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**ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG UG AND PG STUDENTS**

**Bishakha Mandal**

*Ex- student, Department of Education, Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University, West Bengal, India.*

**Abstract**

Nowadays environmental problems have become the leading problems of our society. Increasing population and their rapid changing lifestyle contribute to increasing the environmental issue at the top level. And this also causes ecological imbalance and today the environment is on the verge of extinction. Therefore, creating environmental awareness among masses is the way to prevent environmental issues and save the environment from man-made disasters. In this regard the present study aims to find out the environmental awareness among UG and PG students of different strata. The researcher formulated six hypotheses in this study. Descriptive survey method was employed in the present study. 169 samples were collected from UG and PG students using the purposive sampling technique. Researcher develop a self-made questionnaire for collection of data. After data collection the researcher tabulated the data and used t-test to test hypotheses. The result of this study revealed that there is no significant difference between UG and PG students towards environmental awareness from different strata (gender, locality and stream wise).

**Keywords:** *Environmental problem, Awareness, UG and PG Students*

**Introduction**

Nowadays environmental problems have become the leading problems of our society. The environment is getting polluted day by day due to the development of society. Water, air, soil pollution, deforestation, depletion of natural resources, industrialization, etc. are creating environmental imbalances. Creating environmental awareness among the public is a very important issue. Environmental awareness can prevent environmental problems. Creating environmental awareness among the students is important to save the environment from man-made disasters because they are the citizens of the future society and they play an important role in the development of the society. In this context, it is necessary to create environmental awareness, and awaken environmental values because it is possible to educate the people about environmental issues and take appropriate action.

**Review of Related Literature**

R. Daniel Raja (2019) studied the title – “A Study of Environmental Awareness of Students at Higher Secondary Level”. The study was carried out with a sample of 180 students from standard XII using environmental awareness scale for assessing the significant difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness. The result indicated that – there exist significant differences in the mean scores of environmental awareness in terms of the stream. There exists no significant difference in the mean scores of environmental awareness in terms of gender and the type of institutions.

Bhatia. Gunjan and Bhatia. Mukta (2013) studied the title – “A Study of Environmental Awareness among Post Graduate Students of Distt Yamana Nagar, Haryana”. The study was hypothesized as there exists no significant difference between postgraduate male and female students, science and art students, and rural and urban students regarding environmental awareness. The findings showed that - there exists no significant difference between the post-graduate male and female students and science and art students. There exists a significant difference between rural and urban students regarding environmental awareness. V.P. Saranya and S. Suthakar (2018) studied the title – “A study on environmental awareness among college students at undergraduate level in Vellore district”. This study examined the relationship between environmental awareness among college students at the undergraduate level in the Vellore district. The study revealed that - there is no significant difference between the mean scores of environmental awareness of college students in terms of gender, medium of study, year of study, nature of college, parent’s educational qualification, and nature of family. Chavada Kuldeep and Charan Dinesh (2020) studied the title – “An analysis of environmental awareness ability among college students”. The aim of this study was to study the Environmental Awareness Ability of College Students in relation to their gender and level of education. The findings revealed that there is no significant difference was found among them with regard to gender, there insufficient difference was found among them with regard to the level of education.

**Significance:** The environment is God's invaluable gift to man. It is like the second mother of man. It gives an incredible life to all living things on earth. This crisis is rapidly increasing due to rapid population explosion, industrialization, depletion of natural resources, urbanization, etc. And the environment is on the verge of extinction, and all living things are on the brink of extinction. Since students are the future citizens of society, it is important to create environmental awareness in them. This study will help the student to know their level of awareness towards the environment and also help the teacher to know and increase their awareness. Because only if students are fully aware of environmental issues will they be able to protect and prevent those issues and create awareness in the community.

### **Operational Term**

U.G.- It means the under graduate level students who are studying in general degree colleges.

P.G.- It means the post graduate level students who are studying in conventional mode in universities.

### **Objectives**

1. To find out the environmental awareness of UG students with respect to gender (Boys and Girls).
2. To find out the environmental awareness of PG students with respect to gender (Boys and Girls).
3. To find out the environmental awareness of UG students with respect to locality (Urban and Rural).
4. To find out the environmental awareness of PG students with respect to locality (Urban and Rural).
5. To find out the environmental awareness of UG students with respect to stream (Arts and Science).
6. To find out the environmental awareness of PG students with respect to stream (Arts and Science).

### **Hypotheses**

1. There is no significant difference between boys and girls regarding the environmental awareness of UG students.
2. There is no significant difference between boys and girls regarding the environmental awareness of PG students.
3. There is no significant difference between urban and rural regarding the environmental awareness of UG students.
4. There is no significant difference between urban and rural regarding the environmental awareness of PG students.
5. There is no significant difference between arts and science regarding the environmental awareness of UG students.

6. There is no significant difference between arts and science regarding the environmental awareness of PG students.

**Methodology:** The descriptive survey method was used for this present study as per the nature of the study. which was quantitative in nature.

**Population:** All UG level students of the session 2020-2022, studying in the affiliated colleges of Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University and North Bengal University one strata of population. All students studying in different PG courses for the session 2021-2023 in Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University and Alipurduar University are the second strata of population.

**Sample:** The researcher collected data from 169 UG and PG students using a purposive sampling technique. Samples were collected from four colleges and two universities in Cooch Behar and Alipurduar districts. This sample consisted 117 ug students and 52 PG students.

