

Research on Citizens' Environmental Awareness

-- Achievements of the Curriculum Assessment Reform of 《Introduction to Environmental Science》

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Abstract

Environmental protection is a basic policy of our country, with the development of socialist modernization and the deepening of economic reform, environmental protection work more and more cause people's concern and attention. In his report to the 19th National Congress of the COMMUNIST Party of China (CPC) on Oct 18, 2017, Xi Jinping called for a harmonious coexistence between man and nature. We must establish and practice the idea that clear water and green mountains are mountains of gold and silver, and adhere to the basic state policy of conserving resources and protecting the environment. In the serious situation of environmental protection in China and the problems of environment pollution and so on, this article through the online questionnaire and offline field to cover the way of our country citizen's environmental protection consciousness, the citizen is the importance of environmental protection and improve the problems in the environmental protection consciousness of investigation and analysis, aims to promote environmental awareness and to develop our citizens to provide data and methods on strategy.

Keywords

Environmental awareness; Environmental issues; Citizens; Research; impact.

1. The Introduction

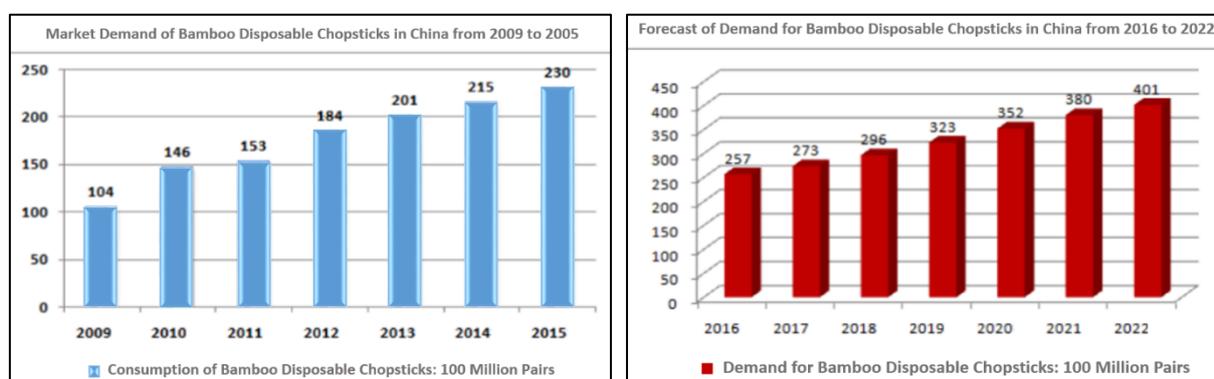
By studying the course introduction to Environmental Science in this semester, as a student majoring in water conservancy and hydropower engineering, we have a deeper understanding that economic and social development are still inseparable from environmental problems. In recent years, with the development of economy and society, a wide range of environmental problems begin to be exposed in people's vision, and they are getting worse. Therefore, the word environmental protection begins to appear more and more around us, and the awareness of environmental protection begins to be paid more and more attention by the country. Environmental consciousness, also known as environmental protection consciousness, is a philosophical concept. To put it simply, it has two meanings. One is the level of people's understanding of the environment, namely, environmental values, which includes psychological, feeling, perception, thinking and emotion factors. The second is the degree to which people consciously act to protect the environment.

2. Research Background

2.1. Environmental Status

With the continuous progress of human society and the rapid development of economy, large-scale consumption of resources and environmental problems such as ecological balance and environmental pollution caused by resource consumption are brought along with them, and these environmental problems in turn affect people's life and development. Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China has paid more attention to eco-environmental problems, and has realized that continued damage to the environment will bring more harm and disasters to human beings. this year, the two sessions have also focused on solving outstanding environmental problems strongly reflected by the people, so our group has conducted a survey on citizens' awareness of environmental protection.

