

# Research on the Current Situation and Countermeasures of College Students' Awareness of Environmental Responsibility

Xiaolin Zhu, Wei Wang

School of business administration, Liaoning University of science and technology, Anshan,  
Liaoning 114051, China

## Abstract

Questionnaire survey was used to investigate the current situation of college students' awareness of environmental responsibility, find the existing problems, and put forward countermeasures and suggestions to improve college students' awareness of environmental responsibility.

## Keywords

College student; Awareness of environmental responsibility; Countermeasure research.

## 1. Introduction

Environmental protection is imminent, advocating green lifestyle and consumption is imperative. College students, as the main force of the future society, enhancing their awareness of green environmental protection concept and enhancing their awareness of environmental responsibility will have a positive effect on the green production and green consumption of the whole society. In order to investigate the current situation of college students' awareness of environmental responsibility, this paper conducted a market survey to understand the current situation of college students' awareness of environmental responsibility, and put forward countermeasures and suggestions to improve college students' awareness of environmental responsibility.

## 2. Research on the Current Situation of College Students' Environmental Responsibility Consciousness

This paper uses a questionnaire survey to evaluate the awareness of environmental responsibility of college students. The questionnaire includes 37 multiple choice questions and 1 short answer question. The questionnaire consists of three parts: basic situation survey, environmental awareness survey and environmental behavior survey. A total of 829 students were randomly selected as the survey objects for a detailed and scientific survey. After the survey, the questionnaire survey and field survey results were sorted out, valid results were input into EXCEL, professional statistical software was used for cross-analysis, descriptive analysis and qualitative analysis were used to get relevant conclusions.

### 2.1. The General Situation of Questionnaire Survey of College Students

First, the grade distribution of the investigated students

In this survey, freshmen take up the largest proportion, accounting for 61.28% of the effective sample; sophomores have 227 respondents, accounting for 27.38% of the effective sample; juniors, seniors and postgraduates account for 2.53%, 1.69% and 7.12% respectively.

**Table 1.** Grade distribution of investigated students

Options	Subtotal	Proportion
Freshman	508	61.28%
Sophomore	227	27.38%
Junior	21	2.53%
Senior	14	1.69%
Graduate student	59	7.12%
Number of persons filled in effectively	829	

Second, the major distribution of investigated students

In this survey, engineering majors accounted for the largest proportion, accounting for 80.94% of the effective sample, followed by science majors, accounting for 11.34% of the effective sample, and arts, art and other majors accounted for 6.15%, 0.6% and 0.97% of the effective sample respectively.

**Table 2.** Major distribution of respondents

Options	Subtotal	Proportion
Engineering	671	80.94%
Science	94	11.34%
Liberal arts	51	6.15%
Art	5	0.6%
Other	8	0.97%
Number of persons filled in effectively	829	

## 2.2. Statistical Description of Sample Data

First, the way to obtain environmental protection knowledge in life

According to the results of the survey on the way of acquiring environmental protection knowledge, the number of people who acquire environmental protection knowledge from the Internet accounts for the most, reaching 83.59% of the effective samples, followed by the media (TV, radio), reaching 75.39% of the effective samples. Therefore, it can be concluded that in today's information society, the way for students to obtain environmental protection knowledge is diversified, we should pay attention to the impact of the network on students, the most effective publicity work on the network.

**Table 3.** Ways of acquiring environmental knowledge

Options	Subtotal	Proportion
Relatives and friends	484	58.38%
Network	693	83.59%
Book	515	62.12%
Media	625	75.39%
Environmental protection lecture	426	51.39%
Other	226	27.26%
Number of persons filled in effectively	829	

Second, residents know about their living environment

Among the 829 students who participated in this survey, 326 students, accounting for 39.32% of the effective sample, had the most general understanding of the living environment. 213 people knew the living environment very well, accounting for 25.69% of the effective samples; 206 people knew about the living environment, accounting for 24.85% of the effective sample, while 84 people knew little about the living environment, accounting for 10.13% of the effective sample. It can be seen that most of today's college students have a certain understanding of our living environment.

