

THE ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDE OF STUDENT-TEACHERS OF TEACHER EDUCATION COLLEGES IN CHURACHANDPUR DISTRICT OF MANIPUR

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Abstract

The purpose of the present study is to determine the level of environmental attitude of the Student-teachers (B. Ed. Students) of the teacher colleges in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India. Further, the study attempted identify the correlation of environmental attitude between male and female student-teachers of teacher colleges in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India. The study also aimed to find out the correlation of between the parent's educational qualifications and environmental attitude the student-teachers of teacher colleges in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India. The population of the study included of all the student-teachers of college of teacher education in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India. The sample of the study consisted of 86 student-teachers, which comprised of 30 male and 56 female. The study employed descriptive survey method. The collected data were analyzed by using MS-Excel and by adopting appropriate statistical techniques like Mean, Standard Deviation, Percentage, and Chi-square. The hypothesis of

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the study were tested computing p-value and accordingly they were rejected and or not rejected (accepted). The major Findings of the study revealed that both male and female student-teachers of Churachandpur District had high level of environmental attitude. The finding revealed that there was no significant difference in the environmental attitude between male and female student-teachers. The results showed significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between group of student-teachers in Churachandpur.

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1. Introduction

Rapid and drastic advancement in the modern industries and technologies and population explosion and similar other factors severe deteriorating environmental problems to an unprecedented level. Nevertheless, technically speaking, human careless act is the basic deriving force which led to the present environmental issues. As such it was felt important to determine the environmental attitude of the student-teachers of college of teacher education in Churachandpur District, Manipur, so as to understand their level of concern to environmental issues. As they will, in future (when employed as a teachers in schools of any type), play a vital role in inculcating positive environmental attitudes into the school students, whose positive attitude towards environment will have a long lasting impact of the newly emerging environmental concept on “Sustainability of the environment.”

Environmental attitudes refers to the collection of beliefs, affect, and behavioral intentions a person holds regarding environmentally related activities or issues (P. W. Schultz, C. Shriver, J. J. Tabanico, & A. M. Khazian, 2004). According to Hines et al. (1986) the term 'Environmental Attitude' refers to an individual's feelings, pro or con, favorable or unfavorable with regard to particular aspect of environment. Environmental Attitude refers refers to the collection of beliefs, affect, and behavioral intentions a person holds regarding environmentally related activities or

issues (P. W. Schultz, C. Shriver, J. J. Tabanico, & A. M. Khazian, 2004). It also means the scores obtained from the Environmental Attitude Scale developed and standardized by the researcher based on the components: Regard for life and environment, Environmental issues, Equitable and judicious use of resources, Conservation of nature and natural resources, Ecological responsibility; and Sustainable development and eco-friendly lifestyle (S. Nair Tara & R.L. Bindu, 2016).

Environmental education is a process in which individuals not only gain information, awareness and skills, but also they gain the ability to be determined on taking actions in order to solve problems and t. The primary goal of environmental education applied in various countries is to make individuals attain positive attitudes and behaviors, is increasing environmental awareness so helping people to improve positive attitudes and values towards environment. (Erol & Gezer, 2006). The main focus of environmental education is to inculcate information and skill and also create environmentally literate people who are aware of environmental problems and have attitudes and motivation to develop solutions to these problems and to prevent prospective problems. In order to be able to overcome environmental problems, individuals' behaviors towards environment should be changed and individuals should be encouraged not to view environment as something to be exploited for their ends rather as a precious asset worth being protected for the survival of man because for environmental education to achieve its goals, individuals' attitudes and behaviors towards environment need to be changed (Sinha, Jangira & Das, 1985).

2. Previous Studies

Acceding to I. Crumpei, S. Boncu, & G. Crumpei (2014) the findings showed that most of the students have pro-environmental, internal motivated attitudes. Internal motivated environmental attitudes are the only significant predictor for environmental moral reasoning. Students who care for the environment because of their values and beliefs are more likely to choose the ecological option. Their study established no relationship between moral reasoning and external motivated attitudes. Choosing to show environmental concern just for social approval has no real importance in explaining pro-environmental behaviour.

Arminda Paço & T. Lavrador (2017) study had revealed no significant differences in the averages between the two groups (those with greater and with lesser environmental knowledge) across the majority of the items. It also found a higher level of environmental knowledge does not necessarily lead to more positive attitudes and behaviours regarding energy saving.

Nergiz Koruoglu, Ilker Ugulu, Nurettin Yorek (2015) proved that there has been no meaningful difference environmental attitude considering educational status of mothers.

H. Çokçalışkan, & Ö. Çelik (2017) found out that there is a significant relationship between the pre-service teachers' environmental awareness and environmental attitudes. When the direction and level of this relationship was examined, it was found that there is a positive and medium level relationship ($r = .523$). Further, they argued that the pre-service teachers' gender does not have a significant effect on either their environmental awareness or environmental attitudes.