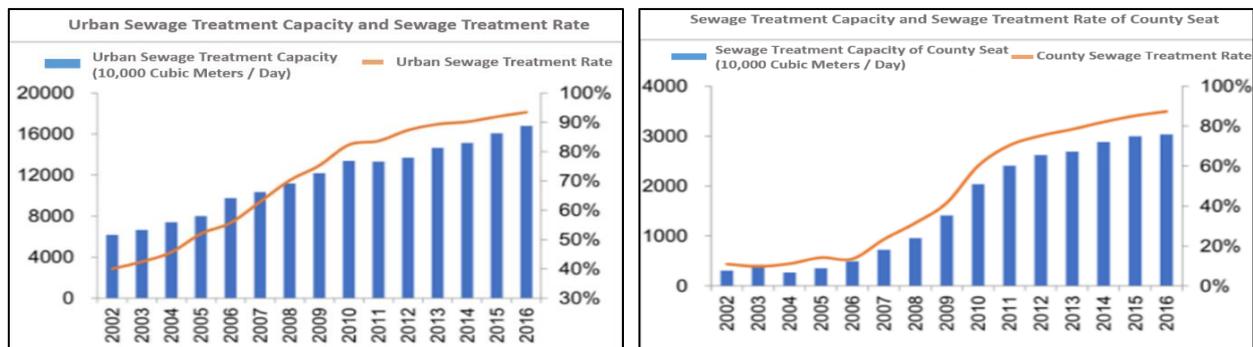
2.2. Relevant National Policies and Effects



For the current global water shortage, air pollution, soil damage, biodiversity reduction and other environmental problems, these problems have brought a very serious impact on human and nature, therefore, China has also actively made a series of policies and regulations for environmental protection. Take the disposable chopsticks we are familiar with as an example. It is well known that China is one of the major countries that consume disposable chopsticks due to the large population base and other reasons. The annual consumption of disposable chopsticks amounts to as much as 10 billion. Therefore, in 2010, the State Council of China began to carry out the work of "reducing the use of disposable chopsticks and not using disposable chopsticks". In 2012, after the 18th CPC National Congress, while carrying out the work of "reducing disposable chopsticks", China encouraged relevant enterprises to use disposable bamboo chopsticks instead of disposable chopsticks, because disposable bamboo chopsticks are made of fast and renewable bamboo. At the same time, it is relatively environmentally friendly, and it is more and more widely used to replace disposable chopsticks. According to relevant data, more and more bamboo chopsticks are replacing wood chopsticks, which brings some breathing space to our forest environment and ecology, but it is not a long-term move. Since December 2011, Shaanxi province has banned disposable chopsticks, catering enterprise from providing them to consumers and imposing fines and other penalties on those who violate the rules. In December 2019, Beijing municipal Solid waste Management Regulations were amended to prohibit the provision of disposable chopsticks in take-out food, which came into effect on May 1, 2020.

In addition, the state has made remarkable achievements in strengthening ecological protection, rural environmental protection, water pollution prevention and control, and air pollution prevention and control. In terms of vigorously promoting pollution reduction, China's urban sewage treatment rate increased from 52 percent in 2005 to 85 percent in 2012, and by 2018 the urban sewage treatment rate had reached 93.44 percent, while the county sewage

treatment rate had also reached 87.83 percent. In terms of the emission of air pollutants, the emission of air pollutants in China also shows a decreasing trend every year.



3. Research Purpose

The purpose of this research is mainly four points:

