Research Paper Environmental Science

Education Level and Environmental Hygiene: A Correlative Study in Palashbari Revenue Circle, Kamrup District, Assam

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ABSTRACT

In the present study, an attempt has been made to focus on some aspects of environmental hygienic condition linking to the education level of the people of Palashbari Revenue Circle, Kamrup district, Assam.Education level influences the environmental hygiene which then directly or indirectly influences health condition within the different communities inhabiting in the selected zones of the study area.A correlative investigation on educational level and some hygienic parameters has been incorporated in this study that reflects that thehygienic status is not very conducive to health in the study area.Results of the present study reveal the fact that the environmental hygienic status of people with the higher education level is satisfactory in comparison to the people with lowest educational standard.

KEYWORDS Education level, Environmental Hygiene, Health

Introduction

India is a land of villages which is bestowed by more than 70 percent of its population living in the villages. Till the 21st century the socioeconomic development among the people of the rural areas is not at all procure.People having the lowest income level cannot provideeducation, proper facilities in terms of hygiene and sanitation to their family.Due to the lack of proper education and awareness, people of the rural areas are not concerned about the neighborhood environmental hygiene which then affects health directly or indirectly because of which they had to suffer a lot.

Many of the historical studies point towards the precise relationship between socioeconomic conditions and health-hygienic status.'*Socioeconomic Profile of an UrbanCommunity near Guwahati: A Geographical analysis'* by H. N. Sharma (1981) is an important work for the author attempts to explore the degree of the spread of city's influences on the pattern of socioeconomic life style and changing character of community near the city. In 1984, J. Borah and H. N. Sharma studied the environmental pattern of socioeconomic changes in the peri-urban villages of Guwahati city. A study entitled '*Indigenous Health and Socioeconomic Status in India*' carried out by S. V. Subramanian, G. D. Smith, M Subramanyam (2005), shows that there is a socioeconomic gradient in mortality and health behaviors among indigenous people. A paper entitled *'Challenges of sustainable environmental health in developing countries'* by KJ Nath (2007) examines prevention through hygiene and public health in relation to other environmental factors which affect the health of communities in developing countries.

The present study has been carried out in the southern part of Kamrup district of Assam, popularly known as 'South Kamrup'. The south Kamrup is situated between 25°45′ and 26°12′ North Latitude and between 90°55′ and 92°10′ East Longitude with an elevation of 40-744m MSL. The study aimed to investigate the environmental hygienic condition in relation to the education level of Palashbari Revenue Circle (geographical area- 279803 B - 4K - 0L)under Guwahati Sub-Divisionof KamrupDistrict of Assam where people of different communities and castes inhabit togetherunder different socioeconomic conditions.

Most of the rural people of the study area suffer from health problems on account of contaminated drinking water, improper sanitation, poor waste disposal system, poor habitat, insufficient medicalfacilities,indoor air pollution, water pollution, poor livestock hygiene and so on.Higher education level promises higher quality of job acquirements which refines the economic condition and these leads to the improvement in living standard of people providing the acne of higher facilities as per the hygiene is concerned. Therefore, there is anutmost need to understand the relationship between education level and environmental hygienic condition in order to avoid the unhygienic settlement in the study areaby putting more emphasis on education in the near future.

Methodology

A total of nineteen villages of the Circle have been selected. In terms of its quality and content, the selected villages may be considered as representative micro-units of the entire Revenue Circle.

For the primary data an intensive field survey has to be undertaken using questionnaire administered through personal interviews. The method of two stage stratified random sampling is used for the selection of households. The first stage consists of the selection of villages and second stage of sampling comprises of the selection of households from each representative village. Households were considered randomly for the collection of basicdata in the present study. We have established some relationship between the educational levels with that of the environmental hygienic parameters. Some common statistical methods are used for comparing the value. The database is partly analyzed through computer-based techniques.