E. Yalçınkaya, & O. Çetin (2018) study revealed that students' attitudes towards the environment seem to be positive. The investigator found that there is no significant difference between the attitudes of the students towards the environment and their grade level. In this case, it can be stated that the students had similar attitudes towards the environment based on class level. The study also revealed that there is a significant gender difference in the students' environmental attitudes in favour of female students. This suggests that female students' attitudes towards the environment were more positive (R. Duarte, J. J. Escario, & M.V. Sanagustín, 2015; M. Özden, 2008).

According to y there was significant attitude score between income levels of family ($F(5-825) = 18.393, P < 0.05$). According to the results, rich student teachers have more positive attitude towards environmental issues than poor and average ones. This result may come from rich student teachers' higher level of awareness about environmental issues than poor ones. Because rich student teachers use more technology than poor ones, they can face environmental issues more than poor student teachers. The study also established that there was significant score differences with the four dimensions of questionnaire between student teachers having different

father's job. It was also revealed significant differences between father's education level and environmental attitudes

E. Atav, B. D. Altunoğlu, & S. Sönmez (2015) study determined that more than half of the students agreed with the items in favor of the new ecological paradigm. Especially the average scores related to the items included in the dimension of the new ecological paradigm (NEP) determined through factor analysis demonstrated that the students agreed with such items in favor of nature. On the other hand, the items in favor of the dominant social paradigm (DSP) were neither accepted nor rejected by the students. In other words, there was indecisiveness about the dominant social paradigm among the students.

O. Sapci, & T. Considine (2014) asserted that as the degree of agreement with environmental concerns increase, households take direct action to conserve energy. This study finds direct empirical evidence connecting environmental attitudes with observable energy consumption behavior (M. Özden, 2008).

3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the present study consisted of the following;

- 3.1. To identify the Environmental attitude level of the Male and female student-teachers of colleges of teacher education in Churachandpur District.
- 3.2. To find out the environmental attitude of student-teachers of colleges of teacher education in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India based on two different family income groups such as below average family income and income of average and above.
- 3.3. To study the environmental attitude of male and female student-teachers of colleges of teacher education in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India.
- 3.4. To investigate the environmental attitude of student-teachers of colleges of teacher education in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India, based on different occupation of their father
- 3.5. To investigate the environmental attitude of student-teachers of colleges of teacher education in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India, based on different occupation of their father

4. Hypothesis

H_1 - There is a high level of environmental attitude among both male and female student-teachers in the college of teacher education in Churachandpur District.

H_0 - There is no significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between the Student-teachers of Churachandpur District with below average family income and Student-teachers in the same district with family income of average and above.

H_0 - There is no significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between male and female student-teachers of Churachandpur District.

H_0 - There is no significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between a group of student-teachers in Churachandpur District whose father is a government employee and another group of student-teachers in the same district whose father is not a government employee.

H_0 - There is no significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between a group of student-teachers in Churachandpur District whose mother is a government employee and another group of student-teachers in the same district whose mother is not a government employee.

5. Design and Methodology of the Study.

6. Method of the Study

The researcher used descriptive survey and analytical methods in the present study as they are the most suitable ones.

7. Population of the Study

The population of the study included of all the student-teachers of college of teacher education in Churachandpur District of Manipur, India.

8. Sample of the Study

The sample of the study consisted of 86 student-teachers, which comprised of 30 male and 56 female.

9. Study Tool

The researcher had developed an environment attitude scale following systematic and appropriate procedures. The final draft of the scale consisting of 20 items in six domains of environmental issues, namely, Environmental Problems, Energy Saving, Waste Products, Environmental Responsibility, and Environmental Support.

10. Procedures of the Study

This study has been conducted according to the following steps:

- 10.1. Preparation of study tool- Environmental Attitude Scale- till the final version was compiled.
- 10.2. Determined study population and sample of the study.
- 10.3. Data collected from the sample of the study.
- 10.4. Analysis and interpretation of collected data.
- 10.5. Finalization of the report of the study.

11. Analysis and Interpretation

After retrieving the Environmental Attitude Scale from the respondents, the responses were coded and data were entered in the Microsoft-Excel program and statistical computation was performed to obtain Mean, Standard Deviation, Percentage and Chi-square (p-value) values. The hypothesis were tested by the p-values.

12. Results of the Study:

The following are the results of the study according to the sequence of questions:

12.1. Testing the 1st hypothesis (H₁):

There is a high level of environmental attitude among both male and female student-teachers in the college of teacher education in Churachandpur District.

Table 1: Showing N, level of Attitude

Group	N	Level of Attitude (in percentage)
Male	30	78.80
Female	56	77.07

Analysis of the above Table showed a high level of environmental attitude for both genders which has come at a Score percentage of 78.80 for male student-teachers and 77.07 for female student-teachers. Further, it also showed approximately the same level of environmental attitude between male and female student-teachers of colleges of teacher education in Churachandpur District. Therefore the hypothesis is not rejected.

13. Testing the 2nd hypothesis (H_0):

There is no significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between the Student-teachers (B. Ed. College Students) of Churachandpur District with below average family income and Student-teachers (B. Ed. College Students) in the same district with family income of average and above.

