

# A study of Environmental Education, Attitude and awareness of students at school level in Bareilly

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## Abstract:

*Present study focuses on the effort to find the environment awareness among 9th to higher secondary students selected from U.P. Board and CBSE board students' awareness of environmental education of the Bareilly city. It mainly consists of environmental education knowledge. A self-design of 50 questions, questionnaire to measure environmental education awareness was administered to a stratified sample of 30 schools students. Analysis of variance results revealed significant variations in the environment education awareness level of school students in relation to their level. Total students were selected from two different boards and cluster random sampling techniques having 465 male and 525 female students. The study showed that students possessed positive attitudes towards both environmental issues and environmental education. But Science stream students had more environmental awareness in comparison to arts stream students. The CBSE students had more environmental awareness in comparison to UP Board students.*

**Key words:** *Environmental Education, Students Awareness, Bareilly City.*

## 1.Introduction

The Environment has influenced and shaped our lives since time immemorial. Today the environment has become the concern of all; the academicians, intellectuals, scientists, policymakers and governments across the continents (1). During the past two decades environmental issues have grown considerably. Natural resources have been depleted by excessive use. Dramatically increasing population has caused pollution, deforestation, desertification, biodiversity

loss, coral bleaching, global warming simultaneously which currently, are the major global concerns(2). Air and water pollution have reached alarming levels that have caused serious health problems, as well as negatively impacting the environment, and inevitably influencing prospects for long-term economic growth (3).

## JUSTIFICATION OF THE STUDY

One in every seven persons on this planet lives in India. With 16% of the world's

population and only 2.4% of its land area, there is a heavy pressure on the natural resources including land. Apart from them, human activities towards the environment lead to unexpected gigantic hazards for the whole creature in the coming few years. Day by day humans are consuming these natural resources in an unsustainable way. The main reason behind this is the non cooperative thinking with nature. Awareness and involvement of the civil society is a precondition of checking environmental degradation. So for that we should create environmental awareness in between people for the sake of our green planet. Here investigator is giving some researches related to environmental awareness which is given below:

Gupta 1988 studied the attitude of teachers towards environmental education and he found the majority of teachers showed a favorable attitude towards environmental education(4). Shahnawaj (1990) studied environmental awareness and environmental attitude of secondary and higher secondary school teachers and students(5). A comparative study of attitude towards population education and environmental education and family planning of different levels of workers in specific occupations was studied by Singh (1991) (6). Saha (1997) studied environment, social forestry and concluded that there is a need for environmental education in the Indian context (7). Read (2000) studied public education and awareness rising in the UK and concluded that several techniques have been commonly used in Europe and North America to try to motivate residents to participate in all forms of waste management(8). Environmental awareness has been studied with respect to scientific attitude among higher secondary students of

Varanasi city (9).Singh (2005) studied the scientific phenomenon between holistic education and environmental awareness(10). None of these had tried to conduct the study related to environmental awareness among higher secondary schools and some educational factors affecting it.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

### The objectives of the study are

- To compare male and female students with regards to their level of environmental awareness.
- To compare science, commerce and humanities students with regards to their level of environmental awareness.
- To compare students belonging to CBSE and UP Board with regards to their level of environmental awareness.
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## DELIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Following are the delimitations of the present study:

- Population of the present study consists of higher secondary schools of Bareilly city.
- The study has been conducted on 990 students of 9th to 12th class only.
- All the institutions which have been selected into this study are recognized by C.B.S.E. & U.P. Board of higher secondary school.

## 1.4 Environmental Education:

Education is an important social instrument and means, which act as a catalyst in improvement of different aspects of life. Knowledge, awareness, skill, values, attitude acquired through education help one to lead a desired quality of life. In order to protect and conserve the environment emphasis has been given to environmental education. It refers to organized efforts to teach about how natural environments function and, particularly, how human beings can manage their behavior and ecosystems in order to be sustainable. It should consider the environment in its totality and should be a continuous lifelong process beginning at preschool level and continuing through all stages. However, it is sometimes used more broadly to include all efforts to educate the public and other audiences, including print materials, websites, media campaigns, etc. related disciplines include outdoor education and experiential education. 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 fosters attitudes, motivations, and commitments to make informed decisions and take responsible action (11).