A total of 186 families which constitute 10 percent of 1857 families inhabited in the selected villages were covered under the survey

Resultsand Discussion

Here in the present study different types of hygienic parameters such as types of house, toilet, drinking water, types of fuel, waste disposal system, food hygiene and livestock hygiene with respect to the education level i.e. High school, college, post graduate and above post graduate level are considered.

There are a large number of katcha houses i.e. 42 houses belongs to the people having education level of high school

standard. Almost equal numbers of people belong to the educationlevel up to college standard lives in semi-katcha and pucca houses. The people having education level of PG mainly have larger number of pucca houses. The people having education level above PG do not have any katcha and semi-katcha houses.

Again, the 57 families having educational level up to high school uses the service type of toilets and they are devoid of other two types i.e. septic and flush types. The 38 families use septic type of toilets that belongs to the education level up to college. The people having educational level start from P.G. to above P.G. have negligible service types of toilets and they mainly have septic and flushtypes of toilets respectively.

Table 1: Relationship between education level with types of house and toilet

Education level	No. of HH	Types of house				Types of Toilet			
		Katcha	Semi-Katcha	Pucca	Total	Service	Septic	Flush	Total
H.S	76	42	25	9	76	57	16	3	76
College	64	18	22	24	64	23	38	3	64
P.G	35	2	7	26	35	1	30	4	35
Above P.G.	11	0	0	11	11	0	3	8	11
Total	186	62	54	70	186	81	87	18	186

Table 2 reveals that the dug wells are the main source of drinking water for the peoples having educational level up to high school, 46 families are dependent on them and 21 families having the tube well whereas 6 families of the same educational level depends on the stream or river. There are 9 dug wells for the people having educational level of PG and 2 to 21 tube wells for the people having educational level range from above PG and PG respectively and both the categories are devoid of stream or river water. Piped water is the main source of drinking water to the people having the highest educational standard.

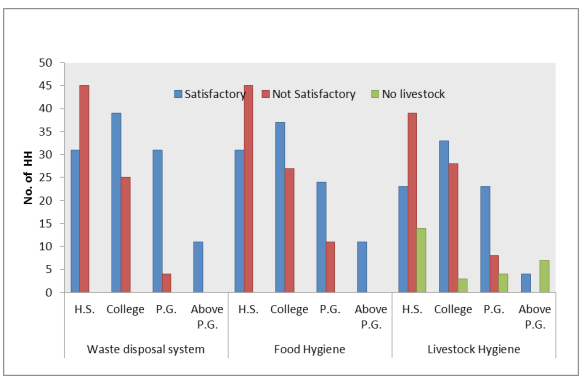
The people having education level up to high school abundantly use wood as a type of fuel whereas the amount of LPG users is less. The LPG is the only fuel being used by the people having above P.G. level.

Table 2: Relationship between education level with drinking water source and types of fuel used

Education level	No. of HH	Drinking Water Source					Types of Fuel		
		Dug well	Tube well	Piped Water	River/ Stream	Total	LPG	Wood	Total
H.S	76	46	21	3	6	76	25	51	76
College	64	27	29	5	3	64	33	31	64
P.G	35	9	21	5	0	35	30	5	35
Above P.G.	11	0	2	9	0	11	11	0	11
Total	186	82	73	22	9	186	99	87	186

The relationship of education level with hygiene related to waste disposal system, food and livestock is presented in Figure 1.From the figure it is clear that hygiene related to waste disposal system, food and livestock is satisfactory in the people having higher education i.e. P.G and above P.G. But the satisfaction level among the people having high school and college level education as per the hygiene is concerned is comparatively not conducive to health in the study area as observed in the Figure 1.

Fig. 1: Relationship between education level and some hygienic parameters



Conclusion

From the study, it has been observed that the environmental hygiene is directly related to socio-economic condition of the households to which they belong.Education is always playing a very pivotal role in this regard. If we unable to maintain the quality of education then we cannot foster any growth in case of environmental hygiene.The hygienic condition is found satisfactory among people having the high education level. If the underprivileged section of the society is also enlightened with education then they will be sufficiently aware about environmental hygiene which will definitely incubate development towards a salubrious life.

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