



A STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDE AND ECOLOGICAL BEHAVIOUR OF THE B. ED STUDENTS

KEYWORDS

Environmental Awareness , Environmental Attitude and Ecological Behaviour, B. Ed Students.

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ABSTRACT

Environment is a holistic view of the world today as it functions at any time, with a multitude of special element and socio economic systems distinguished by the quality and attributes of space and mode of behavior. The present study was conducted on 300 B. Ed students studying in Government and private teacher training colleges of Kamrup district, to know the status of environmental knowledge, environmental attitude and ecological behaviour. It has been observed that, B. Ed students are of above average level in their environmental knowledge, environmental attitude and ecological behaviour. A significant positive relationship have been observed between environmental awareness and environmental attitude, environmental awareness and ecological behaviour and environmental attitude and ecological behaviour of the B. Ed students. From the study, it can be concluded that better environmental awareness may leads to better positive attitude to environment protection and skill full environmental behaviour.

Introduction:

Much stress is laid on the environmental education for generating environmental awareness and attitude of the people so that they can take care of the earth, our life support base. Environmental awareness refers to creating general awareness of environmental issues, their causes by bringing about changes in perception, attitude, values and necessary skills to solve environment related problems. Moreover, it is the first step leading to the formation of responsible environmental behavior. Environmental attitudes are a learned predisposition to respond, towards a consistently given object negatively or positively. Ecological behavior is defined as the range of human actions or activities, all shaped by the intention to protect the environment or reducing its deterioration, besides the impact on the environment itself. Ecological behavior determines those actions, which contribute towards environmental preservation or conservation, or how can behavior be changed in a more eco-friendly direction. Environmental activities and people in general who aspire to foster a less polluted environment and promote the sustainable use of natural resource, often assume that behavior changes is a function of knowledge and attitude. Therefore creating environmental awareness and attitude and proper ecological behavior among the students is the need of the hour. In this regards, teacher trainees who teach, impart and inspire the students in the classroom can play an important role in protecting environment.

Significance of the study:

B.Ed Students are the future teachers who lead the students as growing agent of environmental restoration. Their awareness level and ecological behavior will direct the future environmental preservation and conservation. Mathews and Diley (1995) found that knowledge-attitude-behavior model described that an increase in knowledge will lead to change in attitude which will in turn influence behavior. The review of literature shows that few studies are related to awareness-attitude-behavior model of environment. Hence, the present study was conducted to assess the awareness level to the upcoming young teachers; the attitude they have developed while interacting with their environment and the ecological behavior they exhibit towards their environment. It is expected that the study may provide worthwhile results to supplement

the content efficacy, suggest some remedial measures for improving the teacher's awareness and behavior to enhance sustainability and formulating educational strategies for environmental education. Therefore, the problem of the study is stated as follows-

Statement of the Problem-

"A Study of Environmental Awareness, Attitude and Ecological Behavior of the B. Ed Students"

Objectives:

1. To study the level of environmental awareness, environmental attitude and ecological behaviour of B. Ed Students.
2. To study the difference in environmental awareness, environmental attitude and ecological behaviour of male and female, arts and science background, rural and urban area's B. Ed students towards environment.
3. To assess the relationship between environmental awareness and environmental attitude, environmental awareness and ecological behaviour, environmental attitude and ecological behavioural of B. Ed students.

Hypotheses:

1. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness, environmental attitude and ecological behaviour of male and female, arts and science background, rural and urban area's B. Ed students.
2. There exists no significant relationship between environmental awareness and attitude environmental awareness and ecological behaviour, environmental attitude and ecological behavioural of B. Ed students.

Review of Related Literature:

From the glimpse of the studies carried out in the discipline Education' major share of these studies are related to school education though they differ in terms of level and direction of objectives. Studies carried out by Gupta (1997), Das (2002) are awareness study, whereas the study carried out by Gogoi (1998) was major environmental problems of Assam. Naseema C. (2006), Ali R. (2013), Sinha B. (2013), Das Nanima, Prakesh S.R.(2014) were also studied about the environmental awareness level. A careful look of the studies reveals that

literature connected with the theme in this area is not available.