**Table 4.** Respondents' understanding of living environment

Options	Subtotal	Proportion
Don't know much	84	10.13%
General understanding	326	39.32%
Understand	206	24.85%
Know very well	213	25.69%
Number of persons filled in effectively	829	

Third, in life to promote environmental protection to others, to achieve the purpose of educating others, education of their own situation

In daily life, the respondents who occasionally publicize environmental protection to others are the most, up to 360 people, accounting for 43.43% of the effective sample, followed by those who have but not often, accounting for 29.19% of the effective sample, and those who publicize environmental protection anytime and anywhere are the least, accounting for 12.67% of the effective sample. Among the ways of publicity to others, most people publicized their environmental protection behavior, accounting for 64.05% of the effective samples, followed by preaching, accounting for 21.95% of the effective samples, and introducing environmental protection pictures or materials to others, accounting for only 13.99% of the effective samples. According to the data, college students only occasionally publicize environmental protection to others, and their awareness of environmental protection is not high, but in the process of publicity, they are more enthusiastic about setting an example.

**Table 5.** Respondents' propaganda to others

Do you often publicize environmental protection to others to achieve the purpose of educating others and educating yourself			If so, in what ways do you educate others		
Options	Subtotal	Proportion	Options	Subtotal	Proportion
Never	122	14.72%	Environmental behavior	531	64.05%
Occasionally	360	43.43%	Preaching	182	21.95%
Don't often	242	29.19%	Introduce environmental protection to others	116	13.99%
At any time	105	12.67%	Number of persons filled in effectively	829	
Number of persons filled in effectively	829				

Fourth, analyze the causes of wasting resources and destroying the environment.

In the investigation of the causes of environmental destruction, 37.15% of the effective samples thought that the awareness of personal environmental protection was not strong; 277 students, 33.41% of the valid samples, thought that the policies and laws on environmental protection were not perfect enough. 18.58% of the effective sample thought that the publicity of environmental protection was not enough, 8.44% of the effective sample thought that the supervision of public opinion was not strong, and 2.41% of the effective sample thought that the government governance was not enough. Thus, most people think that environmental protection should start from their own, their own supervision, standardize their own behavior is the most effective implementation of environmental protection behavior.

**Table 6.** Analysis of causes of environmental destruction by respondents

Options	Subtotal	Proportion
Imperfect environmental protection policies and laws	277	33.41%
Insufficient environmental protection publicity	154	18.58%
Weak supervision by public opinion	70	8.44%
Weak personal awareness of environmental protection	308	37.15%
Inadequate governance	20	2.41%
Number of persons filled in effectively	829	

### 2.3. Cross Analysis of Sample Data

First, environmental awareness and its influencing factors analysis.

**Table 7.** Cross analysis of grade and environmental awareness of respondents

X\Y	A.Very strong	B.stronger	C.weak	D.Very weak	Subtotal
A.Freshman	303(59.65%)	196(38.58%)	8(1.57%)	1(0.20%)	508
B.Sophomore	91(40.09%)	126(55.51%)	7(3.08%)	3(1.32%)	227
C.Junior	4(19.05%)	16(76.19%)	1(4.76%)	0(0.00%)	21
D.Senior	7(50%)	7(50%)	0(0.00%)	0(0.00%)	14

According to the cross-analysis of the survey data, among the freshmen, the awareness of environmental protection accounted for 59.65% of the effective samples, and the awareness of environmental protection accounted for 0.2% of the effective samples. Among sophomores, 55.51% of the effective samples had strong awareness of environmental protection, and 1.32% of the effective samples had weak awareness of environmental protection. Among the juniors, 76.19% of the effective samples were environmentally conscious, and 19.05% of the effective samples were environmentally conscious. Among the senior students, those with strong environmental awareness and those with very strong environmental awareness accounted for 50% of the effective samples respectively; Among the graduate students, those with strong awareness of environmental protection accounted for 50.85% of the effective samples, and those with strong awareness of environmental protection accounted for 49.15% of the effective samples. Therefore, freshman students have the best awareness of environmental protection. Second, the difficulty of accepting environmental protection principle and its reason analysis.

