



## **ATTITUDE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Present age is the age of science and technology. Different countries have been using the technology in different ways only to establish its dominance in the world. As a result pollution has been reaching to its extremely day to day. In the circumstances, to keep ourselves as well as our world safe we are in desperate need of environmental education and we have to more and more conscious of environment. Environmental Education plays a vital role to create responsiveness or awareness among the students. We know that environmental education is an integral process and sustainable tool which deals with man's interrelationship with his natural things and protection of environment pollution. Environment education deals with man-made surroundings including the relation of population growth, pollution resources allocation and depletion, conservation, technology and urban and rural planning to the total human environment. This study was conducted to know the attitude of college students towards Environmental Education in Purulia district of West Bengal. The sample consisted of male (100) and female (100) students from four colleges in Purulia district, West Bengal, India. An attitude scale (Likert-type scale) was used for collecting the data. Stratified Random Sampling procedure was followed. Results indicated the attitude of College students towards Environmental Education was neither more favourable nor unfavourable, but satisfactory or average. The study also revealed that there is significant difference between the attitude of male and female college students towards Environmental Education. There is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban college students towards Environmental Education. There is significant difference among the attitude of General, OBC, SC and ST college students towards Environmental Education. There is no significant difference among the attitude of language, science and social science streams college students towards Environmental Education.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

*Mahatma Gandhi did not go to every locality to clean up but his commitment created awareness towards cleanliness in entire India. We also have to do it together. Whenever we are, we should do it. I believe that we will be able to clean our mother India. If once, we 125 corer Indians decide that we will not spread faith, no power in this world can make India dirty.*

– **Shri Narendra Modi (The Prime Minister of India)**

We have entered in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, an era of science and technology. Man has made his life much more comfortable than ever before. While doing so, he has destroyed forests, polluted air, water and disturbed nature's balance. The rate of extinction of species of animals and plants has been rising (Sharma, S. 2014). Environmental degradation has emerged as a serious issue in the world today.

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Human factor is the largest contributor to the environmental degradation, which might pose serious threats to sustain life on earth. Therefore, there is a dire need to pay serious attention towards protecting life on earth (Yousuf, A. & Bhutta, S. 2012). The industrialization has increased production but the industries either bigger or smaller have added to pollute the environment. Environmental pollution causes deterioration in the quality of ubiquitous resources like land, water and air and we all are part of the environment directly or indirectly and we all are affected by it or effected it by various means (Sethi, U., 2015). Environment is degrading at much faster rate than our imagination. Most of these degradations are caused by human activities. Damage to environment is both at global and local level. Decrease in ozone layer and increase in emission of green house gases are the example of the damage at global level and ground water pollution, soil erosion (Sahu, U., Roy, M & Rajkiran, M., 2015). Environmental Education (EE) plays an important role for creating awareness among the students. Environmental Education is an integral process which deals with man's interrelationship with his natural and man-made

surrounding's including the relation of population growth, pollution resources allocation and depletion, conservation, technology and urban and rural planning to the total human environment (Sen, R & Behera, S K., 2015). Environmental Awareness is concern towards environment or environmental problems. In other word it is defined as "an idea holding a general impression or consciousness about something without having to know much about it (Panth, M. K, Verma, P. & Gupta, M., 2015). Environmental Education is a way of creating knowledge, understanding, values, attitudes, skills, abilities and awareness among individuals and social groups towards the environment protection. Environmental Education is an attempt to reorient education so that environmental competence is restored as one of its basic aims along with personal and social competence (Shobeiri, S. M., Omidvar, B. & Prahallada, N. N., 2007). Environmental awareness implies not only being knowledgeable about the environment, but also being acquainted with sets of values, attitudes and skills for addressing environment related problems. Students, especially of higher institutions/universities are the hope for future betterment of environment, and for attaining environmental sustainability (Abbas, M.Y. & Singh, R., 2012).

In our society Social Researches are most of time neglected. In this prospect J.P Guilford has Point out that "Everyone is aware of societies very pressing problems over population, poverty, hunger, race, relation, wars, pollution and students unrest. It is ironic that we can spend billions of dollars to send men to moon and back yet allow more pressing problems here on earth to go relatively unattended. There has always seemed to be sufficient yankee ingenuity to solve technical problems of a mechanical nature. By contrast, there is serve storage of ingenuity and effort towards solving social problems". Last three decades there is given low emphasise in environmental education, because environment has not very much harm by us. But in 1980, UNESCO has first time introduce the concept of conservation of environment and latterly environment education is gradually emerged. Every where we can see that lots of pollution is damage our eco system. That's why global warming is now become a very challenging issue for us in 21<sup>st</sup> century. The researchers chose this topic because in current situation environment education is not properly thrive in various institution. As we know that "education brings conscious, consciousness brings revolution, and revolution can show the path of freedom." By this study the researchers are eager to know the attitude of college students towards the environmental education.

