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ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AMONG THE RURAL AND URBAN STUDENTS OF DHEMAJI DISTRICT OF ASSAM AND EAST SIANG DISTRICT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract: A comparative analysis of environmental awareness issues and challenges as well as college-bound students' degree of active engagement in environmental activities has been conducted. The study involved surveying senior college students from various socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds in the districts of East Siang, Arunachal Pradesh, and Dhemaji, Assam. The study's findings demonstrated that the students who took part had a high degree of environmental awareness. Using the random sampling technique, 200 college-bound students from the Udalguri district in Assam and the East Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh were chosen for the sample in this study. In the student sample, equal representation for both sex and location has been guaranteed.

Key words: Socioeconomic backgrounds, Demographic backgrounds, East Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh, Dhemaji district, Random sampling technique, Udalguri district

1.0 Introduction

The fastest decline in environmental consciousness among college and high school students is the most catastrophic development of this century. The situation has gotten worse due to the population explosion. People began depleting natural resources on the one hand, and polluting the planet on the other, which upset the ecosystem's delicate ecological balance. The consequences for human civilization will be dire if this trend persists. The protection of the ecological balance will be made possible by environmental education and awareness. The goal of environmental education is to instill in students the knowledge, mindset, abilities, and communication necessary to preserve the environment. All that environmental education consists of is teaching society to view the environment as a whole.

Studies by Rajput (1988), Gupta (1986), Robinson (1996) & Surekha (2003), Sundararajan and Rasckar (1993), Bird (1940), Patel and Patel (1994), Lenka (2005), and Vernal (2006) have all been done, and while the results show that they are aware of the environment, their attitudes toward its protection are not positive. The environment is now a concern for everyone, including academics, intellectuals, scientists, governments, and policymakers worldwide (Kant and Sharma, 2013). Sing (2008) also notes that primary school teachers' attitudes regarding environmental education are uninspiring. Few studies have been conducted in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh regarding the interests, attitudes, and awareness of students in various grades regarding the environment. There isn't much instruction on environmental education at the school level.

As a result, schoolchildren have little awareness of their surroundings. As of right now, it seems that educating students in secondary school is crucial to increasing their environmental consciousness. High college students are the primary subject of environmental awareness studies, not high school students. As a result, college students are the subject of this study. It has been determined how actively students participate in environmental activities in addition to how aware they are of environmental issues and problems. The analysis and interpretation of the results were the focus of this study. Prior to being tabulated, arranged, examined, and interpreted, the stock data is meaningless. The statistical methods that will be applied to the data analysis and interpretation are described in the research plan. The primary goals of this study are to evaluate and compare the environmental consciousness of degree-seeking college students in the East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh and Dhemaji, a distinct region of Assam. The investigator employed the "t" test, central tendency, and variability measures for this purpose. The study's findings showed that while

students in this situation exhibited a high degree of environmental awareness, mass media and classroom instruction seem to be important resources. Adoption of environmental rights and responsibilities in schools should be followed by practical training models that target environmental attitudes and behaviors. At this point, school curricula need to be organized. It is important to monitor how the decisions made will affect the science and technology lesson plans for the 2013–2014 academic year. If these arrangements don't work out, they should be changed. Additionally, visual media ought to be used to effectively support school curricula.

2.0 The objectivities of the present study are as under

1. Researching the gender differences in environmental consciousness among college-bound students from the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam.

2. To investigate the level of environmental consciousness among college-bound students in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam with regard to their immediate surroundings.

3.0 Hypotheses of the study

In light of the study's goals, the following theories have been developed:

i. H1: The degree of environmental awareness among male and female college students in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam is not significantly different from one another.
ii. H2: There is no discernible difference in the environmental awareness levels of rural and urban college students in the East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji District of Assam.

4.0 Delimitation of the study:

i. The study's scope has been restricted to: • College-bound students in the East Siang and Dhemaji districts of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.
ii. The demographics of college-bound students in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam, including their sex.

5.0 Methodology:

The researcher used Simple Random Sampling Techniques with Descriptive Survey method in order to achieve the goals of the current study. The current study will employ various procedural methodologies, including sample selection.

- Tool selection.
- Tool administration.
- The scoring process.

5.1 **Using the random sampling technique**: 200 college-bound students from the Dhemaji district in Assam and the East Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh were chosen for the current study.In the student sample, equal representation for both sex and location has been guaranteed.
The distribution of sample is shown in the table:

Table: (1) Distribution Of The Sample Students.

