



Research Paper

A Study on the Awareness of the Environment among the Secondary School Students of Assam

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ABSTRACT: This paper presents a comprehensive study on the awareness of the environment among secondary school students. In an age defined by growing environmental challenges, the need to cultivate environmentally conscious citizens has never been more pressing. Secondary school students, as the future custodians of the planet, hold immense potential to shape sustainable practices and drive positive change. The objective of this research is to assess the environmental awareness among secondary school students. The study employs descriptive survey method. A well-structured questionnaire is administered on the sample of secondary school students. The implications of this study extend beyond academic realms. Educational policymakers can use the insights to refine environmental curricula and foster a more meaningful connection with nature among students. By nurturing environmental consciousness during this formative stage, a more proactive and informed citizenry can be cultivated.

KEYWORDS: Environment, Awareness, Secondary school, Students

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I. INTRODUCTION

The word environment is well known to us. The word environment has been derived from the French word 'Environ' or 'environer', which means to around or to surround or what is being surrounded or to encompass or to encircle. So far, the natural situations around living being is called environment or the natural situations around living beings which effect the existence, growth, development and activities of the living being is called environment. According to Douglas and Holland, "Environment is all the external forces, influences and conditions which affect the life, nature, behavior and the growth, development and maturity of living organism. Man depends on environment for his sustainability. The relationship between man and environment is indeed very deep and has been recognized from very ancient period. Over a period of time man's changing social environment has been modified by population growth, urbanization and industrialization.

In an era marked by escalating environmental concerns and the pressing need for sustainable practices, fostering awareness and understanding of environmental issues among the younger generation has become a matter of utmost importance. Secondary school students, representing a pivotal stage in their cognitive and social development, hold the potential to shape the future of our planet through their knowledge, attitudes, and actions towards the environment. As such, this paper presents a comprehensive study on the awareness of the environment among secondary school students, aiming to assess their current level of awareness, identify gaps in knowledge, and explore potential implications for environmental education and policy development.

The global challenges posed by climate change, habitat destruction, pollution, and resource depletion demand urgent action from all sectors of society. Secondary school students, as emerging citizens and future leaders, play a crucial role in driving positive change towards sustainable practices. Their understanding of environmental issues and willingness to embrace eco-conscious behaviors can significantly impact the trajectory of our planet's health and well-being.

The primary objective of this study is to evaluate the extent of awareness among secondary school students regarding environmental challenges and opportunities. By conducting a thorough examination of their environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors, we seek to uncover the strengths and weaknesses of current

environmental education initiatives. The insights gained from this research can inform educational policymakers and institutions on effective strategies to enhance environmental curricula and foster a deeper connection with nature among the student population.

It is hoped that the findings of this study will contribute significantly to the growing body of research on environmental awareness among youth. The implications of this research extend beyond academic interest, with potential applications in policy formulation, environmental education improvement, and the cultivation of environmentally conscious citizens. By empowering secondary school students with knowledge and nurturing their environmental consciousness, we envision a brighter and more sustainable future for generations to come. Let us embark on this journey of understanding, where the voices of the young are amplified, and the call for environmental stewardship resounds with greater urgency.

II. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- i. To study about the environmental awareness among secondary school students.
- ii. To find out about their participation in environmental awareness programme of the school.
- iii. To study the awareness of the students regarding environmental problems.

III. METHODS USED

In this study descriptive survey method was used as the study want to obtain pertinent information regarding the current status of the phenomena

IV. POPULATION AND SAMPLE

The population of the study consists of all the students of the selected 3 government school studying in class IX of Golaghat District.

The sample of the study include 100 students from the 3 selected schools of Golaghat district studying in Class IX.

V. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Awareness of the various environmental problems among the people is very much important today. Environmental problems are the result of man's interference with nature. Because of his own activities, the existence of human being and other plants and animal is threatened. It is very difficult to survive in such an environment. Environmental degradation has become a global issue which can be solved if only each one of us take the responsibility to act locally and think globally. As of it now, most of the people are not able identify most of the environmental problems. They are ignorance of the fact that human activities towards environment have led to the unexpected gigantic hazard for the whole creature in the upcoming years.

So, the most urgent issue is protecting the environment. But the main hurdle in protecting the environment is the lack of scientific knowledge and the will to act of the people. Society needs to be convinced of the importance of environment and we have to realize the fact that the way we lived today.

The significance of this study lies in its potential to shed light on the current level of environmental awareness among secondary school students. By understanding their knowledge and attitudes towards environmental issues, the study can help identify areas where educational interventions and policies are needed to foster a greater sense of responsibility and stewardship for the environment. With the rising concerns over climate change and its impacts, nurturing environmentally conscious citizens is crucial for the long-term preservation of our planet.

Assessing the awareness of environmental issues among secondary school students can provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of existing environmental education programs. By identifying strengths and weaknesses, policymakers and educators can refine their curriculum and teaching methodologies to ensure that environmental concepts are effectively communicated and understood by the students. Improving environmental education can lead to more informed and proactive individuals who can contribute to sustainable practices in their communities.

The study's findings can be instrumental in promoting positive behavioral changes among secondary school students. Awareness is a critical precursor to action, and understanding the students' current level of awareness can help tailor persuasive communication and campaigns that motivate them to adopt eco-friendly behaviors. Encouraging environmentally responsible habits at an early age can have a lasting impact on their attitudes and actions towards the environment throughout their lives.

Policymakers can use the study's results to develop evidence-based environmental policies and initiatives targeted specifically at secondary school students. These policies may encompass the inclusion of environmental topics in the curriculum, the establishment of green clubs or activities in schools

In conclusion, the study on awareness of the environment among secondary school students holds significant importance in terms of environmental preservation, education improvement, behavioral change and

policy formulation. By understanding and nurturing the environmental awareness of the youth, we can build a more sustainable future for our planet and empower the next generation to become responsible environmental stewards.

VI. FINDINGS

From the study following findings were found:

90% students give positive response and 10% students give negative response when they were asked if they plant tree or not. Again 80% students responded positively and 20% students responded negatively when they were asked if it is necessary to reserve forest area. When they were asked if world environment day observed in their school or not, all the students responded positively. 84% students responded positively and 16% responded negatively when they were asked if they had participated in any activities under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Again 60% students responded positively and 40% students responded negatively when they were asked about the influence of population growth on environment. When the students were asked if deforestation is the main reason for extinction of wild animals, then 90% students gave positive response and 10% students gave negative response. 94% students responded positively when they were asked if environmental problems cause health problems or not. All the students responded positively regarding the use of dustbin in their schools. Only 60% students are familiar with different Environment preservation and protection act.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS

Since environmental awareness can be brought about by various factors such as education, teachers' parents social media mass media and so on and so forth. They all have different role to play in creating environmental awareness.

- Teacher should have the ability to impart environmental knowledge, create environmental awareness and consciousness is not enough but they have to convert it into attitude and develop problem solving skill among the students so as to enable them to think locally and act globally.
- Students are tomorrow's citizens and should know the importance of environment, understand the need for protecting the environment and be skilled in identifying and solving problems related to environment. Besides students must participate in different environmental awareness programme.
- Parents are the first teacher of the child and home is the first school. So, parents should inculcate some good habits in their children regarding environment.
- School must organize different activities to promote environmental awareness.

VIII. CONCLUSION

From the study we have seen that students of secondary schools are becoming aware about environment and its related problems. It's a positive sign. Because in order tackle with problem of environment every individual will have to think seriously or the future generation will blame us. So, it is the right time to take action.

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