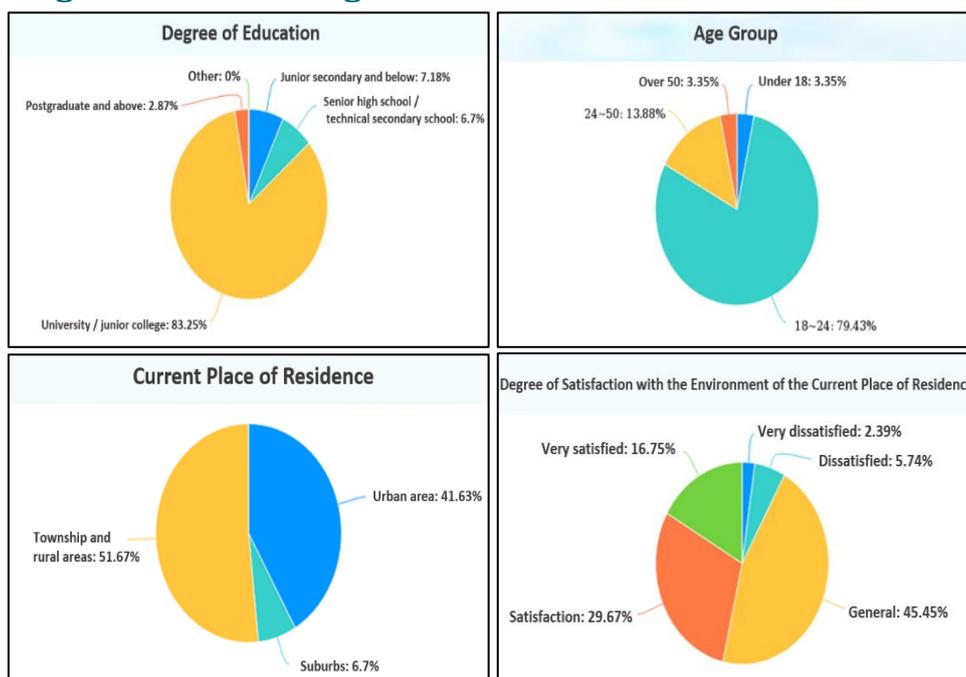
First, to understand the awareness of environmental protection awareness of citizens of different ages and education backgrounds and whether they understand the current environmental situation, and collect the answers to the same information questions by investigating different groups of people, so as to increase the authenticity;

Second, it propagandizes the knowledge of environmental protection to make the citizens more aware of the importance of environmental protection. This questionnaire can also alert people. The third is to analyze and understand the bad phenomena and their causes and influences in the cultivation of environmental awareness of Chinese citizens, so as to ensure that such problems can be fundamentally solved, and improve and cultivate citizens' environmental awareness;

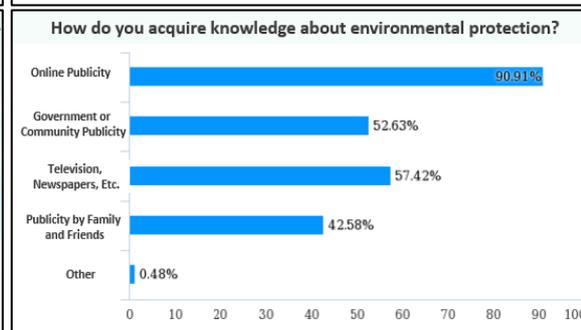
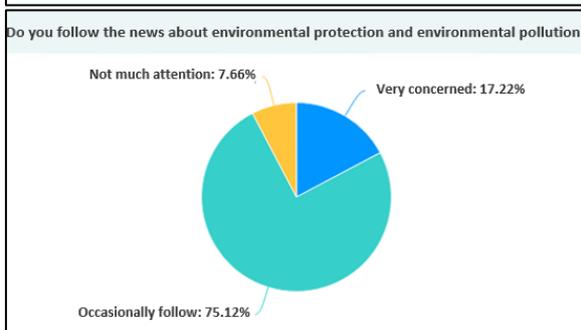
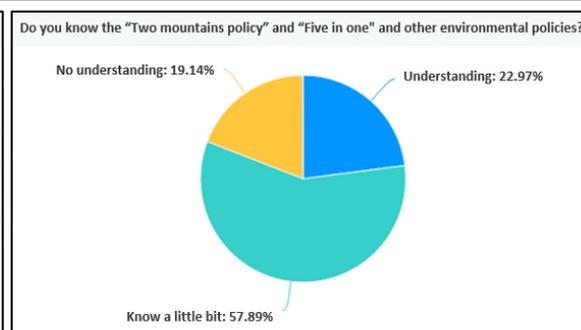
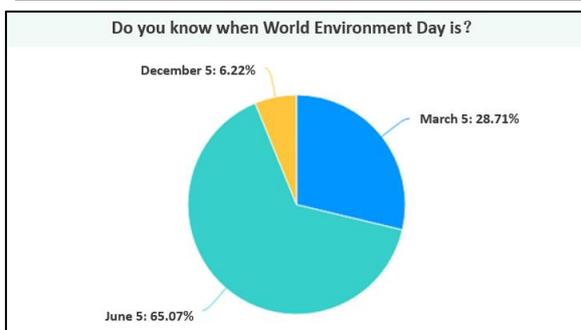
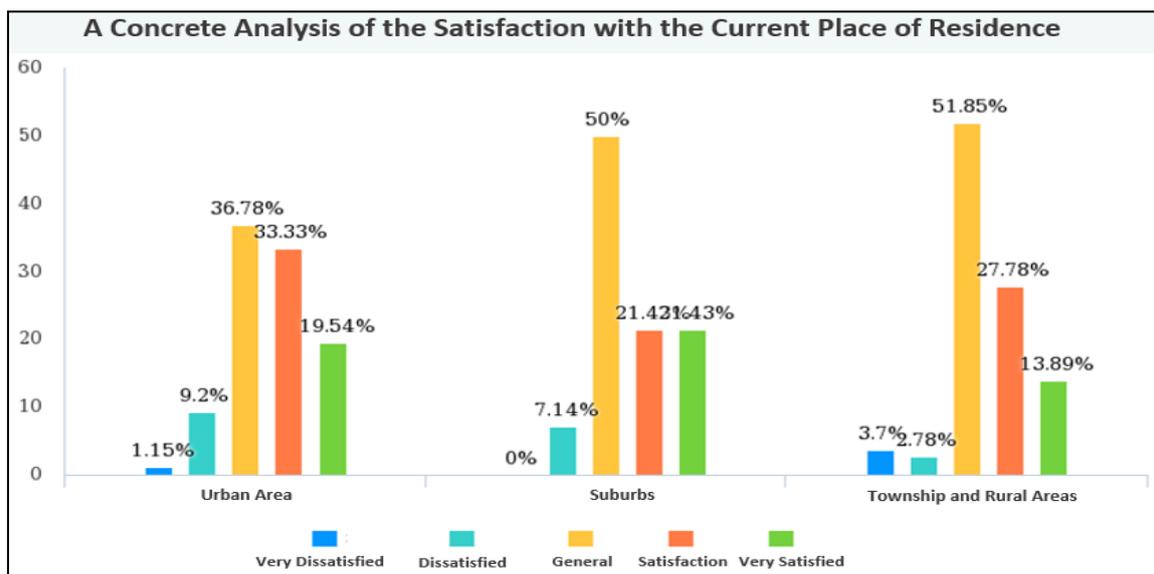
The fourth is to study the measures and strategies to improve the environmental awareness of Chinese citizens.