Category			**Total students**		
	Assam			**Arunachal Pradesh**	
Sample	**100**		**200**	**100**	
Sex	Male=50	Female=50		Male=50	Female =50
Locality	Rural=25	Rural=25		Rural=25	Rural=25
	Urban=25	Urban=25		Urban=25	Urban=25

5.2 **Picking the Right Tools**: The following instruments are created and applied in this study

5.2.1 Students' attitudes toward going to college:

- The researcher developed and standardized a two-point attitude scale to gauge college-bound students' environmental awareness.
- Statement collection and editing: The researcher created sixty statements that expressed opinions about environmental awareness. Three language and subject matter experts from each of the two categories edited each statement. 51 statements were kept in the initial draft of this environmental awareness scale after editing was finished.
- Try it out: A sample of thirty-two degree-seeking students were given the initial draft of the 51 statements.
- In this awareness scale, there were two options for each statement, such as YES or NO. The respondent was instructed to check any option that matched their willingness.
- Positive statements received a weight of 1, while negative statements received a weight of 0. The sum of the 51 statements was used to calculate the students' attitude scale scores. A student may receive a maximum score of 51 on this attitude scale.

5.2.2 **Preparation of Final Draft:**
A sample of 32 students, 16 of whom were male and 16 of whom were female, from Degree colleges that were being considered for this study were given the preliminary draft of 51 statements. The scoring was completed in accordance with the weights. The procedure involved computing the "t" value of 51 statements by taking the upper 25% and lower 25% of cases based on their environmental awareness score. 51 statements had "t" values that were found to be greater than 1.75. As a result, 51 statements were kept in the final version of the awareness scale that gauges college-bound students' environmental consciousness.

5.2.3 Validity & Reliability: The Test-Re-Test method was employed by the investigator to determine the attitude scale's validity and reliability. A high level of reliability is indicated by the reliability index co-efficient, which has been calculated to be.94. The tool's content validity, ascertained through the utilization of external subject matter experts' opinions, is.90.
Administration of Tools: The next stage is to start data collection after the sample has been chosen and the data gathering instruments have been prepared. In order to secure efficient cooperation and a seamless research study execution, the investigator made initial contact with the principals of the chosen degree colleges. The investigator visited the chosen colleges with the principal's approval in order to gather information from incoming college students.

5.3 **Methodology of Scoring:**
5.3.1 Student attitude scale: The scale consists of 51 items. Positive statements received a weight of 1, while negative statements received a weight of 0.

6.0 Analysis and interpretation of result
This study's main focus was on the analysis and interpretation of the findings. The stock data is useless until it is tallied, organized, analyzed, and interpreted. The research plan outlines the statistical techniques that will be used for the analysis and interpretation of the data. This study's main objectives are to assess and compare the environmental awareness of college students pursuing degrees in the Dhemaji District of Assam and the East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh. For this purpose, the researcher used measures of variability, central tendency, and the "t" test.

6.1 Objectives : To assess the Environmental attitude among the college students of Dhemaji District of Assam & East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh.

6.2 **Hypothesis:** The environmental awareness scores of male and female students in Dhemaji district and East Siang district do not significantly differ from one another.

Table 2 : Computation of Mean and SD of Environmental awareness scores of college going male and female students of Dhemaji District of Assam

M = AM + $\frac{\Sigma fx'}{N}$ × i= 40.35 **SD** = $i\sqrt{\frac{\Sigma fx'^2}{N} - \left(\frac{\Sigma fx'}{N}\right)^2}$ =4.405 **N=100**

Computation of Mean = 40.35 Computation of SD = 4.405

Table 3: Computation of Mean and SD of Environmental awareness scores of college going male and female students of East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh

M = AM + $\frac{\Sigma fx'}{N}$ × i= 40.9 **SD** = $\sqrt[i]{\frac{\Sigma fx'^2}{N} - \left(\frac{\Sigma fx'}{N}\right)^2}$ =4.45 **N=100**

Computation of Mean = 40.9 Computation of SD = 4.45

SE_D = $\sqrt{\frac{{\sigma_1}^2}{N_1} + \frac{{\sigma_2}^2}{N_2}} = \sqrt{.4}$ =SE_D = .63

