

A STUDY ON STUDENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Aashiyana Aazmin Hussain, Research scholar, Dept. of Education, Tezpur University, Assam
Dr. Pranab Saikia, Associate Professor, Dept. of Education, Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University, Assam

Abstract

Humans are immensely dependent on the environment for food, shelter, their mode of transportation from one place to another, providing of resources for producing man-made objects and aesthetic pleasure. But the knowledge of the environment is still lacking in man. They are exploiting the natural resources of the environment, overlooking the consequences of it. From the hot springs to the mangrove forests, from the glaciers to the hilly terrains, man has proved to adjust and acclimatize themselves with the environment. When the first living species originated in water, the organisms have always depended on the environment for their survival. Man is no exception. With the rise of population, human activities have increased at an alarming rate which is directly affecting the environment. The knowledge about the environment, its resources and the activities which leads to the destruction of environmental resources has been one of the burning topics of study since the 1970s. This study was conducted to assess the attitude of high school students towards Environmental Education in Kamrup (metro) district of Assam. Descriptive survey research methodology was employed for the present study. The sample size was 200, out of which 100 were from government schools (48 males, 52 females) and 100 were from private schools (48 males, 52 females). The results of high school students of the Dimoria region of Kamrup (metro) district of Assam showed a favourable attitude towards environmental education. Further, it showed there was a significant difference between the attitudes of the male and female high school students of Dimoria region towards environmental education. Male students showed a higher positive attitude in comparison to female students. Moreover, there existed significant difference between the attitude of government and private high school students of Dimoria region towards Environmental Education where private school students showed higher positive attitude towards Environmental Education.

Keywords: Attitude, Environmental Education, Environment.

Introduction

Man is known to live in the harshest conditions possible. The surroundings of both biotic and abiotic conditions constitute the environment. Man is an essential component of the environment. Humans from time immemorial have adapted themselves to the environment. The environment influences man in their way of living, food habits, occupation, dressing pattern and physical appearance, health conditions to a great extent. Man is directly influenced by the environment and they share a dynamic relationship between each other (Adhikari, 2010). Man was earlier completely dependent on the environment, gradually with evolution man has learnt to skillfully dominate the environment for his own needs and convenience. Man has learnt the best possible ways to utilize the nature for his betterment.

Environment Education enables a human to understand about the environment and its importance on the lives of each and every component of earth. It encourages an individual to respect the environment, educates them about their interactions with the environment.

“Environmental Education is a learning process that increases people’s knowledge and awareness about the environment and associated challenges, develops the necessary skills and expertise to address the challenges, and foster attitudes, motivations and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible actions” (Karama, 2016).

The need of study

Assam is the gateway to north-east India. Kamrup(metro), the district of Assam which falls under the capital of Assam that is Dispur is a densely populated district. The rise of overpopulation, habitat loss, flash floods, cutting down of around seven thousand trees for the widening of national

highways have affected the environment at large. The awareness on Environment Education and appropriate knowledge will be the only solution to tackle the issues of the environment. Since the young generation is the one that can develop a sensible attitude towards the environment and its issues if right knowledge is provided to them, the researcher concentrated her study with high school students of the Dimoria block of Kamrup(metro), Assam. Thus the researcher has selected the Dimoria region of Kamrup(metro), the district of Assam for the study of attitude towards Environmental Education among the secondary students of the Dimoria region as no studies were conducted in the particular location to study the attitude of the secondary/high school level students of Assam previously.

Statement of the problem

The problem for the present study may be specifically stated as below:

“Attitude of high school students towards Environmental Education in Kamrup (metro) district of Assam”

Review of related literature

(Sarma & Sharma, 2021) conducted a research study entitled, “*A Comparative Study on the Environmental Awareness and Environmental Attitude among the Undergraduate Students*”. They found that undergraduate commerce stream students showed higher awareness on environment education than arts students. It was also found that the students of commerce and arts stream did not show any difference in attitude towards the environment.

