



Cover Page



DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2021/10.07.36>

ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDE OF THE UNDER GRADUATE STUDENTS OF DIBRUGARH DISTRICT

Nilakshi Senapati¹ and Prof. Neeta Kalita Barua²

¹SRF and ²Professor

^{1&2}Department of Education, Dibrugarh University
Dibrugarh, Assam, India

ABSTRACT

Our environment determines our lifestyle. Now there is an increasing awareness and cry all over the world for protection and preservation of the environment, wherein the educated sections of society have a major role to play, as they have the capacity to build a better future. The younger generation, especially, the educated citizens, of whom the Under Graduate students are supposed to be the future leaders and decision-makers of the society, have to, therefore, develop healthy attitude towards the environment. Therefore, the present study was conducted to study the Environmental Attitude of the Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District. The investigator conducted the study on a sample of 468 Under Graduate students Dibrugarh District. The standardized tool ‘Taj Environmental Attitude Scale’ (TEAS) developed by Dr. Haseen Taj in 2001 has been used for the study. The investigator translated TEAS into Assamese version and the reliability coefficient of the translated Taj Environmental Attitude Scale (TEAS) was found to be 0.78. Mean, SD, ‘r’, t test has been employed to analyze the data. It was evident from the findings of the study that there is no significant difference in environmental attitude of Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District with respect to their gender. But in case of locality, a significant difference was found.

Keywords: Environmental Attitude, Under Graduate Student.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Our environment determines our lifestyle. But due to the lack of right type of attitude of the people towards their environment, the present world is witnessing a number of environmental crises. Now there is an urgent need to create a positive attitude among all human beings towards the environment. Environmental attitudes are therefore a big concern in significant environmental education research (e.g., Bradley, Waliczek, & Zajicek, 1999; Clarke, 1996; Lee, 2008; Ridener, 1997). Many of the studies were particularly concerned about young people’s environmentally sensitive attitudes, because young people will be affected by and need to provide solutions to environmental problems as a result of present-day actions (Bradley et al., 1999).

Therefore, the present study has been undertaken to study the Environmental Attitudes of the Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District. As future citizens, who are most likely to lead the country forward towards further progress, the investigator felt it would be of significance for the society to understand how students, at this highest level of the educational ladder, feel about the environment.

2.0 NEED AND SIGNIFICANT OF THE STUDY

Environment determines our lifestyle. Now-a-days several environmental problems have become a serious threat to the existence of life on this planet. Developing right attitude among the people towards the environment will therefore remain of the utmost importance for the coming decades.

The younger generation, especially the Under Graduate students are supposed to be the future leaders and decision makers of the society, have to therefore, develop healthy attitude towards the environment. Therefore, the investigator felt it would be of significance for the society to understand how students, at this higher level of the educational ladder, feel about the environment.

3.0 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study is entitled as “Environmental Attitude of the Under Graduate Students of Dibrugarh District”.

4.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE PRESENT STUDY

4.01 To compare the Environmental Attitude of the Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District in relation to their Gender, viz. Male and Female.

4.02 To compare the Environmental Attitude of the Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District in relation to their Locality, viz. Rural and Urban.



Cover Page



DOI: <http://ijmer.in.doi./2021/10.07.36>

5.0 HYPOTHESES

H₁: There is no significant difference in the environmental attitude of Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District with respect to their gender, viz. Male and Female.

H₂: There is no significant difference in the environmental attitude of Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District with respect to their locality, viz. Rural and Urban.

6.0 DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

1. The present study was confined to the Under Graduate Colleges of Dibrugarh University offering the general B.A., B. Sc. and B.Com. degree programmes, only.
2. The present study covered only the students admitted into the General Degree Colleges of Dibrugarh District, in the year 2018.
3. The study was confined to the variables of Gender (Male & Female) and Locality (Rural & Urban) only.

7.0 METHODOLOGY

7.01 POPULATION OF THE PRESENT STUDY

The population of the study comprised of all the Under Graduate students studying General Degree Programmes (B. A/B.Sc. /B. Com) in the 21 General Degree Colleges under Dibrugarh University of Dibrugarh District. There are a total of 28 Colleges, out of which 21 are General Degree Colleges, 4 B. Ed Colleges and 3 L.L.B Colleges.

7.02 SAMPLE OF THE PRESENT STUDY

For the present study, Disproportionate Stratified Random Sampling Technique was used to select 12 General Degree Colleges of Dibrugarh District, out of which 7 are Rural and 5 are Urban Colleges. Moreover, the sample of students consisted of 40 students; 20 males and 20 females from each College. However, as the total number of female students in one urban Commerce college was found to be only 8, so, a total of 468 sample units of population will be taken for the study.