**Table 8.** Cross-analysis of respondents' professional and environmental protection principles

X\Y	A.It's too harsh. I can't do it;	B.Some of them can be done;	C.Most of them;	D.Sacrifice oneself	Subtotal
A.Engineering	94(14.01%)	282(42.03%)	224(33.38%)	71(10.58%)	671
B.Science	17(18.09%)	42(44.68%)	26(27.66%)	9(9.57%)	94
C.Liberal arts	9(17.65%)	21(41.18%)	21(41.18%)	0(0.00%)	51
D.Art	3(60%)	1(20%)	1(20%)	0(0.00%)	5
E.Other	2(25%)	0(0.00%)	6(75%)	0(0.00%)	8

According to the cross-analysis of the survey data, it can be found that students majoring in art are difficult to adhere to the principles of environmental protection, while students majoring in engineering are more likely to practice the principles of environmental protection. Only engineering students and science students are willing to sacrifice their own interests for environmental protection, accounting for 10.58% and 9.57% of the effective samples respectively. The number of students who thought they were too demanding to do so was highest in art and other majors, accounting for 60% and 25% of the valid sample respectively. Therefore, it is a top priority to carry out effective publicity and popularization of science for students majoring in art and enhance their awareness of environmental protection. But the concept of other major students should also be further consolidated and strengthened.

Third, pay attention to the relationship between environmental protection signs and environmental protection activities.

**Table 9.** Cross analysis of respondents' attention to environmental protection signs and participation in environmental protection activities

X\Y	A.Yes, pay attention to environmental protection	B.Yes, because green logo is a symbol of fashion trend	C.No, because I don't believe the manufacturer's claims	D.No, No, my choices are not enough to change the circumstances of the world	Subtotal
A.Frequent participation	185(84.47%)	20(9.13%)	10(4.57%)	4(1.83%)	219
B.General participation	162(70.43%)	40(17.39%)	20(8.70%)	8(3.48%)	230
C.General participation	204(70.10%)	34(11.68%)	32(11.00%)	21(7.22%)	291
D.Never	34(38.20%)	15(16.85%)	25(28.09%)	15(16.85%)	89

In this survey, respondents who pay attention to environmental protection usually participate in environmental protection activities most frequently. Among those who regularly participate in environmental protection activities, those who usually pay attention to environmental protection account for the largest proportion, accounting for 84.47% of effective samples; Among those who have never participated in environmental protection activities, those who do not pay attention to environmental protection because they do not believe the manufacturer's propaganda and those who do not pay attention to environmental protection because they think their choice is not enough to change the world's environmental situation account for a

high proportion, accounting for 28.09% and 16.85% of the effective samples respectively. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the publicity of environmental protection and let the public realize that their own contribution to environmental protection is very important. Only with the improvement of public awareness, the enthusiasm to participate in environmental protection activities will increase.

### **3. Problems in College Students' Awareness of Environmental Responsibility**

#### **3.1. General Understanding of The Current Living Environment**

According to the survey results, most students have a general understanding of our current living environment, which is due to the lack of environmental protection courses in some colleges and universities. At present, China's colleges and universities generally do not pay enough attention to the public courses of ecological and environmental protection. Although some textbooks mention it, it is not systematic and comprehensive enough. Due to their own characteristics, some majors do not include ecological environmental protection education into the teaching scope, resulting in college students only have a macro understanding of ecological environmental protection knowledge, but little specific knowledge.