4. Data Analysis

4.1. Self-Cognition and Feelings



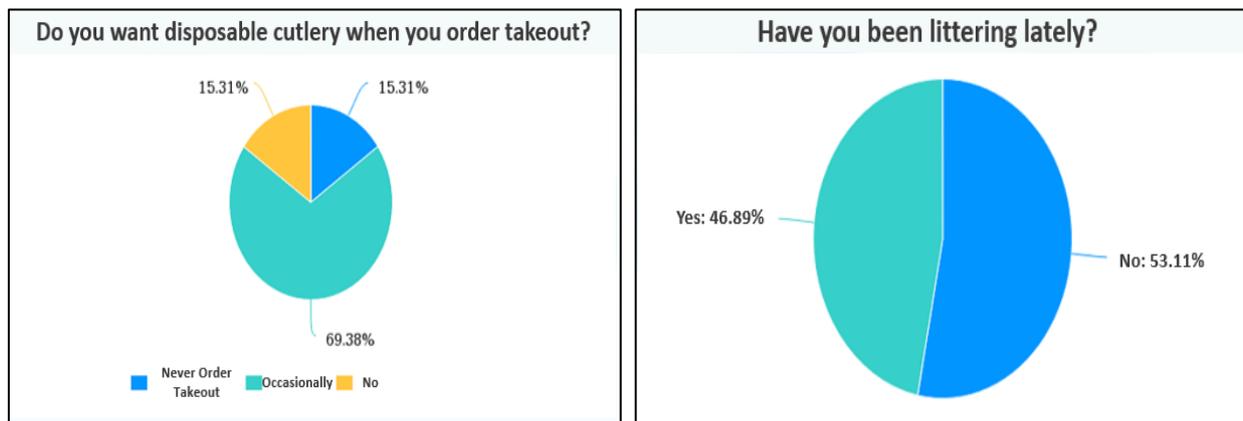
This research is mainly based on online questionnaire, supplemented by field interview. A total of 209 valid questionnaires were received from different regions and different age groups. Due to the relationship between the people contacted by our research team, the questionnaire was mainly filled out by college students, accounting for about 83.25% of the total questionnaires, and about 2.87% were completed by postgraduate students or above. The field interview is to interview some employed people and students on campus two groups of people. According to the age and educational background of the respondents, the questionnaire is mainly aimed at young people and people with college degrees. The collected data and information may be biased and cannot represent the answers of the whole citizens in China. However, our team still learned some important information from it.