Delimitation of the Study:

- The study is limited in the geographical area of Kamrup District.
- The study is limited to the Arts and Science stream students of B.Ed colleges.

Methodology:

Method : Descriptive survey method was used in studying the problem.

Population and Sample: The students of 6 B. Ed colleges of kamrup District was taken as the population of the study out of which 300 students were randomly selected as the sample of the study.

Type of Data –Both primary and secondary data were collected.

Tools for Data Collection- Three standardized and tried out tests were used for collection of data..

1. Environmental Awareness (EA)Ability Measure by Praveen kumar Jha.

2. Environmental Attitude (ET) Scale by N. N. Srivastava and Shashi Prabha Dubey.
3. Ecological Behaviour was measured by tool based on the “Environmental Behaviour Scale” developed by A Singhal, U. Verma and P. K. Singhal.

Statistical Analysis - Mean and Standard deviation was calculated to know the status of the level of environmental awareness, Environmental Attitude (ET) and Ecological Behaviour. 't' distribution was calculated to know the differences among variables i.e. Gender, locality and Stream. Co efficient of correlation was calculated to know the relationship between the variables.

Result and Discussion :

After collection of the data analysis was made following statistical method. To know the level and differences of Environmental awareness, Environmental Attitude (ET) and Ecological Behaviour Mean and S. D and t' were calculated and presented in the table -1

TABLE NO -1 Mean, S.D and differences of environmental awareness, Environmental Attitude (ET) and Ecological Behaviour score of B. Ed students. (N=300)

Variable	Awareness					Attitude					Ecological behaviour				
	N	M	SD	t	R	N	M	SD	t	R	N	M	SD	t	R
Male	97	45.11	10.27	1.48		97	61.11	11.12	1.34		97	49.28	10.47	1.21	
Female	203	43.57	8.22			203	59.37	9.23			203	47.26	8.23		
Rural	172	43.10	10.11	2.35	*	172	57.42	9.87	4.86	**	172	46.72	9.78	2.47	*
Urban	128	45.75	8.95			128	63.11	10.13			128	49.54	9.83		
Science	96	46.17	9.86	3.23	**	96	62.28	9.86	3.08	**	96	49.65	10.11	1.45	
Arts	204	42.16	8.76			204	58.43	10.73			204	46.61	8.59		
Total	300	44.27	9.26			300	60.23	10.15			300	48.13	9.37		

From the table 1 it can be observed that the mean score of B. Ed students in environmental awareness is 44.27 with S. D 9.26 whereas, the mean score in Environmental Attitude is 60.23with S.D 10.15. The mean Ecological Behaviour score of the total no of B. Ed students is 48.13 with S. D 9.37 show above average level of environmental awareness, environmental attitude and ecological behavior of the B. Ed students.

From the table, It can also be observed that the calculated t value (1.48) of the mean awareness score between male and female B. Ed students is not significant at any level of consideration and the hypothesis of no difference between male and female B. Ed students have been accepted. The calculated t value (2.35) of the mean awareness score between rural and urban B. Ed students is found to be significant at .05 level and therefore, the hypothesis of no difference between rural and urban B. Ed students have been rejected. Again, the mean score difference of environmental awareness between the B. Ed students from Science and Arts stream and the calculated t value (3.23) is found to be significant at .01 level of and the hypothesis of no difference is therefore rejected.

From the table, It can be observed that the calculated t value (1.34) of the mean environmental attitude score between male and female B. Ed students is not significant at any level of consideration and the hypothesis of no difference between male and female B. Ed students have been accepted. The calculated t value (4.8) of the mean attitude scores between rural and urban B. Ed students is found to be significant at .01 level of significance and the hypothesis of no difference between rural and urban B. Ed students have therefore been rejected. Again, the mean score difference of environmental

attitude between the B. Ed students from Science and Arts stream and the calculated t value (3.08) is found to be significant at .01 level of consideration and the hypothesis of no difference is therefore rejected.

