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Environmental Attitude of Tribal College Students of Hill Districts of Manipur

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ABSTRACT

The study focused to study the level of Environmental attitude of tribal colleges students of the Hill districts of Manipur, the influence of gender on the environmental attitude of college student of the Hill districts of Manipur, the influence of economic status of the family on the environmental attitude of college student of the Hill districts of Manipur, the influence of fathers educational qualification on the environmental attitude of college students of the Hill districts of Manipur and the influence of mothers educational qualification on the environmental attitude of tribal college students of the Hill districts of Manipur. The major finding showed the mean of 3.8643 which indicates that there is a mildly favorable environmental attitude among the tribal college students in the Hill districts of Manipur.

KEYWORDS: Environmental Attitude, Students, College, Environmental Education.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Even after seven decades of scientifically establishing the fundamental culprit of environmental problems more and more evidence have shown the ongoing negative effects of human activities on the natural environment. Human activities led to exploitation and abuses of natural resources and population explosion and similar other factors have deteriorated environment around us. Such environmentally undesirable behavior of mankind has been the fundamental causes of the present environmental problems and thus led to climate change. Such climate change have been not alien things for the hill districts of Manipur which is mainly inhabited by the indigenous tribals. Some of the products of climate change in the hill districts fo Manipur are increase in temperature, decline in rain fall, reduced air quality, rivers are filled with plastic products, etc. Such phenomenon may be attributed either to the lack of understanding on environmental issues or lack of environmentally favorable and disciplined life style. Therefore, it was imperative to investigate the environmental attitude of the student of colleges in hill districts of Manipur, so as to understand their level of concern for the environment around them. So that environmental education may be introduced for them so as to attain positive attitudes and behaviors, which will increase environmental awareness which will in turn help people to improve positive attitudes and values towards environment. 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.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 2.1.** To study the Level of Environmental attitude of colleges students of the Hill districts of Manipur.
- 2.2.** To find out the influence of gender on the environmental attitude of college student of the Hill districts of Manipur.
- 2.3.** To find out the influence of economic status of the family on the environmental attitude of college student of the Hill districts of Manipur.

2.4. To find out the influence of fathers educational qualification on the environmental attitude of tribal college students of the Hill districts of Manipur.

2.5. To find out the influence of mothers educational qualification on the environmental attitude of tribal college students of the Hill districts of Manipur.

3. HYPOTHESIS:

H_A 1 The environmental attitude of tribal college students of the hill districts of Manipur is less likely to be favorable.

H_O 2 There exist no significant different between the environmental attitude of male students and female students.

H_O 3 There exist no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with low family income and students with middle & above family income.

H_O 4 There exist no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with undergraduate fathers' and student with graduate & above fathers'.

H_O 5 There exist no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with undergraduate mothers' and student with graduate & above mothers'.

4. DESIGN OF THE STUDY.

4.1. Method of the Study

The method used in the present study includes descriptive survey and analytical method.

4.2. Universe of the Study

The universe of the study includes all the student of 12 colleges in 10 hill districts of Manipur, India.

4.3. Sample of the Study

The sample of the study included of 294 students 102 male and 192 female.

4.4. Tool of the Study

A self-developed environment attitude scale was developed by the investigator 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.

5. ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The responses were entered in the SPSS program and statistical computation was performed to obtain Mean, Standard Deviation, Standard Error of Mean “t” test and analysis of data were done and interpretations follows appropriately.

The results of the analysis and interpretation are given below;

5.1. H_A 1 Testing Result: The environmental attitude of tribal college students of the hill districts of Manipur is less likely to be favorable.

Table 1: Showing M, SD, & Standard Error of Mean

One-Sample Statistics

	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Environmental Attitude	294	3.8643	.51423	.02999

Table 2: Table 3: Result of t-test for One-samples

One-Sample Test

	Test Value = 0					
	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
					Lower	Upper
Environmental Attitude	128.849	293	.000	3.86429	3.8053	3.9233

Analysis of the above Table 1 & 2 showed the mean of 3.8643 indicates that there is a mildly favorable environmental attitude among the tribal college students in the Hill districts of Manipur. However, statistically no significant difference could be found in the environmental attitude among the tribal college students of the Hill districts of Manipur ($p < 0.05$). Hence, the environmental attitude of tribal college students of the hill districts of Manipur is favorable.

5.2. H₀ 2 Testing Result: There exist no significant different between the environmental attitude of male students and female students.

Table 4: Showing M, SD, Standard Error of Mean of the sample

Group Statistics

	Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Environmental Attitude	Female	192	3.9453	.49161	.03548
	Male	102	3.7118	.52356	.05184

Table 5: Result of t-test for independent samples

Independent Samples Test

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	t-test for Equality of Means								
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Environmental Attitude	Equal variances assumed	.118	.732	3.790	292	.000	.23355	.06162	.11228	.35482
	Equal variances not assumed			3.718	195.134	.000	.23355	.06282	.10966	.35744

Whether there is no significant different between the environmental attitude of male students and female students were tested by t-test for independent sample and the result is shown in Table 2 & 3. Table 2 shows that the environmental attitude of female students (M=3.9453) is found higher than male students. However, statistically significant difference could be found in the environmental attitude between male and female students of the Hill districts of Manipur ($p < 0.05$). Hence there exist significant difference between the environmental attitude of male students and female students.