$where\ t' = \frac{M_1 - M_2}{SE_D}$ **= .87, df** $= N_1 + N_2 - 2$ =198

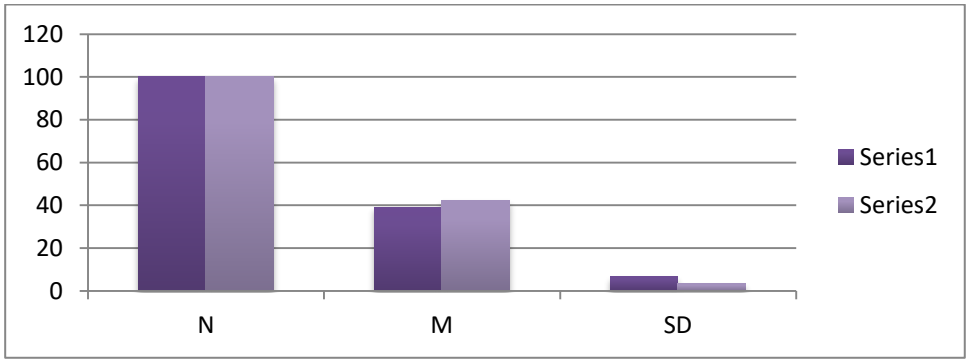
By using the computed mean and standard deviation values of environmental attitude scores of Male & Female college students of Dhemaji District of Assam and East Siang District of Arunachal Pradesh.

Where't' = .87 'df' = 198

The table value of't' for df 198 is 1.97 at 0.05 level of significance and 2.60 at 0.01 level of significance.

Table 4: Summary of Environmental awareness mean scores, SD and't' value of male and female college going students of Dhemaji district of Assam and East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Groups	N	M	SD	SED	t-VALUE	d f	Level of significance
Assam	**100**	**40.35**	**4.41**	**0.63**	**.87**	**198**	**0.05 (*1.97)**
Arunachal Pradesh	**100**	**40.9**	**4.45**				**0.01 (*2.60)**



Source: Series 1 indicates Assam & Series2 indicates Arunachal.

6.3 Interpretation: For df–198, the computed "t" value of.87 is less than the criterion table values of 1.97 at the 0.05 & 2.60 at the 0.01 level of significance, according to table 4. At the 0.05 and 0.01 levels, the

calculated "t" value of.87 is not significant. Thus, both levels accept the hypothesis. It follows that there is no discernible variation in environmental consciousness. Mean scores of students from East Siang district in Arunachal Pradesh and Dhemaji district in Assam who are planning to attend college.

Mean, standard deviation, and T-value calculations:

to evaluate the level of environmental consciousness among male students in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam, both in rural and urban areas.

Hypothesis:

The environmental awareness scores of male students in Dhemaji district, Assam, and East Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh, do not differ statistically significantly from those of their urban counterparts.

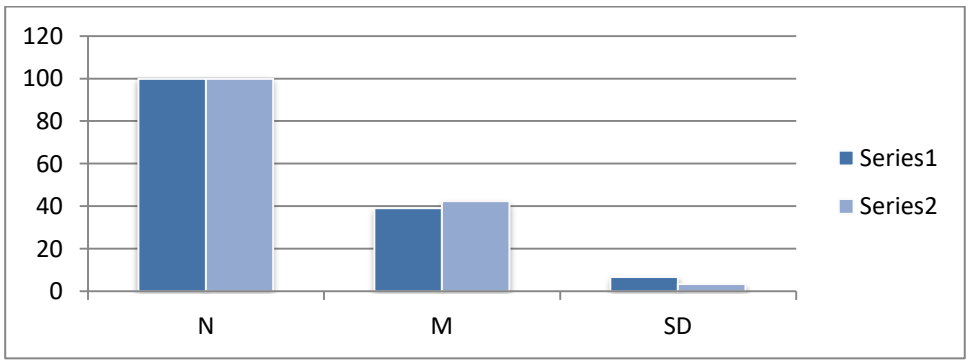
Table-5 : Computation of Mean and SD of Environmental awareness scores of college going rural male and urban male students of Dhemaji district

By using the computed mean & standard deviation values of environmental awareness scores of rural and urban college going male students of two districts, the t- value was computed below.

't' = 1.49 'df' = 98

Table 6 : Summary of Environmental awareness scores, SD and 't' – value of Rural and Urban college going male students of Dhemaji and East siang District.