From the table, It can be observed that the calculated t value (1.21) of the mean ecological behavior scores between male and female B. Ed students is not significant at any level of consideration and the hypothesis of no difference between male and female B. Ed students have been accepted. The calculated t value (2.47) of the mean ecological behavior score between rural and urban B. Ed students is found to be significant at .01 level of consideration and the hypothesis of no difference between rural and urban B. Ed students have therefore been rejected. Again, the mean score difference of ecological behavior between the B. Ed students from Science and Arts stream and the calculated t value (1.45) is found to be not significant at any level of consideration and the hypothesis of no difference is therefore accepted.

To know the relationship between the variables environmental awareness, Environmental Attitude (ET) and Ecological Behaviour, coefficient of correlation was calculated and presented in the Table 2

TABLE NO -2 Coefficient of correlation between Environmental Awareness and Environmental Attitude, Environmental Awareness and Ecological Behavior, Ecological behavior and Environmental Attitude

Variables	Correlation	Level of significance
Environmental Awareness and Attitude	0.34	**
Environmental Awareness and Ecological Behavior	0.18	*
Ecological behavior and Environmental attitude	0.32	**

From the table, and consulting the critical value of r with df 298, it is found that there exist significant positive relationships between environmental awareness and attitude, environmental awareness and ecological behavior, ecological behavior and environmental attitude and therefore the hypotheses of no relationship have been rejected..

Major Findings-

Major findings of the study are-

1. The level of environmental awareness, environmental attitude (ET) and ecological behaviour of B. Ed students are of above average level.

2. There is no significant difference in the level of environmental awareness, environmental attitude (ET) and ecological behaviour of the male and female B. Ed students.

3. There is exist significant difference in the level of environmental awareness, environmental attitude (ET) and ecological behaviour of the rural and urban B. Ed students.

4. There exist significant difference in the level of environmental awareness, environmental attitude (ET) of the B. Ed students of science and arts stream.

5. There is positive and significant relationship between environmental awareness and environmental attitude, environmental awareness and ecological behaviour, ecological behaviour and environmental attitude of the B. Ed students.

Educational Implication-

The findings of the present study evidently reveal that environmental awareness of the B. Ed students significantly relates to their environmental attitude and ecological behavior. It can be therefore conclude that to enhance the environmental awareness leading to environmental attitude and ecological behavior, it becomes mandatory that rigorous policies and programs should be incorporated in teacher training curriculum. The process of environmental education must be sincerely implemented where the teacher trainees become aware about different teaching model of environmental education and develop the attitude to participate in environment protection activities and exhibit environment friendly behavior and lastly get skills to solve environmental problems and also encourage the society as a whole.

Suggestion- Parents and teachers should try to inculcate knowledge about environment and develop positive and healthy attitude towards environment from the very beginning of life. B Ed Students too need to be exposed to real environment situations to bring changes in attitude and behavior. In this regard, government, academicians, policy holders, politicians, and administrators must stress upon

teaching and training of environment related content and activities besides vigorously implementing them in course curricula. In conclusion it can be said that, the need of the hour is to link theory with practice and its effective implementation in solving environmental problems ranging from local to global level.

Conclusion – From the present study it can be observed that introduction of environmental education in the teacher training curricula, improved environmental awareness and attitude of the B. Ed students. But this in turn has not improved their ecological behaviour. Environmental behaviour is a complex phenomenon that involves not only the knowledge, attitude and behaviour intention but also firm commitment and moral norms about the preservation of environmental quality. The need of the society demand a link between the theory and practice, and it's effective implementation in the solution of environmental problems ranging from local to global level.

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