### **STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

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

"Attitude of College Students towards Environmental Education"

### **REVIEW RELATED LITERATURE**

Abbas, M.Y & Singh, R. (2012) have conducted a study on "Environmental Awareness, Attitude, and Participation amongst University Students: A Case Study", The findings of the study were: The high level of environmental knowledge and positive attitudes towards the environment among the students, but low level participation in environmental protection activities. This implies that, other factors than environmental knowledge and awareness may be the

stimulants to induce students' active participation in environmental protection and improvement activities. Sindhu, P. & Sing, S. (2014) have conducted a study on "Awareness towards Environmental Education among the students at secondary Levelin Gurgaon District". To know the awareness towards environmental education among the students at secondary Levelin Gurgaon District. Finding of the study were: (i) It was found that there exists no significant difference between rural boys and rural girl's student of secondary level regarding awareness towards environmental education. (ii) It was found that there exists no significant difference between rural girls and urban girls regarding awareness towards environmental education. (iii) It was found that there exists significant difference between urban and rural students of secondary schools regarding awareness towards environmental education. Sen, R. & Behera, S.K. (2015) have conducted a study on "An investigation into the attitude of secondary school students towards environmental education in Purulia district of West Bengal, India", Objective of the study was to ascertain the attitude of secondary school students towards environmental education in Purulia district of West Bengal. Findings of the study were : ( i) The attitude of urban students in secondary schools towards environmental education is more favourable than that of rural students reading in secondary schools. (ii) There is significant difference between the attitude of boys and girls students reading in secondary schools of Purulia district towards environmental education.iii. There is significance difference between the attitudes of rural students reading in secondary schools and urban students reading in secondary schools. (iv) There is no significant difference between the attitude of class IX students and class X students of the secondary schools of Purulia district towards environmental education. There is no significant difference between the attitude of general students and SC/ ST students (as a whole) of the secondary schools of Purulia district towards environmental education. Sethi, U. (2015) has conducted a study on "Attitude of degree and B. Ed. College Students towards Environmental Pollution", To study this, a research work was done to see attitude of degree and B. Ed. college students towards environmental pollution. The findings of the study were the revealed that there is no significant difference between the attitude of male students of degree and B. Ed. Colleges, female students of degree and B. Ed. colleges, arts students of degree and B. Ed colleges but significant difference was found out between science students of degree and B. Ed colleges. Panth, M.K, Verma, P. & Gupta, M. (2015) have conducted a study on "The Role of Attitude in Environmental Awareness of under Graduate Students", Objective of the study was to explore the environmental awareness and environment attitude among gender (boys and girls). Finding of the study that boys have more attitude than girls but there are significant difference found in boy and girls attitude. And girls have more than boy's environment awareness. There found no significant difference found in boys and girls environmental awareness. Sahu, U, Roy & Rajkiran, M. (2015) Environmental awareness among undergraduate students in rural area. To study was to know about the attitude and awareness of college going undergraduate students towards the environment. Among the students of different streams no significant difference was found among the science students and arts students but awareness was better in Science students. There was no significant difference between boys and girls regarding overall awareness. As far as awareness

among the boys of different stream is concerned level of awareness was found more among the arts stream boys than the science stream boys in girl's level of awareness was higher among the girls of science stream than the girls of arts. Sehdev, Hooda (2016) has conducted a study on "Attitude and awareness of college student towards environment pollution". Objectives of the study were :( i) To study the level of environment awareness of college student. (ii)To find the difference in the environment awareness of government and private college student.(iii)To study the attitude of college students towards environment pollution.(iv)To find the difference in the attitude of government and private college students towards environment pollution. Findings of the study were: (i) Majority of the students of the colleges are aware of the consequence of environment pollution.(ii) A significant was found between the students of private and governmental awareness.(iii)The private colleges students are significantly more positive than government colleges students towards environments. Singh, R. (2016) has conducted a study on "Environmental awareness among undergraduate students in relation to their stream of study and area of residence". The objective of the study was to know the level of environment awareness among undergraduate students. Findings of the study were: (i) No significant difference was found in the level of environment awareness of undergraduate students studying in arts and commerce stream. (ii) Significant difference was found in the level of environment awareness of undergraduate students studying in arts and science stream. (iii) There exists no significant difference in the level of environment awareness among undergraduate students in relation to their stream of study was rejected. (iv)There exists no significant difference in the level of environment awareness among undergraduate students in relation to their area of residence was rejected.

**DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The delimitations of the present study are as follows:

**Geographical Area**

The investigation was delimited to only Purulia district of West Bengal.

**Level of Education**

1. The study was restricted to the College students of the said district.
2. The general college students affiliated to Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University in Purulia district were considered as the subjects of the present study.

**OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To ascertain the attitude of college students towards Environmental Education in Purulia district of West Bengal.
2. To find out the difference between the attitude of male and female college students towards Environmental Education in Purulia District.
3. To find out the difference between the attitude of rural and urban college students towards Environmental Education.
4. To find out the difference among the attitude of General, OBC, SC and ST college students towards Environmental Education. .

5. To find out the difference among the attitude of language, social science and science stream college students towards Environment Education.

**HYPOTHESES OF THE STUDY**

Hypotheses are formulated in the null form.

- H<sub>01</sub>: The college students will have unfavourable attitude towards Environmental Education in Purulia district of West Bengal.
- H<sub>02</sub>: There is no significant difference between the attitude of male and female college students towards Environmental Education.
- H<sub>03</sub>: There is no significant difference between attitude of rural and urban college students towards Environmental Education.
- H<sub>04</sub>: There is no significant difference among the attitude of General, OBC, SC and ST college students towards Environmental Education.
- H<sub>05</sub>: There is no significant difference among the attitude of language, social science and science college students towards Environmental Education.

**METHOD OF THE STUDY**

The present study is based on survey method, particularly, the normative survey research method.

**Population of the Study**

All the college students in Purulia district of West Bengal comprised the population of this study.

**Sample and Sampling Procedure**

200 college students (100 male and 100 female) from two rural colleges and two urban colleges in Purulia district were taken as representative sample of the whole population. Stratified Random sampling technique was adopted for selecting the schools.

**Table 1** Sample Profile

Male	Female	Rural	Urban	Language	Social science	Science	General	OBC	SC	ST
100	100	137	63	52	96	52	45	108	26	21
200		200		200		200		200		

**Tool of the Study**

An attitude scale (Likert -Type) was used for knowing the attitude of college students towards Environmental Education.

**ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA**

The study of the attitude of college students towards environment education involved the analysis of data with the use of t- test (Table 2) and one-way ANOVAs (Table-4). All of the above statistics are very helpful in hypotheses testing of this study. The results of the analysis are being shown in tables.

**Table 2** Shows the Mean, S.D of college students

Category	N	Mean	S.D
College Students	200	166.92	10.62

**Table 3** Showing the Result of College students Attitude towards Environmental Education

Scores	Frequency	Percentage	Levels of Attitude
Above 177.54	36	18 %	Favorable
Between 177.54-156.30	133	66.5 %	Moderate / Average
Below 156.30	31	15.5%	Unfavorable
TOTAL	200	100	

From the Table- 3, it is found that the attitudes of college students towards environmental education are moderate level. (The analysis was done with the help of cut-off point i.e.,  $M \pm 1\sigma$ ).

**Table 4** Showing Significant Difference between Variables

Group	N	Mean	SD	ED <sup>2</sup>	S <sub>ED</sub>	df	t	Remark	
Gender	Male	100	168.85	10.70	11456.64	1.49	198	2.4	*
	Female	100	165.27	10.28	10573.71				
Location	Rural	136	167.35	10.87	16072.76	1.62	198	0.83	#
	Urban	64	166	10.02	6420				

\*Significant at 0.05 level, #Not significant at 0.05 level

**Table 5** Showing the result of Mean, S.D of Different Social Classes and Streams

	Group	N	Mean	SD
Social Class	General	45	171.2	11.74
	OBC	108	166.51	9.8
	SC	26	163.61	10.67
	ST	21	163.85	9.18
Stream	Language	52	166.32	10.54
	Social Science	96	166.83	10.58
	Arts	52	167.65	10.71