By the above data analysis, the researchers questioned families live in villages and towns in rural and urban areas, and 46.42% citizens now satisfied with the environment is what they live and very satisfied, but live in the city of citizen satisfaction with high degree of satisfaction than people living in the countryside by nearly 11.2%, urban areas is 52.87% (46 people),

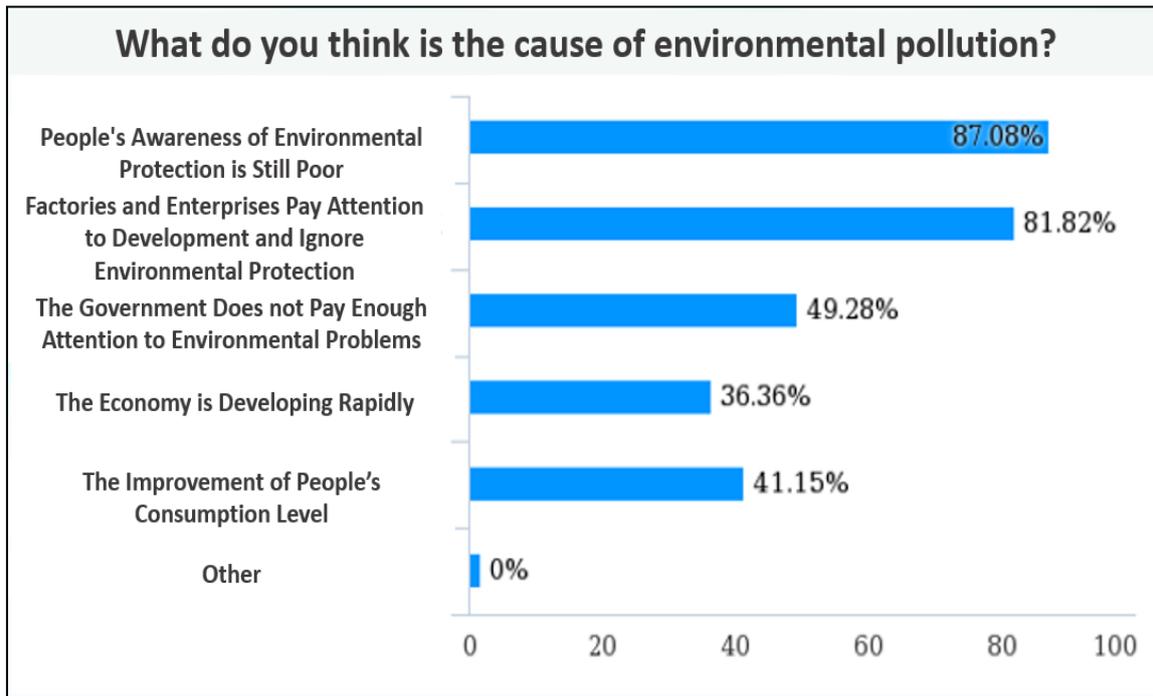
villages and towns was 41.67% (45 people) in the countryside. To some extent, we can understand that the current rural environmental conditions still need to be improved, and the environmental problems reflected by rural people should be paid more attention to. (Note: Due to the small base number of respondents living in the suburbs, the data is not scientifically reasonable, so no specific analysis will be made)

In terms of knowledge about environmental protection, we know very clearly from the above data that the majority of respondents (65%) know the specific date of World Environment Day. However, only a small number of respondents (22.97%) knew about the environmental protection policies put forward by the state, such as "two mountains policy" and "five in one". It can be seen that as for a series of environmental protection policies issued by the government, the popularization and publicity efforts need to be strengthened, and the effect also needs to be improved, and more effective ways such as the Internet should be effectively used for publicity. We can learn by the questionnaire, the vast majority of respondents for environmental protection and environmental pollution and so on related news still has a lot of attention, we learn, further way of news for most (nearly 90%) through the Internet access, followed by newspapers and TV (57.42%), followed by the community for the government propaganda (52.63%), family and friends (42.58%). With the development of science and technology, the Internet has become an important way for most people to obtain information, and government community publicity is also very important. Therefore, the implementation of relevant environmental protection policies must be carried out both online and offline, with the best effect.

