

Environmental Awareness In The Twenty-First Century

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ABSTRACT: The most dangerous likelihood of the present century is the speedy downgrading of the quality of our environment. Our universe exists in the environment. There will be the destruction of Earth and the Universe if there is any change in the environment. The disasters done by the past generation are what the present generation is facing. Resources of non-renewable energy are diminishing, and making use of the same is getting harmful. The government is making arrangements for disposing of renewable resources and justifiable development along with education of safeguarding the environment. Every citizen should be made aware and responsible for safeguarding our natural environment. Education is the best way to make everyone understand the importance of sensitivity and responsiveness concerning Environmental awareness. A total of 167 people were surveyed, with 54.49 percent of men and 45.51 percent of women, using a standard questionnaire with a five-point interval scale. The survey's results were calculated using the mean and the t-test. As a result of the findings, it was discovered that education plays a critical role in raising public consciousness about environmental education in the twenty-first century.

Keywords: Environmental awareness, Environment Education, Degradation, Global warming, Educational training

1. INTRODUCTION

The environment can be described as the natural thing that is all around us, such as the atmosphere of the earth, healthy air, and drinkable water, as all these things are necessary for human life. The environment is that physical and biological system where humans and other living beings live with many collaborating elements. The observed elements of the environment consist of 'rocks, minerals, soil and water, land, animals, poultry and agriculture, and most importantly, the climate. All these elements have a close association that engenders a balance and is known as 'ecological balance.' Creating environmental awareness and how to preserve the same is an urgent need and the insufficiency of the same in adding fuel to the fire. Lack of knowledge and awareness is a major reason behind the downgrading or degradation of the quality of the natural environment. The whole of human civilization will face disaster and calamity if this situation continues in the future. Creating awareness about the safeguarding of the environment, its protection, and preservation is the only solution to save our nature. Awareness concerning safeguarding the environment will make people take action towards environmental protection as well as its improvement. Educating about the environment is the only solution to make all these things possible.

In public media and higher education of developed societies, environmental education has recently found its place. Providing knowledge about the issues affecting our nature from inside and outside and identifying the actions that need to be taken to safeguard our surroundings are included in the awareness program. To create awareness and understanding about the social and physical issues common in the environment and provide the knowledge about the same is very important at this moment of life. To reduce the environmental impact on this ever-increasing population, educating people and raising awareness about it is the key element. There is a sizable youth population in the schools and colleges. These young minds are ready to learn and eager to know about their environment, what is happening and what is likely to happen in their surroundings. They should be inspired to take action for our environment with the aid of proper formal education.

The education system, which is working without any pre-determined and recommended rules and the system is free to develop and design the course modules where there are programs concerning environmental education and awareness, is known as "Non-Formal Education." There are several means like, Eco-clubs, Population Education Program, and Environmental Campaigns, etc., through which Non-Formal Environmental Education can create environmental awareness. Students can also carry on Public Awareness Program concerning Environmental Education at schools and public places or residential colonies.

A group of people who meet regularly to discuss some important issues of the society and do planning, design and carry activities to generate awareness among people about the same and try to solve environmental problems at local levels, such group of people is known as Eco-club. Students can create Eco-clubs at the school level by collecting students from different classes interested in working for the program. Some non-governmental organizations are running and generating environmental awareness programs for a long; several nature clubs and eco clubs are running with different names in India and abroad. There are many opportunities to make students aware of the environment with the help of the existing curriculum at primary, secondary, and college levels. Suppose teachers at the primary, secondary, and college-level take a step ahead and naturally introduce environmental education in the curriculum. In that case, it will be quite easy to create awareness and knowledge about the environment. Protecting and preserving our natural environment is an essential need of every individual. Due to many dangerous things, our environment is threatened. There is a massive increase in air, water, and soil pollution. Many problems are arising due to the downgrading of the environment. Hence, protecting and safeguarding our environment is very much needed. As today's students will be our future leaders, planners, teachers of the environment and its issues, it is essential to create awareness among them and educate them about dealing with the current situation of environmental issues.

Regional and global environmental problems have significantly increased in the 21st century. Due to these increasing problems and changes in the climate and environment, it is important to take precautions and educate and create awareness and give importance to environmental education.

Hence, researchers are trying to improve the quality of environmental education. Environmental awareness will get a good rise in students' minds if started at the elementary educational level.

Recently in our country, many types of research have been carried out to explore environmental education programs. However, the execution of environmental education was

involved in very few of those studies. Execution can be made easy by focusing on the local environmental problems to catch students' attention, or their interest can be absorbed towards global environmental problems as well.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Simsekli, Y. (2015) found that raising environmental awareness among students is necessary as it is an investment in our future environment. This study aimed to identify the impact of environmental education practices on students and create awareness about the same. With the help of environmental education execution, it is easy to raise awareness among students in schools and colleges. Students should be made aware of global warming, soil, air, and water pollution, the causes of these problems, their effects, and solutions. The study shows that students' attention can be caught by involving them in practical problems of the society related to the environment and climate.