5.3. H₀ 3 Testing Result: There exist no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with low family income and students with family income middle & above.

Table 6: Showing M, SD, Standard Error of Mean of the sample

Group Statistics

Economic Status of family		N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Environmental Attitude	Low	92	3.8924	.44388	.04628
	Middle & above	202	3.8515	.54382	.03826

Table 7: Result of t-test for independent samples

Independent Samples Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Environmental Attitude	Equal variances assumed	1.899	.169	.632	292	.528	.04091	.06475	-.08652	.16833
	Equal variances not assumed			.681	212.902	.496	.04091	.06005	-.07746	.15927

Whether There is no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with low family income and students with middle & above family income were tested by t-test for independent sample and the result is shown in Table 4 & 5. Table 4 shows that the environmental attitude of low family income (M=3.8924) and Middle & above (M=3.8515) is more or less the same. However, statistically significant difference could not be found in the environmental attitude of students with low family income and students with middle & above family income ($p>0.05$). Hence there exist no significant difference between the environmental attitudes of students with low family income and students with middle & above family income.

5.4. H₀ 4 Testing Result: There exist no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with undergraduate fathers' and student with graduate & above fathers'.

Table 8: Showing M, SD, Standard Error of Mean of the sample

Group Statistics

	Father Educational Qualification	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Environmental Attitude	Undergraduate	272	3.8963	.46504	.02820
	Graduate & above	22	3.4682	.84917	.18104

Table 9: Result of t-test for independent samples

Independent Samples Test

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	t-test for Equality of Means								
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Environmental Attitude	13.078	.000	3.843	292	.000	.42814	.11139	.20890	.64738	
Equal variances assumed										
Equal variances not assumed			2.337	22.030	.029	.42814	.18323	.04819	.80810	

Whether there is no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with undergraduate fathers' and student with graduate & above fathers' were tested by t-test for independent sample and the result is shown in Table 6 & 7. Table 6 shows that the environmental attitude between students with undergraduate fathers (M=3.8963) is higher than student with graduate & above fathers. Ironically, the students whose fathers were undergraduate had higher favorable environmental attitude than students whose fathers were graduate & above. However, statistically significant difference could be found between the environmental attitude of students with undergraduates fathers' and students with graduate & above fathers (p<0.05). Hence there exist significant difference between students with undergraduate fathers' and students with graduate & above fathers.

5.5. H₀ 5 Testing Result: There exist no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with undergraduate mothers' and student with graduate mothers' & above.

Table 10: Showing M, SD, Standard Error of Mean of the sample

Group Statistics

	Mother Educational Qualification	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Environmental Attitude	Undergraduate	282	3.8858	.47000	.02799
	Graduate & above	12	3.3583	1.05331	.30407

Table 11: Result of t-test for independent samples

Independent Samples Test

	Levene's Test for Equality of Variances	t-test for Equality of Means								
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Environmental Attitude	Equal variances assumed	11.546	.001	3.548	292	.000	.52748	.14866	.23490	.82006
	Equal variances not assumed			1.727	11.187	.112	.52748	.30535	-.14322	1.19819

Whether there is no significant different between the environmental attitudes of students with undergraduate mothers' and student with graduate & above mothers' were tested by t-test for independent sample and the result is shown in Table 8 & 9. Table 8 shows that the environmental attitude between students with undergraduate mothers' (M=3.8858) is higher than student with graduate & above mothers'. However, statistically significant difference could be found between the environmental attitude of students with undergraduates mothers' and students with graduate & above mothers' (p<0.05). Hence there exist significant difference between students with undergraduate mothers' and students with graduate & above mothers'

6. FINDINGS:

6.1. The tribal college students of the hill districts had a mildly favorable environmental attitude with statistically no significant difference in their attitude towards environment.

- 6.2. Both male and female tribal college students had a mildly favorable attitudes toward the environment. However female tribal college students had a slightly higher mildly favorable environmental attitudes than male tribal college students.
- 6.3. The tribal college students whose family income is low and middle and above had a mildly favorable environmental attitude. Ironically, the tribal college students whose family income is low had a slightly higher mildly favorable environmental attitude than that of tribal college students whose family income is middle and above.
- 6.4. The tribal college students whose father's educational qualification is undergraduate as well as graduate & above had a mildly favorable environmental attitude. Ironically, the tribal college students whose father's educational qualification is undergraduate had a slightly higher mildly favorable environmental attitude than that of tribal college students whose father's educational qualification is graduate & above.
- 6.5. The tribal college students whose mother's educational qualification is undergraduate as well as graduate & above had a mildly favorable environmental attitude. Ironically, the tribal college students whose father's educational qualification is undergraduate had a slightly higher mildly favorable environmental attitude than that of tribal college students whose father's educational qualification is graduate & above.

7. SUGGESTIONS:

- 7.1. Effective measures are to be taken up to improve the attitude of the tribal college students toward the environment by various means which is immensely needed for sustainable life in this planet.
- 7.2. . Measures for improving environmental attitude focus on improving both sex so as to achieve highly favorable attitude among the students.

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