	0.45	0.34
7. Population explosion fails govt. Programme.	3.94	0.89	4.14	0.43	1.27

Source: Primary Data Collected from Respondents

Among male respondents, the highest extent of agreement was 4.22 on ‘political interference is responsible for it’, followed by 4.20 on ‘corruption in government machinery is responsible for it’, 4.19 on ‘govt. policy to control it is in effective’, 4.15 on ‘legal process is too lengthy’ and 4.01 on ‘govt. machinery is incompetent to control it’. The lowest extent of agreement came to be 3.94 on ‘legal mechanism to control it is in sufficient’ and ‘population explosion fails govt. programme’.

Among female respondents, the highest extent of agreement was 4.20 on ‘govt. policy to control it is in effective’ followed by 4.17 on ‘govt. machinery is incompetent to control it’ and ‘political interference is responsible for it’. The lowest extent of agreement came to be 4.14 on all remaining reasons.

The analysis further revealed that the extent of agreement was statistically at par between male and female respondents on all the issues related to ineffective control over EP as indicated by the non-significant t-values.

**Table 5: Extent of Agreement on Various Issues Related To Environmental Pollution Control**

Issues for environment pollution control	Male (N=85)		Female (N=35)		t-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1. Legal remedies are sufficient	2.93	1.09	2.51	0.98	1.97*
2. Present applicable acts are sufficient	2.92	1.18	2.40	0.85	2.36*
3. Courts are performing their role Actively	2.67	0.98	2.37	1.06	1.49
4. Bar members are active to control of	2.67	1.00	2.31	0.96	1.81

Source: Primary Data Collected from Respondents

**Various Issues Related To Environmental Pollution Control**

The respondents were asked to register their opinion about the various issues related to environmental pollution control in terms of ‘strongly disagree’, ‘disagree’, ‘neutral’, ‘agree’ and ‘strongly agree’. These responses were assigned weights in the respective order of 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Weighted mean scores were calculated. The results are shown in Table 6.

Regarding the various issues related to environmental pollution control table 5 displays the highest agreement in case of male respondents of the order of 58.6 percent in total was on the legal remedies are sufficient, followed by 58.4 per cent over present applicable acts are sufficient and 53.4 percent on courts are performing their role actively and bar members are active to control of EP.

In case of female respondents highest agreement of the tune of 50.2 per cent was on legal remedies are sufficient, followed by 48 per cent over present applicable acts are sufficient Lowest agreement i.e. 46 percent was found over bar members are active to control of EP. Overall there were more variations in male and female respondents on the point that present applicable acts are sufficient and t-value was 2.36 which was significant.

**Table 6: Extent of Agreement on Various Issues Related With Efforts of Respondents to Control Environmental Pollution**

Efforts	Male (N=85)		Female (N=35)		t-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1. Your actions have impact upon Environment	4.12	0.42	4.11	0.47	0.11
2. Your purchase habits affect the Environment	4.08	0.58	3.97	0.51	0.98
3. Things you use affects the Environment	4.11	0.62	4.03	0.57	0.66
4. Biodegradable products are useful to society	4.16	0.55	4.11	0.47	0.47
5. Involvement with eco-friendly products will help to stop EP	4.25	0.46	4.23	0.55	0.20
6. You as consumer can help to control EP	4.28	0.45	4.06	0.42	2.48*
7. You as an advocate can play Most effective role to control EP	4.13	0.55	4.09	0.45	0.38

Source: Primary Data Collected from Respondents

**Various Issues Related With Efforts of Respondents to Control EP**

Among male respondents, the highest extent of agreement was 4.28 on ‘you as consumer can help to control EP’, followed by 4.25 on ‘involvement with eco-friendly products will help to stop EP’, 4.16 on ‘biodegradable products are useful to society’ 4.13 on ‘you as an advocate can play most effective role to control EP’, 4.12 on ‘your actions have impact upon environment’ and 4.11 on ‘things you use affects the environment’ The lowest extent of agreement came to be 4.08 on ‘your purchase habits affect the environment’.

Among female respondents, the highest extent of agreement was 4.23 on ‘involvement with eco-friendly products will help to stop EP’ followed by 4.11 on ‘your actions have impact upon environment’ and on ‘biodegradable products are useful to society’ 4.09 on ‘you as an advocate can play most effective role to control EP’, 4.06 on ‘you as consumer can help to control EP’ and 4.03 on ‘things you use affects the environment’. The lowest extent of agreement came to be 3.97 on ‘your purchase habits affect the environment’.