(Puri, 2020) conducted a research study entitled, “*Assessing Behaviour and Attitude of School Students towards Environmental Issues - A Case Study from Delhi, India*”. In this study it was found that around 98% of the samples were aware about the environmental issues; 66.8% suggested effective methods to create environment awareness through social media, while 60.6% agreed that main source of information about environment awareness came through schools.

(Majumder, 2019) conducted a research study entitled, “*Attitude of UG students towards Environmental Studies as a Compulsory Paper at UG Level*”. The researcher found that Rural students showed better awareness towards the environment than Urban students. Moreover, Girl students had a higher positive attitude towards the environment than boys. Moreover, Science stream students showed more favourable attitude towards environment than arts stream students.

(Vikramjit Singh, 2019) conducted a research study entitled, “*Awareness and Attitude towards Environmental Protection among Senior Secondary Students of Kendriya Vidyalayas*”. It was found that there was no significant difference between the attitude of boys and girls towards environment education. The age of students did not have any significant difference towards the attitude of environment education (17 years and 17 years and above). Moreover, it was found that there was a strong relation between attitude and awareness of environment education among higher secondary students. More the awareness, more was the positive attitude towards environment education.

(Uday Bauri, 2018) conducted a research study entitled, “*Attitude of college students towards environmental education*”. They found out that there was a significant difference in the attitude of girls in comparison to boys. The positive attitude of girls was higher than boys. Also, it was found that there was no significant difference in attitude among urban and rural students. Lastly, it was found that caste had significant influence among students; the general caste students possessed more positive attitude in comparison to ST, SC and OBC students.

(Kapri, 2017) conducted a research study entitled, “*A Study of Attitude and Awareness of Pupil Teachers towards Environmental Pollution*”. The study concluded that, both the male and female teachers were equally aware about environmental protection. Again, it was seen that the female pupil teachers were more aware about the environmental issues than the male pupil teachers.

(Katoch, 2017) conducted a research study entitled, “*Awareness and attitude of school students towards environment*”. His study found that there was no difference in awareness of males and female towards environment education. Moreover, there was a difference in attitude of males and female towards environment education, females showed better attitude in comparison to male towards environment education.

(Dr.D.Ponmozhi, 2017) conducted a research study entitled, “*Environmental Attitude of School Students*”. He found that the medium of instruction was a strong predictor for environmental awareness. English speaking students had more environment awareness in comparison to Tamil speaking students. Moreover, type of school did not make any difference towards the attitude of environment education that is there was no significant difference between government school and private schools.

(Dutt, 2016) conducted a research study entitled, “*Effect of Environmental Education on the Attitude of College Students*”. She found that the scores for attitude of student’s post studying environmental education were higher than the scores of students pre –studying environmental education.

(Mukesh Kumar Panth, 2015) conducted a research study entitled, “*The Role of Attitude in Environmental Awareness of Under Graduate Students*”. In this study it was found that, boy’s attitude was higher for environmental knowledge, skills and values in comparison to girls. Further it was seen that, boys had higher inclination for social change as they wanted to do something different in comparison to girls. The researcher concluded that boys had higher levels of liberalism than girls. Lastly it was seen that girls had more awareness towards environment than that of boys.

(CHOUDARY, 2010) conducted a research study entitled, “*Attitude Towards Awareness of Environmental Education Among B.Ed. College Students in Chennai City.*” He found that girls showed higher levels of environment awareness in comparison to boys. Language had an influence on awareness levels of students, Tamil medium students showed higher levels of environment awareness in comparison to English medium college students. Also, it was found the awareness of government college students were higher than aided and private college students.

