

# Improving Awareness towards Environment through Education

## Abstract

Human activities and development have disrupted the natural resources and dynamically balance natural system. Thus, the responsibility of caring and protecting the environment falls on the shoulders of human beings. There is a need to educate the people so that they are more aware and take active part in the move to care for the environment by making informed decisions and taking the right action to protect the environment. The objective of this study is to find out the environmental attitude of UG students before and after studying the environment education. The findings reveal that environmental education increases the awareness and help in creating a balance and equitable environment.

**Keywords:** Environment Education & Sustainable Development.

## Introduction

In the present scenario the distribution of various natural resources like forest, agriculture, medicinal plants etc. have its own importance in the world. Unfortunately, there exist a growing evidence of manmade harm in many region of the earth: dangerous levels of pollution in water, air, earth and living beings, major and desirable disturbances in the ecological balance of biosphere destruction and depletion of irreplaceable resources and gross deficiencies harmful to physical, mental and social health of man (Yashodhara, 2003). Thus, the responsibility of caring and protecting the environment falls on the shoulders of human beings. There is a need to educate the people so that they are more aware and take active part in the move to care for the environment by making informed decisions and taking the right action to protect the environment. Research has shown that educational efforts can significantly increase awareness and improve attitude towards environment. Education is particularly important when individuals are simply lacking in relevant knowledge about environmental issues and is more likely to be effective in changing attitude of young minds. Education is a social process of growth in the sense of producing desirable change in the behavioral components of human behavior: the components include knowledge, skill and attitude (Dutt and Kumari, 2016). The main objectives of environmental education are that individual should acquire awareness and knowledge, develop attitude, skills and abilities to participate in solving real life problems. Education in the field of environment is not only concerned about classroom activities but also by conducting several exercises on ecological development. Environmental awareness, conservation and sustainable development are the basic components of environment education programme. So the basic idea behind this work is to find out the difference in attitude of students towards environment awareness.

## Review of Literature

Kopardekar (1987) has observed that Environmental Education will help in restoration of relationship between human beings and their surroundings. The Honourable Supreme Court of India gave a directive on 18 Dec 2003 to impart EE in educational institutions as a compulsory subject although in one or other form EE existed in school curriculum (Sonowal, 2009). Chaudhary, 2010 analyzed that girls have high level of awareness and attitude toward environmental education than the boys, students those who were economically categorized in high level, their attitude towards EE are better than the other categorized students. Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) play a vital role in transforming societies educationally and socially (Barth & Rieckmann, 2012). Bhat *et al.*, 2017 explained better strategies for proper implementation of environmental education in India and achieving the common goal of sustainability.

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**Objectives of the Study**

1. To understand the importance of environment awareness programme.
2. To analyses the perception of students about awareness initiatives.

**Methodology**

This research includes both descriptive and analytical approaches. It was conducted to understand the awareness of the students about environment. The data were collected in the college through a questionnaire and interview method. 80 students have been selected from our college. The structured sampling technique has been adopted to collect data. The study has revealed information on students' perception about their interest in making sustainable environment. This study is purely based on primary data.

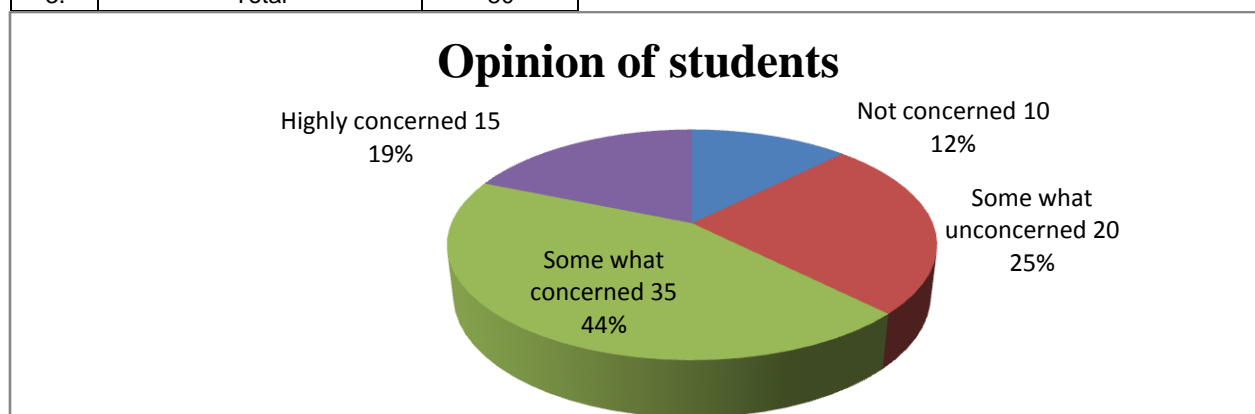
S. No.	Education status	Frequency
1.	UG I <sup>st</sup> year students	40
2.	UG II <sup>nd</sup> year students	40
3.	Total	80

**Field Work**

The present study has taken at UG level students. All of them are female students. A questionnaire was framed to know the awareness of students in the study area

S. No.	Opinion of students	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Not concerned	10	12.5
2.	Some what unconcerned	20	25
3.	Some what concerned	35	43.75
4.	Highly concerned	15	18.75
5.	Total	80	100

The above table depicts that out of 80 students, 18.75 percent students are highly interested to take up active participation in the environment awareness campaign. 43.75 percent of students are interested to be part of this programme. 12.5 % of girls were not concerned about this programme.



**Results**

The present research paper has two main findings-

1. 87.5 % total girls have awareness about environment awareness programme.
2. 68.75 % of students are not interested to take direct participation in this programme but, they express interest in passive participation.

**Conclusions**

The attitude of students has become more favorable towards the environment after studying the subject on environment education as the participation of second year students were more than first year students. This study shows the potential of introducing a paper on environment to nurture student's attitude towards caring for the environment by giving them massive and ultimate information in an interesting way. The majority of students have concerned over the present situation but they have not been inspired to get actively involved, therefore NGOs, private and government organization also should take up some initiatives to create social awareness programme by organizing seminars, quizzes and workshop etc.

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