

Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students of Guwahati City

Devishri Patar
B.H.U, Uttar Pradesh
Department of Education

ABSTRACT

Environment is a broad term. It includes not only physical or material aspect but psychological, social and cultural aspects as well. Thus environment is material and non material surroundings of human beings. The word awareness means the state of being aware or consciousness. Environmental awareness means consciousness or awareness of an individual towards his or her environment or surroundings. Any solution to the environmental problems and crisis needs environmental awareness and understanding which can be developed through proper education. The rationality, sense of curiosity, open mindedness, scientific temper etc. seems to be meaningfully related with awareness in general and environmental awareness in particular. It was therefore decided to study in depth the nature and extent of Environmental Awareness among Higher Secondary School Students of Guwahati city. The present study has been conducted on a random sampling of 150 higher secondary school students. The data has been collected through a standardized tool by Ms. Anita Anand nee Anita Bharti. The results revealed that the environmental awareness of higher secondary school students is moderate.

KEYWORDS: Environment, awareness, secondary school students.

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I. INTRODUCTION:

Environmental studies should be made mandatory in school and Colleges. There is just no double opinion on this. With the release of population into the atmosphere on a huge scale an irreversible disaster. If the coming generations are not made aware of the disaster, one could be geared up for such desirable consequences that are beyond description. Nature provides a limited freedom to man for conducting his exploitation activities. Man is a part of nature on the basis of his free will. But when he tries to break the laws of nature he is bound to face the serious consequences. We live in an uncertain universe. The future can never be granted. So we should cease to our own greatest danger and enhance the means for continuing life on earth. Environmental crisis on melodies are the foremost and the most persistently challenging problems; which are ready to devour the glorious of human existence and are ready to wipe out the human civilization from this earth. The present century is witnessing such problems of environmental crisis which are nothing but the creation of a greedy human society which wants to exploit nature beyond any reasonable limit. Sir Edmund Hillary comments on the environment in the following words as- "it is people who create bad environment and a bad environment brings out the worst in people. Man and nature need each other and by hurting one, we would the other. There is so much that needs to be done to the destruction of our world environment, so many prejudices and so much self interest to be overcome."

Pollution is often classed as point source or non point source pollution. In 2015, pollution killed 9 million people worldwide. Air pollution in India is a serious health issue. Of the 30 most polluted cities in the world, 21 were in India in 2019. As per a study based on 2016 data, at least 140 million people in India breath air that is 10 times or more over the WHO safe limit and 13 of the world's 20 cities with the highest annual levels of air pollution are in India. As India grows and urbanizes, its water bodies are getting toxic. It is estimated that around 70% of surface water in India is unfit for consumption. According to 2016 estimates, India generated about 270 million tons of annual municipal solid waste which was about 13% of the global waste. This is projected to increase to 543 million tons in 2050.

II. REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

A review of related literature is an evaluative report of information found in the literature related to our selected area of the study. It helps to avoid the unintentional duplication of the study. To conduct the present study researcher have gone through the number of research articles published in different journals so far as the

research studies are concerned. It is found that no any study has been conducted on the awareness of environment among higher secondary school students of Guwahati city. Therefore the researchers have undertaken the present study. The followings are one of those relevant research studies so far as the present review is concerned.

Gupta(2017) contemplate was conducted to know the environment awareness of urban and rustic children. The sample of 120 in senior secondary students of urban and rustic school was taken (60boys and 60 young ladies) from the Chhattisgarh state in Raipur city. The environmental awareness was measured by HaseenTaj's 'Environmental Awareness Scale'. The after effect of the investigation demonstrates that boys and young ladies of both urban and rural schools don't vary significantly. contemplate was conducted to know the environment awareness of urban and rustic children. The sample of 120 in senior secondary students of urban and rustic school was taken (60boys and 60 young ladies) from the Chhattisgarh state in Raipur city. The environmental awareness was measured by HaseenTaj's 'Environmental Awareness Scale'. The after effect of the investigation demonstrates that boys and young ladies of both urban and rural schools don't vary significantly.

Preeti Srivastava and Mukesh Gautam (2015) examined the ‘‘ Impact of literature on the environmental awareness at B.Ed level’’ and asserted that Library is called the heart of an institution and its literature has significant impact on environmental awareness on the dimensions air pollution, water pollution, soil pollution, noise pollution and environment friendly habits at primary level. If we talk of difference between boys and girls readers in their awareness regarding water pollution.