Delimitations of the study

The study has been delimited to:

1. High school students of the Dimoria region of Assam
2. Private and government schools of Kamrup (m) district of Assam

Objectives

1. To ascertain the overall attitude of high school students towards Environmental education in Dimoria region of Kamrup (metro) district of Assam
2. To find out the difference between the attitude of male and female high school students of Dimoria region towards Environmental Education
3. To find out the difference between the attitude of government school students and private school students of Dimoria region towards Environmental Education

Hypotheses of the study

The study hypotheses were presented as a null hypothesis

H₀₁: High school students of Dimoria region will show an unfavourable attitude towards Environmental Education

H₀₂: There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female high school students of Dimoria region towards Environmental Education

H₀₃: There is no significant difference between the attitude of government and private school students of Dimoria region towards Environmental Education.

Methodology

Descriptive survey research methodology was employed for the present study to ascertain the attitude students towards Environmental education with reference to gender and type of school.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The investigator selected samples through purposive sampling technique where the sample size was 200. Out of the total samples, the 100 samples were taken from high school students of government, while the rest 100 samples were selected from private schools. Again, the samples selected from government schools were divided into males and females where 48 were males, while 52 were

females. In the same manner, 100 samples were selected from private schools where again 48 were males and 52 were females.

Table 1: The sample profile

Scores of students	Frequency	Percentage	Attitude level
More than 119.70	25	12.5	Highly favourable
119.70-98.74	151	75.5	Moderately Favourable
Less than 98.74	24	12	Unfavourable

Tools

For the purpose of study, the investigator used a self-developed questionnaire and the reliability and validity of the tool was determined through standard procedure. The Cronbach’s alpha equation was applied to test the reliability and the value was found to be 0.78145, which was in acceptable range. Further, Likert-type scoring was applied for the responses of the questionnaire.

The plan of Data analysis

Quantitative data was analysed with the aid of Mean, Standard Deviation, t-test etc.

Analysis and Interpretation of data

Table 2: Showing Mean and Standard deviation

Category	Total number (N)	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)
High school students	200	109.22	10.48

Result and Discussion

Table 3 : Showing overall Attitude of high school students towards Environmental Education

Scores of students	Frequency	Percentage	Attitude level
More than 119.70	25	12.5	Highly favourable
119.70-98.74	151	75.5	Moderately Favourable
Less than 98.74	24	12	Unfavourable

Testing of H₀₁

From Table-2, Mean was found to be 109.22 where N=200 and the Standard deviation (σ) was found to be 10.48. The average class was calculated using the formula ($M \pm 1 \sigma$). Here $M+1 \sigma=109.22+10.48=119.70$, while $M-1\sigma=109.22-10.48=98.74$. From Table-3 it can be inferred that, the majority (151 students out of 200) lies in the moderately favourable range, i.e. 75.5%. Again, 25 out of 200 i.e. 12.5% students lie in the highly favourable range and only 24 out of 200 i.e. 12% students lie in the unfavourable range. Thus, it can be concluded that the attitude of high school students of the Dimoria region of Kamrup (metro),the district of Assam showed a favourable attitude towards Environmental education.

Table 4 :The t-test table between male and female students of Dimoria region

Group	Sample size (N)	Mean(M)	Standard Deviation(SD)	Standard error (SE)	Degrees of freedom (d.f.)	Calculated p-value	Remarks
Male	96	110.74	9.47	0.97	198	0.047	significant
Female	104	107.82	11.20	1.10			

Testing of H₀₂

From Table-4, the Mean for males was found to be 110.74 and standard deviation 9.47. while for females, the mean was found to be 107.82 and standard deviation 11.20. At degrees of freedom 198, the p-value was found to be 0.047 which is less than $\alpha = 0.05$. Thus, the result is statistically significant and the Null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, it can be said that there is a significant difference between the attitude of male and female high school students of Dimoria region towards Environmental Education, which corroborates with the study conducted by Mukesh Kumar Panth(

Group	Sample size (N)	Mean(M)	Standard Deviation(SD)	Standard error (SE)	Degrees of freedom (df)	Calculated p-value	Remarks
government	100	107.71	11.74	1.17	198	0.041	significant
private	100	110.73	8.86	0.89			

2015).