Hadzigeorgiou and Skoumios (2013) revealed that combining environmental education in formal education curriculum cannot make up for the lack of awareness and strategies to create awareness about the environment. Although there are difficulties and problems, there is still some scope, mainly within science education, where some awareness already exists. There is a need to create awareness in other parts of education. Educational strategy is that key that can help in keeping the natural environment in focus and at the forefront of the teaching and learning process, hence making a clear relationship between ourselves and nature. This strategy is already in line with a proposal to readdress the goals of scientific research by concentrating upon the issues and problems of living beings and also try to make learning in the school more material and significant, as the main focus is on the relationship between self, science, and our nature.

Padmanabhan et al. (2017) studied that to protect the environment, environmental awareness and knowledge are the stepping stone. Since teachers of schools and colleges play an important role in providing knowledge, value, and skills in students to make them understand about our environment, how to keep the same safeguarded from getting affected, and how to preserve the same, it was necessary to check out how much teachers are aware of the environment. After the study, it was found that higher education students had very less knowledge and awareness than teachers about our environment. When surveyed, they had a good understanding and awareness about the environment, atmosphere, climate, etc. They had awareness about preserving the environment and avoiding air, water, and soil pollution.

Godara and Khirwadkar(2017) revealed that the program was productive and successful that was implemented in schools and colleges to create awareness about the environment among students. There is no seriousness, and proper planning regarding environmental education is carried out in the Eco-clubs running in schools and colleges. The main purpose of the Eco-club will be served only if all such activities are carried out seriously with proper planning. Proper planning and practical activities will make it interesting and meaningful for the students. Teachers will also get to know the activities that attract students' attention in learning about the environment. All such activities can be organized in schools and help make students sensitive about the environment and how to keep it clean and safe for the future and generate eco-friendly habits in them.

Safari et al. (2014) found that environmental ethics and principles demanded to attain survivability in developing the natural environment and its safeguarding. Principles that discovered and reacted to the complicated and fluctuating relationship between human beings

and nature. To materialize these principles, the scrutiny of the education system and its process is essential. Environmental impacts can be improved with the help of proper training and awareness programs carried out in public. Environmental recycling is getting damaged due to improper use of domestic energy, pesticides, disposals, unhygienic disposal of wastes, etc. all these things need to be changed urgently to bring a positive change to our environment. All these changes can be brought by proper training, awareness sessions, seminars, nature tours, exhibitions, etc., and it will play an important role in raising awareness concerning the environment.

Bhatia and Bhatia (2013) studied that there is no formal education available to most Indian citizens, but formal education is not the only way to make them aware of the environment; general public or illiterate people can be made aware with the help of public seminars, the government organized training sessions, with the help of plays and drama, etc. with free of cost. Media like television, radio, newspaper, movies, etc., can educate people who cannot go to schools to attain knowledge and create awareness on local and regional levels. Interesting environmental programs on Television and radio can be organized to develop interest and skills among people regarding environmental education because formal or non-formal education is not yet widely spread. The awareness regarding the protection and preservation of forests, trees, plants, water, nature, disasters, and solutions can also be telecasted and broadcasted with the help of advertisements. To maintain the quality of the environment at present and in the future, environmental education and awareness are necessary for teachers, students, and society.

Dhull and Verma (2017) revealed that creating a better and healthy environment education of environment has a direct contribution. Individual's feelings towards environmental issues can be increased with the help of environmental education. The required result depends on the way environmental education is provided. To achieve the goal of environmental education at the school level, teachers play a very important role. Environmental education should be student-centered, although there are no fixed methods of teaching. New methods of teaching, especially practical methods, should be implemented rather than traditional methods. Teachers can teach their subject effectively; proper training needs to be provided to teachers. Teaching needs to be practical, as it will attract students when they get to know about the environment in natural form rather than reading just books.

Sonowal (2009) studied that environmental education established by the education system is directly related to the natural environment. The education regarding air, water, plants, animals, and soil is given to every student in a very simple manner starting from the very basic level. It was also found that students have also become talented with such kind of information and education. The core of Environmental education should be day-to-day life environmental issues and problems. One of the strategies was to involve the surrounding community in environmental education, and the same was found to be fruitful and effective in most cases.

3. STUDY AREA:

The present study is confined to the Imphal East and Imphal West districts of Indian State of Manipur.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- To find how education helps in creating environmental awareness.
- To find how environmental education and awareness can be spread between

students and the general public.

5. METHODOLOGY:

The present study is empirical, in which the survey method was used to collect the data. The study is based on the empirical evidence collected from the respondents. The appropriate statistical tools have been used to analyze the data. Consent has been taken first from all the respondents. Survey data was collected from a sample of 167 individuals (male=91 and female=76) through a circulation of forms. A standard questionnaire was distributed to the respondents to collect the data. The sampling method was random sampling. Mean, and T-test was adopted to curate a relevant result of the study.

6. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

Table 1, demonstrates the general profile of the respondents that have questions regarding their age, gender, and position in the company. The forms were filled by 54.49% male and 45.51% female in which (19.76%) are from the age of up to 40 years, (44.91%) 41-50 years, (35.33%) 51-60 years, (36.53%) are Principal, (23.35%) are Vice-Principal, (40.12%) are Senior Teachers.