Mishra (2012) studied Environmental Awareness among Senior Secondary Students of Maheshwar and Mandleshwar, Dist- Khargone(M.P). The findings were i. There is no significance difference between on environmental awareness among students of public and government schools. Ii. There is no significant difference on environmental awareness among male students of government and public schools at senior secondary level. Iii. The science students are significantly higher than the arts students of government school. Science students are more aware about environmental problems in comparison to arts students. Iv. the science students are significantly higher than the arts students of public schools. Science students are more aware about environmental problems in comparison to arts students. V. students with 60 marks (high achieving) are more enlightened than the average students getting marks in the range of 50-60 percent. Vi. The high achieving students are significantly higher than the low achieving students on environmental awareness . vii. There is no significant difference on environmental awareness among average achieving students and low achieving students. Viii. There is no significant difference among students who have an access to media and those who do not have an access to media.

III. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Objective 1

To find out the level of environmental awareness among higher secondary school students of Guwahati city.

Objectives 2

To study the environmental awareness between male and female students of higher secondary school.

IV. NULL HYPOTHESES

1. There is no significant difference between male and female higher secondary school students in their environmental awareness.

V. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

Methodology is the detail procedure of conducting research. It helps in smooth functioning of the research work.

5.1 population and sample

A population refers to any collection of specified group of human being or of non human entities such as objects, educational institutions, time units and geographical areas. In the present study the population consists of all the students of 11th and 12th classes of Guwahati city.

It has been taken a number of 150 students of 5 higher secondary schools situated in Guwahati city by using random sampling technique.

5.2 Method used

Descriptive survey method has been used to conduct the present study.

5.3 Tool used

In the present study, the researcher has selected carefully and judiciously the following tools for collection of required data.

1. The Environmental Awareness Scale constructed by Ms. Anita Anand nee Anita Bharti ,a student of Master of Education Session 2001-02, Faculty of Education B.H.U. with some modifications. A likert type scale was used to assess the environmental awareness of higher secondary school students.

VI. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

After collecting the data the researcher proceed for the analysis and interpretation of the data. Data have been collected through a standardized questionnaire. After collecting the data it has been arranged and organized accordingly. Data have been analyzed with the help of advance statistics such as mean, standard deviation and 'T' test were used in the study.

Table No.1 Characteristics of the Sample

SL NO	VARIABLE	CATEGORY	NO OF STUDENTS	TOTAL
1	Gender	Male	95	150
		Female	55	

Table no 1. Shows that the researcher has taken 95 male students and 55 female students for the research. The total of students is 150.

Table no 2 Level of environmental awareness

Score	Level of Environmental Awareness	No of Students	%Of Students
Above 198	High	26	17.33%
Between 198-157	Moderate	100	66.67%
Below 157	Low	24	16%

From the table no 2 it was found that 17.33% higher secondary school students have high level of environmental awareness, 66.67% higher secondary students have moderate level of environmental awareness and 16% higher secondary students have low level of environmental awareness. Most of the students are found average level of environmental awareness this may be due to their parents, neighbors, friends, family are equally aware of environment and may be due to they are brought up in such a family where disciplines are taught from early age. But the students from higher secondary schools of the study bring their level of environmental awareness towards high.

Table no 3 Calculation of “t” Value between Male& Female Students

VARIABLE	NO OF STUDENTS	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION	“t” CALCULATED	RESULT
Male	95	174.05	20.75	2.91	Significant
Female	55	183.56	18.30		

Table no 3 shows that the mean score and standard deviation of 95 male students were found to be 174.05 and 20.75 respectively. The mean score and standard deviation of 55 female students were found to be 183.56 and 18.30 respectively. At 0.05 level of significant for 148 degree of freedom, the value of “t” tabulated is 1.98. The value of “t” calculated between the male and female students is 2.91 which is significant at 0.05 level of significance. Because the estimated “t” value (2.91) at 0.05 significant level is high than standard value 1.98. Therefore null hypothesis is rejected here. This result shows that both male and female students are not equally aware towards environmental awareness. Female students with greater mean have more positive attitude towards environmental awareness than male students. May be most of the female students do house hold work with cleanliness than male students and the females are more discipline that’s why they are aware about environment.

VII. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

- Most of the students of higher secondary school students have moderate level of environmental awareness.
- Male and female higher secondary school students are not equally aware for their environment. Female with greater mean are found more aware than male students.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The findings of the study reveal that most of the students have positive level of environmental awareness. Gender is a factor which affects on environmental awareness. So, proper education should be given to children so that they can realize the importance of environment and how much he or she will face the

consequences of environmental degradation. Feeling of awareness should be enlightened among the students. That's why in school various dramas on environment, rally, art and exhibition should be organized.

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