**Table 6** Showing the Results of ANOVA

Sl. No	Variables	Source of Variation	Df	Sum of Square	Mean Square	F-value
1	Social Class	Between Groups	3	1489.19	496.397	4.615 *
		Within Groups	196	21082.365	107.56	
		Total	199	22571.555		
2	Stream	Between Groups	2	47.010	23.505	0.206#
		Within Groups	197	22524.545	114.338	
		Total	199	22571.555		

\*Significant at 0.05 level, #Not significant at 0.05 level

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Testing of $H_{01}$

From Table-3, through the help of cut-off point the investigator verified the  $H_1$ . Here Cut-off Point is  $M \pm 1\sigma$ . It means, Mean=166.92, N=200 and  $\sigma=10.62$ . Hence  $M + 1\sigma$  is  $166.92 + 1 \times 10.62 = 177.54$ . And  $M - 1\sigma = 166.92 - 1 \times 10.62 = 156.30$ . Most of the college students (133 in number) i.e., 66.5% of college students were lies between 177.54 to 156.30 scores. Hence, it can be said that the attitude of college students in Purulia District of West Bengal is moderate towards environment education.

### Testing of $H_{02}$

From Table-4, it is found that the mean score of male college students is 168.85(S.D= 10.70) and female students is 165.27 (S.D=10.28) respectively. From Table-4, it is observed that the calculated' value (2.4) is greater than the table value (1.98 at 0.05 level). That is to say that, the difference between the two groups (male and female) is significant at 0.05 level. Hence, the  $H_{02}$  is rejected and the researcher's  $H_2$  is accepted; that is to say that, there is significant difference exists between the attitude of male and female college students towards environment education. The result corroborates with the findings of the study done by Sen, R. & Behera, S.K. (2015).

### Testing of $H_{03}$

From Table-4, it is found that the mean score of rural college students is 167.35(S.D= 10.87) and female students is 166 (S.D=10.02) respectively. From Table-4, it is observed that the

calculated' value (0.83) is less than the table value (2.61 at 0.01 level & 1.98 at 0.05 level). That is to say that, the difference between the two groups (rural and urban) is not significant at 0.05 level. Hence, the  $H_{03}$  is accepted and the researcher's  $H_3$  is rejected; that is to say that, there is no significant difference exists between the attitude of rural and urban college students towards environment education.

### Testing of $H_{04}$

From Table-6, it is found that the computed F-value (4.615) is greater than the critical value of F (3.85 & 2.64) for 3 and 196 df at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance. Hence the  $H_{04}$  is rejected and  $H_4$  is accepted. It indicates that there is significant difference among the attitude of General, SC, ST, and OBC college students towards environment education in Purulia district. Therefore it is concluded that Caste has significant influence on the attitude of college students towards environment education.

### Testing of $H_{05}$

From Table-6, it is found that the computed F-value (0.206) is less than the critical value of F (3.85 & 2.64) for 2 and 197 df at 0.01 and 0.05 level of significance. Hence the  $H_{05}$  is accepted and  $H_5$  is rejected. It indicates that there is no significant difference among the attitude of General, Language, arts, and science stream college students towards environment education in Purulia district. Therefore it is concluded that subject streams has no significant influence on the attitude of college students towards environment education.

## EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

- This study humble attempt the path to assess the level of knowledge and attitude of college students towards the Environmental Education.
- This study contributes a new teaching-learning in the form of assessing the level of knowledge and attitude towards Environmental Education in the classroom instruction.
- This study is very much crucial for the development of student's interest, attitude, knowledge, motivation towards Environmental Education.
- The need of the day is to make students realize their capabilities and improve upon capabilities to help solve the problems of their life through Environmental Education.
- More information should be made available to educate students about Environmental Education.
- Varied programmes, seminar and workshop on environmental education should be organized in colleges to develop environmental awareness.
- Special efforts should be made in order to develop environmental education among the SC and ST students and other backward students.

## CONCLUSION

The present study revealed that the attitude of college students towards environmental education was neither more favourable nor unfavourable, but satisfactory or average. The attitude of male and female, General, OBC, SC and ST college students towards environmental education were statistically significant. There is no significant difference between the attitude of rural and urban college students towards Environmental education.

The subject streams has no significant influence on the attitude of college students towards environment education. Finally the National Policy on Education (1986) rightly said that, "There is a paramount need to create a consciousness of the environment. It must permeate all ages and all sections of the society, beginning with the child. Environmental consciousness should be inculcated into teaching in schools and colleges".

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