Table 2, shows the Role of Education in Creating Environmental Awareness in the 21st Century through a five-point interval scale. It is seen that factor "Environmental field trips should be organized by the schools" has the highest mean (Mean value of 4.88), second highest is "Government/ Education boards should plan for exclusive short term / certificate courses in Environmental education" (Mean value 4.39), next comes "Protection of environment is every individual's first priority should be taught in schools." and "School books also help students to learning how to protect environment" (Mean value 4.33 and 4.11 respectively), another important impact is "Concepts on environmental education can be infused in Biology and Geography subjects", "Student will be able to form positive attitudes towards environmental education if online resources are provided" and "Students should be academically awarded for their contribution towards environment" (Mean value 4.09, 3.77 and 3.70) respectively, "There should be an independent subjected in the school curriculum as Environmental Education", "School garden should be developed for students to make them enjoy nature" and "Students can get deviated from other subjects if they were asked to give more importance to environmental education" (Mean value 3.88, 3.07 and 2.99) respectively.

Table 3, describes the factors that effective in making Role of Education in Creating Environmental Education in 21st by the t-test evaluation are "Environmental field trips should be organized by the schools" (mean value=4.88), "Protection of environment is every individual's first priority should be taught in schools" (mean value =4.33), "There should be an independent subjected in the school curriculum as Environmental Education" (mean value=3.88), "Concepts on environmental education can be infused in Biology and Geography subjects" (mean value=4.09), "Student will be able to form positive attitudes towards environmental education if online resources are provided" (mean value=3.77), "School books also help students to learning how to protect environment" (mean value=4.11), "Students should be academically awarded for their contribution towards environment" (mean value=3.70), "Government/ Education boards should plan for exclusive short term / certificate courses in Environmental education" (mean value=4.39) and factors which are not effective are "School garden should be developed for students to make them enjoy nature." Moreover, "Students can get deviated from other subjects if they were asked to give more importance to environmental education" because their t-value is negative.

7. CONCLUSION

According to the findings of this study, education plays a critical role in the development of environmental education. Several tactics can be used to raise awareness among students in schools and colleges, and the general public. Environmental consciousness can be raised by training courses, workshops, exhibits, and nature tours. The formal and non-formal education systems are both effective tools for raising environmental awareness. Environmental education can be coordinated, and environmental education as a subject should be included in primary, secondary, and higher education curricula. Teachers should receive enough training to educate students about environmental concerns and problems and how to conserve and protect our environment from pollution.

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TABLE 1: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENTS

Variables	No. of respondents	% age
Gender		
Male	91	54.49%
Female	76	45.51%
Total	167	100%
Age Group		

Up to 40 years	33	19.76%
41-50 years	75	44.91%
51-60 years	59	35.33%
Total	167	100%
Level of Staff (position)		
Principal	61	36.53%
Vice Principal	39	23.35%
Senior Teachers	67	40.12%
Total	167	100%

TABLE 2: EFFECTIVE SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS

Sr.No.	Statements	Mean Score
1.	Environmental field trips should be organized by the schools	4.88
2.	School garden should be developed for students to make them enjoy nature	3.07
3.	Protection of the environment is every individual's first priority that should be taught inschools.	4.33
4.	There should be an independent subject in the school curriculum as Environmental Education.	3.88
5.	Concepts on environmental education can be infused into Biology and Geographysubjects	4.09
6.	Students could get deviated from other subjects if they were asked to give moreimportance to environmental education	2.99
7.	The student will be able to form positive attitudes towards environmental education ifonline resources are provided	3.77
8.	School books also help students to learn how to protect the environment	4.11
9.	Students should be academically awarded for their contribution to the environment	3.70
10.	Government/ Education boards should plan for exclusive short-term/certificatecourses in Environmental education.	4.39

TABLE 3: EFFECTIVENESS OF IT IN SUPPLY CHAIN

Sr. No.	Statements	MeanScore	t Value	Sig
1.	Environmental field trips should be organized by the schools	4.88	21.588	0.000
2.	School garden should be developed for students to make them enjoy nature	3.07	-9.377	0.000
3.	Protection of the environment is every individual's first priority that should be taught in schools.	4.33	11.075	0.000
4.	There should be an independent subject in the school curriculum as Environmental Education.	3.88	5.230	0.000
5.	Concepts on environmental education can be infused into Biology and Geography subjects	4.09	6.390	0.000
6.	Students could get deviated from other subjects if they were asked to give more importance to environmental education	2.99	-6.676	0.000
7.	The student will be able to form positive attitudes towards environmental education if online resources are provided	3.77	4.156	0.000
8.	School books also help students to learn how to protect the environment	4.11	9.167	0.000
9.	Students should be academically awarded for their contribution to the environment	3.70	2.630	0.004
10.	Government/ Education boards should plan for exclusive short term/certificate courses in Environmental education	4.39	11.007	0.000