#### **3.2. Lack of Enthusiasm for The Publicity of Environmental Protection Knowledge in Life**

The results of the survey showed that most students only occasionally propagandize environmental protection to others and educate others. The main reason is the lack of publicity for environmental protection. Some mainstream media in society either lack attention to ecological environmental protection, or lack continuity and persistence of attention. Many websites or print media only pay symbolic attention to environmental protection on special festivals such as "World Environment Day" or "Arbor Day" every year.

#### **3.3. There Are A Few Students in Life Do Not Want to Do Green Behavior**

According to the results of the questionnaire survey, a small number of students are unwilling to carry out some green behaviors, such as reusing valuable domestic sewage and riding bicycles. This phenomenon may be caused by the lack of campus activities concerning environmental protection. Although many schools will also organize extracurricular activities themed with environmental protection, most of them are limited to the primary level, such as watching the expansion films. They take it seriously on the surface and can indeed arouse certain responses on campus in the short term, but in the long run, it is not enough to promote the formation of students' concept of green behavior.

### **4. Suggestions on Improving College Students' Awareness of Environmental Responsibility**

#### **4.1. Set Up Compulsory Courses Related to Environmental Protection Knowledge**

A survey shows that at present, many college students do not have environmental knowledge from school teaching, and they are dissatisfied with the existing environmental teaching. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the teaching content of environmental science knowledge in the course construction of university courses. Can open the public will be geared to the needs of all professional courses, such as "environmental protection", "environment and development", or "environment and sustainable development" and so on, this kind of public course Settings to juggle all the characteristics of professional teaching focus on let the students

understand the current situation of the pollution of the environment, to realize the harm, the environmental protection policies and laws and regulations, As well as the importance of the environment for the development of human society, so that students really have a comprehensive understanding of environmental issues from the ideological, improve students' awareness of environmental protection.

#### **4.2. Carry Out Social Practice Activities to Improve College Students' Environmental Awareness**

The environmental awareness education of college students should not be limited to the classroom, and the rich and colorful social practice activities are more conducive to consolidating and applying the environmental knowledge learned in the classroom. There are many forms of social practice activities, such as carrying out extensive environmental education and publicity, holding exhibitions and lectures, and carrying out activities in combination with environmental protection theme festivals. We can also learn from the experience of Germany to guide college students to go outdoors, go into the community, go into the society and go into the nature, and attract extensive attention and participation of the whole society, so as to improve the level of environmental awareness of college students and the public.

#### **4.3. Construct and Perfect the Incentive Mechanism to Improve The Level of College Students' Environmental Consciousness**

Constructing and perfecting incentive mechanism is one of the effective ways to improve college students' environmental awareness. Sweden's success story is the Green School Prize. We can also set up awards such as green emissary and green team, and make them related to further study and employment, stimulate the motivation of college students to learn environment-related knowledge and put it into practice, so as to improve the level of environmental awareness of college students.

At present, China proposes the goal of carbon peak carbon neutrality, which shows the determination of China to develop a low-carbon green economy. Improving people's awareness of environmental responsibility is an indispensable part of realizing the "dual carbon" goal. Under the constraints of environmental resources and "dual carbon" goals, developing environmental responsibility consciousness is not only conducive to the change of personal attitude towards environmental protection, but also to some extent to ease the growing contradiction between environmental problems and economic development. Through the investigation of college students' environmental responsibility consciousness, this paper lays a foundation for the analysis of college students' environmental attitude, in order to provide reliable and reasonable decision-making basis for schools to strengthen green environmental protection education, government to guide low-carbon consumption, and enterprises to implement low-carbon development strategy.

## **References**

- [1] Wang zi-ling. The connotation of the construction of "Ecological civilization" and the mode of ecological development [ j ] . Journal of Guangxi Institute of Socialism, 2013, (1) : 17.
- [2] He Bing. An analysis of the causes of the weakening of the social responsibility consciousness of Contemporary College Students (j) . Journal of Heilongjiang Institute of Education, 2014, (02).
- [3] Chen Fei, Jiao Yuansheng. Several problems in the education of college students sense of responsibility [ j ] . Journal of Ideological and theoretical education, 2013, (11).