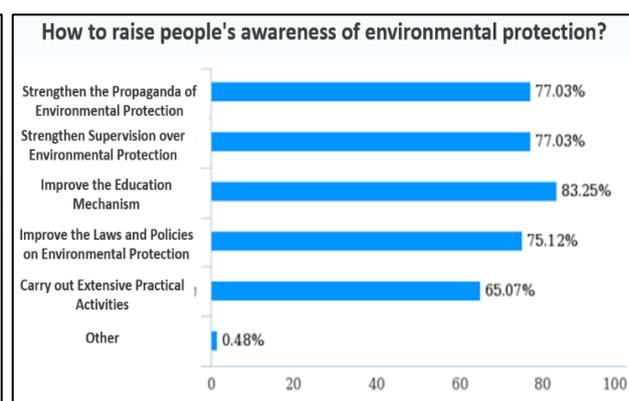
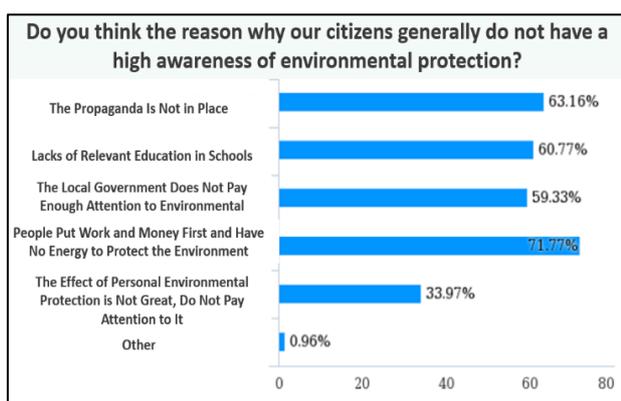


On the individual behavior of the respondents, our group by "Do you want disposable cutlery when you order takeout?" and "Have you been littering lately?" the two typical problems, we can see clearly that, except for people who never order takeout, only 15.31% (32 people) of the respondents choose to use one-off chopsticks, nearly half of the interviewees (98 people) have also littered recently.. These two very small details of life are enough to see that there are widespread problems in our citizens' awareness of environmental protection, and we still have a careless and harmless attitude towards some small behaviors.

4.2. Analysis of Environmental Problems and Environmental Awareness



Among the respondents, a large number of people (87.08%) believe that the problem of environmental pollution is caused by citizens' lack of awareness of environmental protection, followed by factories and enterprises that pay attention to their own interests while neglecting environmental protection (81.82%). After that, the government did not pay enough attention to environmental issues (49.28%), and the increase in people's consumption (41.15%) and rapid economic development (36.36%) led to environmental pollution. Therefore, the subjective views and attention of citizens, enterprises and governments on environmental issues determine the degree of environmental pollution to a certain extent.



Previously, we learned that a large number of respondents believed that environmental pollution was related to citizens' subjective environmental awareness. Therefore, we investigated the reasons for the generally low environmental awareness and how to improve people's environmental awareness. It is easy to see that most of the respondents (71.77%) believe that " people put work and money first and have no energy to protect the environment" is a major cause of lead people environmental protection consciousness is not high, the second is that not enough publicity and education of government, local and school, but there are also a

small number of respondents (33.97%) think that "personal environmental effect is not big, need not pay attention to" attitude.

In the survey on improving environmental awareness, "improving education mechanism and starting from a young age" has become the best way for most citizens (83.25%) to improve environmental awareness. Meanwhile, some respondents also proposed that "scientific and technological means can be added to make people adapt to environmental protection and choose environmental protection". It is not difficult to see that people have a strong desire to improve their awareness of environmental protection, but they still hope that external conditions can restrain and correct themselves and help them to develop their awareness of environmental protection.