7.03 TOOL USED IN THE PRESENT STUDY

The Taj Environmental Attitude Scale (TEAS) developed by Dr. Haseen Taj in 2001 was used for the study. Following the Likert's method of summated rating procedure, TEAS was developed with 61 items consisting six areas. The six areas dealt with the scale are attitude towards (1) Health and Hygiene, (2) Wild life, (3) Forests, (4) Polluters, (5) Population Explosion, (6) Environmental Concern. Each item alternative is assigned a weightage ranging from 4 (strongly agree) to 1 (strongly disagree) for favorable items. In case of unfavorable items, the scoring is reversed, i.e., from 1 (Strongly agree) to 4 (strongly disagree). The attitude score of an individual thus is calculated as the sum total of item scores on all the six areas. The range of scores is from 61 to 244, with the higher score indicating the more favorable attitude towards environment and vice versa. Reliability of the scale as estimated by split half is 0.82, which is highly significant.

For the present study the researcher has translated the Taj Environmental Attitude Scale (TEAS) into an Assamese version. To estimate reliability of the Assamese version, the researcher administered the test on a sample of 100 Under Graduate students. The researcher used split-half technique to estimate the reliability of the Assamese version of the test. The reliability coefficient of the translated Taj Environmental Attitude Scale (TEAS) was found to be 0.78.

7.05 STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED

For the present study, mean, standard deviation, standard error of deviation, t-test were used to analyze the data.

8.0 ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

8.01 Comparison of Environmental Attitude between Male and Female Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District

Hypothesis: There is no significant difference in the Environmental Attitude of Male and Female Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District.



Cover Page



DOI: http://ijmer.in.doi./2021/10.07.36

Table 1

Comparison of Environmental Attitude between Male and Female Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District

Category	Sample (N)	Mean	SD	SE _M	SE _D	df	t Value	Significance
Male	240	175.68	14.93	0.96	1.49	466	0.13	Not significant at 0.05 level
Female	228	175.49	17.10	1.13				

Regarding the significance of difference between Male and Female Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District with respect to the dimensions of the Taj Environmental Attitude Scale, the Table 1 shows that the t value is 0.13 which is less than the Table value (1.97 at 0.05 level) and therefore not significant at 0.05 level. Thus, the null hypothesis is accepted at 0.05 level, and it is concluded that there is no significant difference in the Environmental Attitude of Male and Female Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District.

The results of the findings in the studies of Ananth (1993), Aminrad, Azizi, Wahab, Huron and Nawawi (2010), Ghosh (2014) and Senapati (2015) support the result of the present objective, that, gender does not account for significant differences in environmental attitude.

However, the result of Chan (1996), Larijani and Yeshodhara (2008), Aydin, Coskun, Kaya and Erdonmez (2011), Mahajan and Darbai (2013) and Sen and Behra (2015) showed contradictions with the results of the present study.

8.02 Comparison of Environmental Attitude between Rural and Urban Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District

Hypothesis: There is no significant difference in the Environmental Attitude of Rural and Urban Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District.

Table 2

Comparison of Environmental Attitude between Rural and Urban Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District

Category	Sample (N)	Mean	SD	SE _M	SE _D	df	t Value	Significance
Rural	280	178.23	16.73	1.00	1.50	466	4.44	Significant at 0.05 level
Urban	188	171.65	14.02	1.02				

Table 2 shows that the t value of the sampled students on the basis of locality is 4.44 which is greater than the Table value (1.97 at 0.05 level) and therefore significant at 0.05 level. Thus, the null hypothesis is rejected and it is concluded that there is a significant difference in the Environmental Attitude scores of Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh in relation to their locality, viz. Rural and Urban.

The result of Sarkar (2011) showed some contradiction with the result of this objective, as in that study, the difference found in the scores between the urban and rural students' environmental attitude was not at a statistically significant level.

The result of this objective showed some contradiction with the result of Ghosh (2014) that in case of rural and urban student the attitude towards environmental education was found significant.

9.0 MAJOR FINDINGS

1. There is no significant difference in the Environmental Attitude of Male and Female Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District.
2. There is a significant difference in the Environmental Attitude scores of Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh in relation to their locality, viz. Rural and Urban.

10.0 CONCLUSION

In this paper an attempt has been made to study the environmental attitude of the Under Graduate students. As we know that Under Graduate students are supposed to be the future leaders and decision makers of our society. Therefore, it is necessary that with respect to their gender and locality, students must develop attitude towards their environment. In the present study, it was found that there was no significant difference in environmental attitude of Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh University with respect to their



Cover Page



DOI: http://ijmer.in.doi./2021/10.07.36

gender. It was found that there is a significant difference in Environmental Attitude of Under Graduate students of Dibrugarh District in respect of locality.