GROUPS	N	MEAN SCORE	SD	SED	t-VALUE	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Assam Rural male	50	41.5	3.9	.94	1.49	0.65*(1.98)
Arunachal Pradesh Urban male	50	40.1	5.4			0.01*(2.63)



Source: Series1 indicates Rural & Urban male of Assam & Series2 indicates Rural & Urban male of Arunachal Pradesh

6.4 Interpretation: Table 6 above shows that, at the 0.05 level of significance and 2.63 at the 0.01 level for df-98, the computed "t" value of 1.49 is less than the criterion "t" value of 1.98. The hypothesis is accepted since the computed "t" value of 1.49 is not significant at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels. This indicates that there is no discernible difference between the mean scores of male college-bound rural and urban students from the

East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam with respect to environmental awareness. As a result, the null hypothesis holds.

7.0 Calculation for the Mean, Standard deviation and T- value :

7.1 Objective : The purpose of this study is to evaluate the degree of environmental consciousness among female college students in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam.

7.2 Hypothesis: The degree of environmental awareness among female college students in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam does not differ statistically significantly.

Table – 7: Computation of Mean and SD of Environmental Awareness scores of college going female students of Dhemaji district of Assam.

Mean = 39.2, SD = 6.9

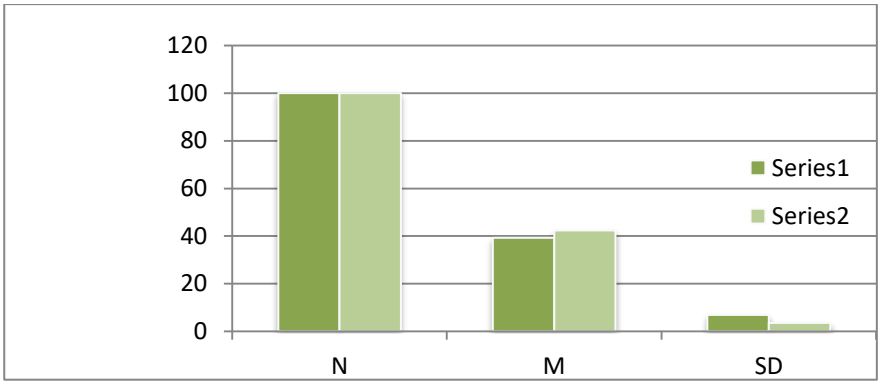
Table-8: Computation of Mean and SD of Environmental Awareness scores of college going female students of East siang district of Arunachal Pradesh .

By using the computed Mean and standard deviation values of environmental awareness scores of Female college going students of Dhemaji and East siang district, the‘t’ value was computed below.

‘t’ = 2.93 df’ = 98

Table 9: Summery of environmental awareness Mean scores, SD and ‘t’ value of Female college going students of Dhemaji and East siang district.

GROUPS	N	MEAN SCORE	SD	SED	t-VALUE	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Assam Rural Male	50	39.2	6.9	1.09	2.93	0.05*(1.98)
Arunachal pradesh Urban male	50	42.4	3.45			0.01*(2.63)



Source: Series1 indicates Rural & Urban female of Assam & Series2 indicates Rural & Urban female of Arunachal Pradesh.

7.3 Interpretation: The above table – 9 reveals that the computed‘t’ value 1.98 at 0.05 level of significance

and 2.63 at 0.01 level of significance for df – 98. As the computed't' value 2.93 is significant at 0.05 & 0.01 level. So, the hypothesis is rejected. From this it is understood that there is significant difference in the environmental awareness Mean scores of college going Female students of Dhemaji district of Assam and East siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

8.0 Summery And Findings Of The Study

a) The following are the results of the environmental awareness tests taken by college-bound students in the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam:

Table 4 The computed "t" value of.87 is less than the criterion table value of 1.97 at 0.05 & 2.60 at 0.01 level of significance for df-198, according to table 4 above. At the 0.05 and 0.01 levels, the calculated "t" value of.87 is not significant. Thus, both levels accept the hypothesis. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is no discernible difference between the environmental awareness mean scores of college-bound students from the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam.

b) The following are the results of the environmental awareness tests taken by female college students from the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam:

According to the study, the computed "t" value for df – 98 is 1.98 at the 0.05 level of significance. Given that the calculated "t" value of 2.93 is significant at the 0.05 and 0.01 levels. Thus, the theory is disproved. This indicates that there are notable differences between the mean scores of female college students from the East Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh and the Dhemaji district of Assam in terms of environmental awareness.

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