

IMPACT OF PERSONAL FACTORS ON THE STUDY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN THE HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF GUWAHATI, ASSAM

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ABSTRACT

Environmental Education is a process that creates awareness and understanding of the relationship between humans and their many environments viz, natural, man-made, cultural and technological. Environmental education is concerned with knowledge, values, attitudes, application and has as its aim 'responsible environmental behaviour' (NEEAC, 1996). It is believed that with the level of education there should be an increase in the knowledge and attitude to environmental issues. But due to increase in population and rapid urbanization, keeping environment in hygienic condition is deteriorating. Therefore, the present study focuses on the impact of personal factors of students in the study of environmental education in the higher educational institutions. The study is descriptive in nature and a total number of 300 (150 each from urban and rural localities) students of Higher Educational institutions were sampled using multi-stage random and purposive sampling method. The data were gathered through self structured questionnaire which focuses on personal factors like attitude, gender, parents' level of education, geographical location etc. Five hypotheses were formulated and statistical techniques like z- testing, Coefficient of Correlation were used to assess the hypotheses. The study revealed that gender is not an important factor in formulation of environmental attitude. The study also found that there is a close relationship between students' environmental awareness- knowledge and their environmental attitude-behaviour. Hence, it may be recommended that Environmental Education must be intensified in the higher educational institutions and it should focus on sustainable development and the immediate environmental needs of society.

KEY WORDS: Environmental Education, Personal factors- gender, parents' level of education, location, Environmental attitude, Higher Educational Institutions.