Table 5 :The t-test table between government and private school students of Dimoria region

Testing of H₀₃

From Table-5, Mean for government school students was found to be 107.71 and standard deviation 11.74. while for private school students, the mean was found to be 110.73 and standard deviation 8.86. At degrees of freedom 198, the p-value was found to be 0.041 which is less than $\alpha = 0.05$. Thus, the result is statistically significant and the Null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, it can be said that there is a significant difference between the attitude government and private high school students of the Dimoria region towards Environmental Education.

Result of the study

- Attitude of high school students of the Dimoria region of the district Kamrup (metro), Assam showed a favourable attitude towards Environmental education.
- There is a significant difference between the attitude of male and female high school students of the Dimoria region towards Environmental Education. The male students showed a higher positive attitude in comparison to female students.
- There is a significant difference between the attitude government and private high school students of the Dimoria region towards Environmental Education where private school students showed a higher positive attitude towards Environmental Education.

Educational implications of the study:

The educational implications of this study are:

- Present study can be used for supporting the fact that, more and more courses and programs on environmental education should be incorporated in the curriculum and it should be a compulsory subject from the primary school level.
- The present study suggests that the awareness about the environment should be increased by conducting more workshops on environment to sensitize masses about environmental issues.
- Thirdly, study about environment will help the students to develop themselves for becoming a responsible citizen of future.
- This study provides firsthand information about the attitude of high school students.
- This study will help in preparing a programme which is concerned about the environment.

Conclusion

Environmental Education arouses a sense of responsibility of the individuals towards the environment. It helps to educate not only the adults but also the future generation so that the environment can be preserved and the benefits can be enjoyed by humans for thousands of years to

come. Environment education has the capacity to sensitize the individuals regarding conservation of nature, ways to preserve the natural resources, remedies to solve the burning environmental issues, suggest ideas and means to provide a pollution free environment to the next generation and propose rules and regulations for protection of the environment.

References

- Adhikari, S. (2010). Man-Environment relationship in Geography. In D. T. Bansal, *Geographical Thought*.
- CHOUDARY, D. (2010, June 10). *ATTITUDE TOWARDS AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AMONG B.Ed. COLLEGE STUDENTS IN CHENNAI CITY*. Retrieved from SSRN: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1623442
- Dr.D.Ponmozhi, S. (2017). Environmental Attitude of School Students. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science*, 1-4.
- Dutt, S. (2016). Effect of Environmental Education on the Attitude of College Students. *The International Journal of Indian Psychology*, 18-22.
- Kapri, D. U. (2017). A Study of Attitude and Awareness of Pupil Teachers towards Environmental Pollution. *IJARIE*, 18-23.
- Karama, M. J. (2016). A comparative survey of environmental education. *International Journal of Curriculum and Instruction*, 1-17.
- Katoch, K. S. (2017). AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE OF SCHOOL STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENT. *Scholarly Research Journal for Interdisciplinary Studies*, 8543-8550.
- Majumder, M. B. (2019). Attitude of UG students towards Environmental Studies as a Compulsory Paper at UG Level. *American International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences*, 2328-3688.
- Mukesh Kumar Panth, P. V. (2015). The Role of Attitude in Environmental Awareness of Under Graduate Students. *International Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Studies*, 55-62.
- Puri, K. (2020). Assessing Behaviour and Attitude of School Students towards Environmental Issues - A Case Study from Delhi, India. *Educational Quest: An Int. J. of Education and Applied Social Science*, 25-29.
- Sarma, D. M., & Sharma, M. S. (2021). A Comparative Study on the Environmental Awareness and Environmental Attitude. *Turkish Journal of Computer and Mathematics Education*, 6310 – 6316.
- Uday Bauri, S. K. (2018). ATTITUDE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. *International Journal of Current Advanced Research*, 8822-8826.
- Vikramjit Singh, M. K. (2019). Awareness and Attitude towards Environmental Protection among Senior Secondary Students of Kendriya Vidyalayas. *PEDAGOGY OF LEARNING (POL)*, 23-32.