The analysis further revealed that the extent of agreement was statistically at par in male and female respondents on all the issues related with efforts of respondents to control EP as indicated by the non-significant t-values except on ‘you as consumer can help to control EP’ where there was

significant difference in the opinion of male and female respondents as indicated by t- value of 2.48.

**Table 7: Extent of Agreement on Various Issues Related to the Role of an Advocate to Control Environmental Pollution**

Efforts	Male (N=85)		Female (N=35)		t-value
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
1. Lead campaign for environment protection	4.06	0.58	4.11	0.47	0.45
2. Educate your family for purchase of eco-friendly goods	4.18	0.69	4.09	0.45	0.71
3. Contribute financial help for control of EP	3.89	0.66	4.14	0.36	2.11*
4. Take legal course against environment Polluters	4.09	0.59	4.26	0.44	1.54
5. Advise to govt. for stringent rules for environment protection	4.12	0.54	4.23	0.43	1.07

Source: Primary Data Collected from Respondents

**Various Issues Related to the Role of an Advocate to Control EP**

The advocates were asked to rate the level of their agreement regarding different issues related to the role of an advocate to control EP on a Five Point Likert Scale i.e. ‘strongly agree’, ‘agree’, ‘neutral’, ‘disagree’ and ‘strongly disagree’. These attributes were assigned weights as 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 respectively and the average level of agreement was worked out on the basis of assigned weights. Mean Scores were, then, compared with each other to know the level of agreement of the respondents on different issues related to the role of an advocate to control EP

The analysis detailed in Table 7 shows that in case of male respondents the average score of agreement ranged from as low as 3.89 on ‘contribute financial help for control of EP’ to as high as 4.18 on ‘educate your family for purchase of eco-friendly goods’. The respondents were agreed on ‘advise to govt. for stringent rules for environment protection’ (4.12) ‘take legal course against environment polluters’ (4.09) and ‘lead campaign for environment protection, (4.06).

The analysis in Table 7 further shows that in case of female respondents the average score of agreement ranged from as low as 4.09 on ‘educate your family for purchase of eco-friendly goods’ to as high as 4.26 on ‘take legal course against environment polluters’. The respondents were agreed on ‘advise to govt. for stringent rules for environment protection’ (4.23), ‘contribute financial help for

control of EP' (4.14) and 'lead campaign for environment protection, (4.11)

### **Most Effective Acts to Control Environmental Pollution**

The respondents were asked to name a few Acts which have been more effective in environmental pollution control. It is interesting to note that only four respondents has responded to this query. Acts enlisted by them are;

The Environment Pollution Act 1986

The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974

Wild Life Protection Act 1972

The Forest Conservation Act 1972

Defacement of property Act

Solid Waste Management Act

Punjab Municipal Corporation Act

Indian Penal Code

### **New law required to be framed;**

No respondent suggested new legislation for environmental pollution control. Rather they suggested strict implementation of existing laws and political will to do so. According to one respondent, "The present laws and acts are sufficient but we are lacking in implementation. The legal support from state machinery is not only insufficient but discouraging also. However, the penal clauses need to be revised and amended. For this we can also study the new legislation passed by the Chinese legislative.

### **SUGGESTIONS BY THE RESPONDENTS**

Respondents were asked to give suggestions to control environment pollution. Suggestions by the respondents are;

There must be strong political will to curb environmental pollution. Government machinery should enforce laws strictly and effectively. Introduce required policy changes. Cases of Environment pollution should be put to summary trial. Grow more Trees ' and 'Use Bio degradable Products' should be national slogan. Introduce separate disposal system in bio degradable and non- biodegradable wastage, everywhere in the country. Make 'Save Environment' a national movement. Create

awareness among the society for clean environment start it right from the school days.

### **CONCLUSION**

Study shows that bar members are not as much aware about environment pollution and its lurking dangers, as is required from them. Legal infrastructure and available laws to control environment pollution are sufficient but there strict implementation is much desired.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Some training arrangements must be made for advocates to make aware them about latest developments in legal philosophy.
2. Strict implementation of laws is ensured.
3. Summary trial for environment pollution offences may be introduced.
4. Save 'Environment Day' may be celebrated as a national festival.

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