## **2.Materials And Methods**

The aim of the paper is to measure the level of environmental attitude and awareness towards environment among the school students with special reference to 9th to 12th schools students in Bareilly district, Uttar Pradesh

In this present study, secondary schools of Bareilly city were selected for analysis.

This survey included government and private schools. The students learnt different subjects like science, commerce, Humanities etc. Simple random sampling method was used to select the 990 students for the study.

## **3.Sampling Procedure**

The study concluded in the Bareilly region. The sampling involved 990 students (465 male and 525 female) students in different schools with dissimilar subjects.

To investigate the student's awareness, attitude and practice of environmental education 990 participants through multistage sampling techniques were selected from the Bareilly city. Data related to the students' awareness, attitudes, practice and other issues were gathered based on a questionnaire. The questionnaire contains a total of 50 questions including 15 general environmental awareness, 15 from soil and air Pollution, 10 from global warming and 10 related to resources and conservation. To improve the quality of the questionnaire in all aspects, it The questionnaire was distributed and collected through supervisor and school directors. To avoid any vocabulary problems in the test and conceptual misunderstanding in other items a half day discussion was made on the questionnaire with the supervisor so that respondents can ask for clarification. Students in the same school were made to complete the questionnaire at the same time so that independent responses are ensured.

## **4.Results And Discussion**

**Present study shows following findings during survey:**

Environmental Awareness and gender difference between female and male student's attitudes toward the environment can be seen from table 1. It is clear that female students hold higher attitudes toward the environment than males which are also consistent with the other (12, 13)

and also other countries (14,15). The reason for this may be that female ones are more aware of environmental problems and individual responsibilities. In addition, females also seem to be socially responsible and make a significant contribution to environmental protection (13,15).

**Table -1 sex , area and stream wise percentage of environmental awareness ability of sampled students**

Area	Stream	Male			female		
		High	Avg.	Low	High	Avg.	Low
U.P. Board	Science	68%	32%	-	69.88%	30.12%	-
	Commerce	66%	34%	-	65.33%	34.67%	-
	Humanities	62.33%	37.67%	-	63.66%	36.34%	-
C.B.S.E. Board	Science	79.33%	20.67%	-	87%	13%	-
	Commerce	82%	18%	-	83%	17%	-
	Humanities	84%	16%	-	85.33%	1.67%	-

**Table - 2 backup of sample**

Subject	Male Students		Female Students		Total Students
	C.B.S.E. Board	U.P. Board	C.B.S.E. Board	U.P. Board	
Science	130	170	80	70	450
Commerce	50	40	80	170	340
Humanities	50	25	85	40	200
U.P. Students		235		280	990
C.B.S.E. Students	230		245		

Environmental Awareness And Educational Board It is clear that CBSE board school students hold higher attitudes toward the environment than U. P. board students. Further from table -1 it is clear that of the CBSE board school students had a higher level of environmental awareness as compared to only the U. P. board school students.

### Conclusions and recommendations

The researcher's recommendation is that environmental studies should be included in the college curriculum and taught to all students. This can be incorporated into their studies by adding more practical oriented programmes. They can be sensitized by celebrating special days like World Environment Day, Wildlife Day, World Water Day, Forest Conservation Day etc. and students should be informed and promoted about alternatives to plastic. It should not be

just a study, but it should become a part of their life.

This research attempts to describe how environmental awareness and practices can be used as a tool to sensitize young students about environmental protection.

All these findings urge the need to make efforts to provide necessary facilities to promote environmental awareness and conducive attitude towards the protection of the environment. The study focused on various aspects of the environment, mainly

environmental awareness and practice among college students. The paper concludes with the relationship between gender and environment level of awareness and practice level, awareness level is high but practice level is moderate and there are some differences between gender and practice level among college students. All these findings urge the need to make efforts to provide necessary facilities to promote environmental awareness and conducive attitude towards the protection of the environment.

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