In reference to the expectations of future environmental protection, the vast majority of people (97.61%) believe that "A good environment can improve our living standard" is yes, so when asked "Will you take practical actions to support environmental protection policies?", the majority (87.08%) can choose "Full support, completes the propaganda", this and we are on the conclusion of a data is the same, people's hope to do a good job of environmental protection, but also want to their surrounding environment more beautiful, contribute strength. Through field investigation, we also learned that since the 18th CPC National Congress, the strategic position of the construction of ecological civilization has become more obvious, and people's awareness of environmental protection has been gradually enhanced, especially some professions and environments are closely related to staff. their awareness of environmental protection is generally higher than that of ordinary citizens, and the difference lies in environmental protection publicity and environmental protection. Among the college students we interviewed, we also know that they have a certain understanding and concern about environmental protection, and have a stronger awareness of environmental protection to a certain extent. The problem is that they have their own non-environmental behaviors, but they are also willing to support and participate in environmental protection activities, with strong "entourage". In a word, through interviews with two different groups of people, the key to the cultivation of environmental awareness lies in whether the publicity of environmental protection is in place, whether the basic quality of citizens is improved, and whether the awareness of environmental protection can take root in the hearts of citizens. In addition, when referring to the impact of environmental protection on people's economic development, respondents also realized that environmental protection and economic development are inextricably linked, and strongly agreed with the idea that "clear water and green mountains are gold and silver mountains". They believed that only when ecological environment has advantages can economic development have advantages.

5. Results Analysis and Induction

Through this survey and the analysis of data results, it can clearly reflect that citizens have a certain understanding of environmental protection, but the awareness of environmental protection needs to be further strengthened. As the proportion of college students in this survey is more than 80%, and the survey base is small, we cannot well understand and represent the overall level of environmental protection awareness of citizens, but we also learned some basic information from the small view.

1. Most citizens are clearly aware that having "clear water and green mountains" can improve their living standard and improve their living environment. They have a certain understanding of the harm brought to people by environmental problems, as well as the grim situation and urgency of current environmental protection. They are able to accept the publicity of environmental protection and actively cooperate with it.

2. Most of citizens' knowledge about environmental issues and environmental protection comes from the Internet, while some comes from community propaganda, TV and periodicals, etc., which also reflects that the way citizens contact and obtain information is also related to their environmental awareness to some extent. In addition to their own reasons, young people are more active on the Internet than people of other age groups. With the development of the Internet, knowledge related to environmental issues is more quickly and conveniently publicized on the Internet. Through apps such as Tik Tok and Zhihu, young people can more easily pay attention to and learn about environmental protection knowledge. Therefore, as for the publicity of environmental protection, the government, schools and other relevant departments should also keep pace with The Times, increase the publicity on the Internet, subtly influence generation after generation, and root the environmental awareness in people's hearts.

3. The vast majority of citizens can clearly realize that our government has made great efforts to promote environmental protection policy, but the problem of environmental pollution still exists because citizens' awareness of environmental protection is still general, which is reflected not only in consciousness, but also in thought and behavior. Most citizens have the nature of "following", looking big from the small, and this part of our citizens account for the majority, and their awareness of environmental protection has something to do with their environment. When the environment is good and satisfied, citizens' awareness of environmental protection is relatively strong. For example, the clean and reflective ground of a public place, in general, no one wants to be the first person to throw rubbish on the ground, there is a rubbish on the clean ground will look very abrupt, so people will maintain it conscientiously. On the other hand, it doesn't hurt to throw a piece of rubbish when the ground sanitation is general or poor. Most citizens will be affected by environmental factors, follow the crowd, follow and obey the arrangements. In addition to those who take the initiative to participate in environmental protection activities, more people are waiting for arrangements, and their awareness of active environmental protection still needs to be improved and strengthened.

6. Conclusion

The coexistence of the natural environment, the earth's living things and the human environment is a kind of interdependent relationship, neither contradictory nor opposite. As citizens, we indirectly or directly protect the natural environment by protecting the living and living environment. If we destroy the living and living environment, we will indirectly or directly destroy the natural environment. For a country, we should not only focus on macro protection, but also start from the micro level to mobilize and educate the masses, so that

environmental protection can become a voluntary action of citizens, because harmonious co-construction is the only way to protect our green home and blue planet, and the implementer is each and every one of us.

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