REFERENCES

1. Aminrad, Z., Azizi, M., Wahab, M., Huron, R., & Nawawi, M. (2010). Environmental awareness and attitude among iranian students in malaysian universities. *EnvironmentAsia*, 3(special issue), 1-10. doi: 10.14456/ea.2010.34
2. Ananth, G. (1993). Study of environmental attitude of 10th standard students of bangalore city in relation to their sex, socio-economic status and environmental knowledge. *Indian Education Abstract*, 3(14), 52. Retrieved from http://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/bitstream/10603/15875/10/10_chapter%202.pdf on 13th August 2015, 4.00 p.m.
3. Aydin, F., Coskun, M., Kaya, H., & Erdönmez, D. (2011). Gifted students' attitudes towards environment: a case study from turkey. *African Journal of Agricultural Research*, 6(7), 1876-1883. doi: 10.5897/AJAR11.288
4. Best, J.W., Kahn, J.V., & Jha, A.K. (2017). *Reasearch in education* (Tenth edition). Pearson India Education Services Pvt.Ltd.
5. Bradley, J.C., Waliczek., T.M., & Zajicek, J.M. (1999). Relationship between environmental knowledge and environmental attitude of high school students. *The Journal of Environmental Education*, 30(3), 17-21. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00958969909601873> on September 15th 2015, 3.45 p.m.
6. Clarke, B. (1996). Environmental Attitudes and Knowledge of Year 11 Students in a Queensland High School: An Investigation into Environmental Beliefs and Understandings. *Australian Journal of Environmental Education*, 12, 19-26. Retrieved from <http://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=970605854;res=IELAPA> on August 20th 2015, 3.00 p.m.
7. Chan, K.K.W. (1996). Environmental attitude and behavior of secondary students in Hong Kong. In Sarkar, M. (2011). Secondary students' environmental attitudes: the case of environmental education in bangladesh. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 1, 2222-6990. Retrieved from <http://www.hrmar.com/admin/pics/95.pdf> on August 24th 2015, 3.30 p.m.
8. Garrett, H.E. (2012). *Statistics in psychology and education* (Third Indian Reprint). Delhi: Surjeet Publication.
9. Ghosh, K. (2014). Environmental awareness among secondary school students of golaghat district in the state of assam and their attitude towards environmental education. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 19(3), 30-34. Retrieved from <http://iosrjournals.org/iosr-jhss/papers/Vol19-issue3/Version-2/F019323034.pdf> on May 8th 2015, 10.45 a.m.
10. Larijani, M., and Yeshodhara, K. (2008). An empirical study of environmental attitude among higher primary school teachers of India and Iran. *Journal of Human Ecology*, 24(3), 195-200. Retrieved from <http://www.environmentportal.in/files/An%20Empirical%20Study%20of%20Environmental%20Attitude.pdf> on January 19th 2016, 12.46 p.m.
11. Lee, E.B. (2008). Environmental attitudes and information sources among African American college students. In Sarkar, M. (2011). Secondary students' environmental attitudes: the case of environmental education in bangladesh. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 1, 2222-6990. Retrieved from <http://www.hrmar.com/admin/pics/95.pdf> on August 24th 2015, 3.30 p.m.
12. Mahajan, P., & Darbari, N. (2013). A study of teacher's environmental attitude on school environment of school student. *International Journal of Education and Information Studies*, 3, 47-50. Retrieved from http://www.ripublication.com/ijeisv1n1/ijeisv3n2_05.pdf on September 20th 2015, 2.15 p.m.
13. Ridener, L. R. (1997). University students' attitude to the environment: An Australian/ USA comparison and the effects of an educational program. In Sarkar, M. (2011). Secondary students' environmental attitudes: the case of environmental education in bangladesh. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 1, 2222-6990. Retrieved from <http://www.hrmar.com/admin/pics/95.pdf> on August 24th 2015, 3.30 p.m.
14. Sarkar, M. (2011). Secondary students' environmental attitudes: the case of environmental education in bangladesh. *International Journal of Academic Research in Business and Social Sciences*, 1, 2222-6990. Retrieved from <http://www.hrmar.com/admin/pics/95.pdf> on August 24th 2015, 3.30 p.m.
15. Sen, R., and Behera, S.K. (2015). An investigation into the attitude of secondary school students towards environmental education in Purulia District of West Bengal, India. *Journal of Education Research and Behavioral Sciences*, 4(1), 020-027. Retrieved from <http://apexjournal.org/jerbs/archive/2015/Jan/fulltext/Sen%20and%20Behera.pdf> on May 29th 2017, 11.20 a.m.
16. Senapati, N. (2015). Awareness and attitude of post graduate students of dibrugarh university towards the environment. M.Phil dissertation of Dibrugarh University.

Websites Visited

1. National Psychological Corporation
<http://npcindia.com/downloads/NPC-Catalouge-2017.pdf>