Table 2: Showing N, Mean, S.D. p-value and level of significance in relation to two groups of student-teachers based on family income

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	p-value	Level of significance
Student-teachers with below average family income	20	3.93	0.97	0.719471673	0.05
Student-teachers with income of average and above.	66	3.73	1.05		

From the above Table 1, the Mean value for Student-teachers with below average family income is 3.93 which is approximately the same for Student-teachers with family income of average and above whose Mean is 3.73. The Standard Deviation (S. D.) for Student-teachers with below average family income is 0.97 which is also approximately the same for Student-teachers with family income of average and above the S.D. is 1.05. The “p-value” is 0.719471673 which is much higher than the level of significance 0.05. Hence the hypothesis is not rejected. Since, S.D between both the groups and their Mean values did not showed longer difference. The test results showed significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between the Student-teachers (B. Ed. College Students) of Churachandpur District with below average family income and Student-teachers (B. Ed. College Students) in the same district with family income of average and above.

14. Testing the 3rd hypothesis (H₀):

There is no significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between male and female student-teachers (B. Ed. College Students) of Churachandpur District.

Table 3: Showing N, Mean, S.D. p-value and level of significance in relation to male and female student-teachers

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	p-value	Level of significance
Male	30	3.94	1.10	0.565185	0.05
Female	56	3.85	0.93		

From the above Table 2, the Mean value for Male Student-teachers is 3.94 which is approximately the same for Female Student-teachers whose Mean is 3.85. The Standard Deviation (S. D.) for Male Student-teachers is 1.10 which is also approximately the same for Female Student-teachers the S.D. is 0.93. The “p-value” is 0.565185 which is much higher than the level of significance 0.05. Hence the hypothesis is not rejected. Since, S.D between both the groups and their Mean values did not showed longer difference. The test results showed significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between male and female student-teachers (B. Ed. College Students) of Churachandpur District.

15. Testing the 4th hypothesis (H₀):

There is no significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between a group of student-teachers in Churachandpur District whose father is a government employee and another group of student-teachers in the same district whose father is not a government employee.

Table 4: Showing N, Mean, S.D. p-value and level of significance in relation to two groups of student-teachers based on father’s occupation

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	p-value	Level of significance
Student-teachers whose father is a government employee	40	3.94	0.97	0.963240849	0.05
student-teachers whose father is not a government employee	46	3.84	1.01		

From the above Table 3, the Mean value for Student-teachers whose father is a government employee is 3.94 which is approximately the same for student-teachers whose father is not a government employee, the Mean is 3.84. The Standard Deviation (S. D.) for the former group Student-teachers is 0.97 which is also approximately the same for the latter group the S.D. is 1.01. The “p-value” is 0.963240849 which is much higher than the level of significance 0.05. Hence the hypothesis is not rejected. Since, S.D between both the groups and their Mean values did not showed longer difference. The test results showed significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between group of student-teachers in Churachandpur District whose father is a government employee and another group of student-teachers in the same district whose father is not a government employee.

16. Testing the 5th hypothesis (H_0):

There is no significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between a group of student-teachers in Churachandpur District whose mother is a government employee and another group of student-teachers in the same district whose mother is not a government employee.

Table 5: Showing N, Mean, S.D. p-value and level of significance in relation to two groups of student-teachers based on father’s occupation

Group	N	Mean	S.D.	p-value	Level of significance
Student-teachers whose mother is a government employee	22	3.82	1.00	0.965037325	0.05
student-teachers whose mother is not a government employee	64	3.90	0.99		

From the above Table 3, the Mean value for Student-teachers whose mother is a government employee is 3.94 which is approximately the same for student-teachers whose mother is not a government employee, the Mean is 3.84. The Standard Deviation (S. D.) for the former group Student-teachers is 0.97 which is also approximately the same for the latter group the S.D. is 1.01. The “p-value” is 0.963240849 which is much higher than the level of significance 0.05. Hence the hypothesis is not rejected. Since, S.D between both the groups and their Mean values did not showed longer difference. The test results showed significant difference in the attitudes

towards environmental issues between group of student-teachers in Churachandpur District whose mother is a government employee and another group of student-teachers in the same district whose father is not a government employee.

17. Discussion

The present study found out that both male and female student-teachers of Churachandpur District had high level of environmental attitude. Similar findings revealed by (I. Crumpei, S. Boncu, & Crumpei, G., 2014; Arminda Paço & T. Lavrador, 2017; Yalçinkaya, E., Çetin, O., 2018). This may be attributed to the communities' commitment to maintain not only ones own properties but also public places within the locality. The finding revealed that there was no significant difference in the environmental attitude between male and female student-teachers. Similar findings (H. Çokçalışkan & Ö. Çelik, 2017; E. Yalçinkaya & O. Çetin, 2018). This may be attributed to the cultural ethos which keep both genders on almost equal footing at home and in society. The results showed significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between group of student-teachers in Churachandpur District whose father is a government employee and another group of student-teachers in the same district whose father is not a government employee. Similar findings (M. Özden, 2008). The investigation showed significant difference in the attitudes towards environmental issues between group of student-teachers in Churachandpur District whose mother is a government employee and another group of student-teachers in the same district whose mother is not a government employee. Similar findings (M. Özden, 2008).

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