**Table 1: Sample Data Sheet of Colleges**

No	Name of the college	Address of the college	Affiliated university	Respondent
1.	Tufanganj Mahavidyalaya	Tufanganj, Cooch Behar	Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University	56
2.	Vivekananda College	Birpara Alipurduar	North Bengal University	32
3.	Alipurduar College	Court More, Alipurduar	North Bengal University	22
4.	Saheed Kshudiram College	Kamakhyaguri, Alipurduar	North Bengal University	7
Total	4			117

**Table 2: Sample Data Sheet of Universities**

No	Name of the University	Address of the university	Respondent
1.	CBPBU university	Vivekananda Steet, Cooch Behar	18
2.	Alipurduar university	Court More, Alipurduar	34
Total	2		52

**Measuring Instrument:** The investigator develops a self-oriented questionnaire for data collection. The questionnaire contains 30 items. There are two reactions to each question - agreed and disagreed. The score for a positive response is '1' and '0' for negative reactions. The validity of the questionnaire was verified by an expert.

**Collection of Data:** Data was collected individually from all samples of UG and PG students by offline survey, which was conducted in between 10-20 August, 2022.

**Analysis and Interpretation:** After collecting data, the investigator tabulated the data systematically for statistical analysis and then used the Mean, SD, SE, and 't'-tests for data analysis and interpretation. The 't'-test was estimated to find significant differences (gender, locality, and stream-wise) of different strata of UG and PG students.

### Testing Hypothesis

**Ho1:** There is no significant difference between boys and girls regarding the environmental awareness of UG students.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	SE	df	t -value
Boys	64	23.78	3.36	0.42	115	0.23
Girls	53	24.52	3.38	0.46		

From the above table, it is noted that the calculated 't' value was not significant, so the corresponding null hypothesis was accepted. So, it can be said that there is no significant difference between boys and girls regarding the environmental awareness of UG students.

**Ho2:** There is no significant difference between boys and girls regarding the environmental awareness of PG students.

Gender	N	Mean	SD	SE	df	t- value
Boys	31	23.25	3.88	0.69	50	0.01
Girls	21	25.66	2.37	0.51		

From the above table, it was noted that the calculated 't' value was not significant, so the corresponding null hypothesis was accepted. So, it can be said that there is no significant difference between boys and girls regarding the environmental awareness of PG students.

**Ho3:** There is no significant difference between urban and rural regarding the environmental awareness of UG students.

Locality	N	Mean	SD	SE	df	t-value
Urban	42	23.45	4.06	0.62	115	0.09
Rural	75	24.57	2.29	0.33		

From the above table, it was noted that the calculated 't' value was not significant, so the corresponding null hypothesis was accepted. So, it can be said that there is no significant difference between urban and rural towards environmental awareness of UG students.

**Ho4:** There is no significant difference between urban and rural regarding the environmental awareness of PG students.

Locality	N	Mean	SD	SE	df	t- value
Urban	24	25.12	3.05	0.62	50	0.09
Rural	28	23.46	3.77	0.71		

From the above table, it was noted that the calculated 't' value was not significant, so the corresponding null hypothesis was accepted. So, it can be said that there is no significant difference between urban and rural towards environmental awareness of PG students.

**Ho5:** There is no significant difference between arts and science regarding the environmental awareness of PG students.

Stream	N	Mean	SD	SE	df	t- value
Arts	79	24.22	3.04	0.34	115	0.62
Science	38	23.89	4.00	0.64		

From the above table, it was noted that the calculated 't' value was not significant, so the corresponding null hypothesis was accepted. So, it can be said that there is no significant difference between arts and science towards environmental awareness of UG students.

**Ho6:** There is no significant difference between arts and science regarding the environmental awareness of PG students.

Stream	N	Mean	SD	SE	df	t- value
Arts	27	23.48	3.46	0.66	50	0.25
Science	25	24.64	3.57	0.71		

From the above table, it was noted that the calculated 't' value was not significant, so the corresponding null hypothesis was accepted. So, it can be said that there is no significant difference between arts and science towards environmental awareness of PG students.

### Findings

1. There is no significant difference between boys and girls towards environmental awareness of UG students.
2. There is no significant difference between boys and girls towards environmental awareness of PG students.
3. There is no significant difference between urban and rural towards environmental awareness of UG students.
4. There is no significant difference between urban and rural towards environmental awareness of PG students.
5. There is no significant difference between arts and science towards environmental awareness of UG students.
6. There is no significant difference between arts and science towards environmental awareness of PG students.

**Summary:** The study was conducted to find out the environmental awareness among UG and PG students from different strata (gender, locality, and stream-wise). 169 sample was collected in this study from Cooch Behar and Alipurduar districts by using purposive sampling technique. Among 169 samples 117 samples were UG students and 52 samples were PG students. The result revealed that there is no significant difference between UG and PG students towards environmental awareness from different strata (gender, locality, and stream-wise).

**Suggestion for future research:** At the completion of the study the researcher thinks that there are huge areas for the study in which others researchers can study. Those areas are following

1. To study the environmental awareness of UG students.
2. To study the environmental awareness of PG students.
3. A comparative study of UG and PG students towards environmental awareness.
4. Same study can conduct on different district by taking larger sample.



**Limitation of the Study:** From the end of the study the researcher indicated some limitation in this study. Those limitation were:

1. In this study the investigator used only purposive sampling technique and non-probability sampling method.
2. Not used the randomization method to select samples from population.
3. Only categorical variable was used in the study.
4. Only four college and two university were selected.

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