

ATTITUDE OF HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN UKHRUL DISTRICT MANIPUR

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Abstract

Environmental education is essential for fostering environmental awareness, responsible attitudes, and sustainable practices. Teachers play a pivotal role in translating environmental knowledge into meaningful learning experiences for students. The present study examines the attitudes of high school teachers towards environmental education in Ukhrul District, Manipur. Significant differences were observed based on gender and type of institution, with female teachers and government school teachers demonstrating more favorable attitudes. However, no significant difference was found between male teachers of government and private schools. The study underscores the need to strengthen environmental education through teacher training, curriculum integration, and institutional support in line with the National Education Policy 2020. The findings offer valuable implications for educational planners, teacher educators, and policymakers aiming to promote sustainable development through education.

Keywords: Environmental education, environmental attitude, high school teachers, sustainability, Ukhrul District

Introduction : Environmental education (EE) is essential for addressing contemporary environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development. India, environmental education has gained prominence through constitutional mandates, educational policies, and judicial interventions. Article 48(A) of the Indian Constitution emphasizes the protection and improvement of the natural environment. The National Policy on Education (1986) recognized environmental education as an integral component of the curriculum. More recently, the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) and the National Curriculum Framework 2023 (NCF 2023) have reinforced the importance of environmental education by advocating a holistic, interdisciplinary, and experiential approach to sustainability education across all stages of schooling. Teachers play a pivotal role in the effective implementation of EE, as their attitudes significantly influence students' environmental awareness and behaviour. The present study investigates the attitudes of high school teachers towards environmental education in Ukhrul District, with specific reference to gender and type of school management. Using a descriptive survey method, data were collected from a representative sample of high school teachers through a standardized attitude scale. The findings reveal variations in teachers' attitudes towards environmental education based on gender and school management, highlighting areas of strength as well as gaps that require attention. The study underscores the need for targeted teacher training, supportive institutional practices, and policy-level interventions to strengthen environmental education in schools. The results contribute to the existing body of research and provide practical implications for enhancing the effectiveness of environmental education in alignment with national educational reforms and sustainability goals.

Significance of the Study: The National policy on Education (1986) stressed the importance of environmental education and laid down the ground work by mandating Environmental education. NEP 2020, emphasizes more on holistic, integrated and multidisciplinary approach to environmental awareness and sustainability. The NCF2023 operationalizes NEP20 by making Environmental Education and interdisciplinary strand across stages. So considering the imperative needs of environmental education, exploring the level of awareness in educators

become a necessity. The children are considered required to know, to love and to protect environment. In providing environmental education to the children, the teachers who are well motivated and have positive attitude towards environmental education will be in position to help children to develop knowledge, attitude and skills ensuring our future generations to protect, mitigate environment in a sustainable way. This study is significant as it examines high school teachers' attitudes towards environmental education in Ukhrul District; an ecologically sensitive region characterised by rich biodiversity, under-researched and faces environmental challenges. Teachers play a central role in promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices among students.

Statement Of The Problem: The problem of the study can be stated as "**The Attitudes of High School Teachers Towards Environmental Education in Ukhrul District.**

Definition Of The Operational Key Terms:

1. **Attitude:** A predisposition or a tendency to respond positively or negatively towards a certain idea, object, person or situation.
2. **High School:** A school having class (ix) and (x) standards.
3. **Environmental:** Relating to the natural world and the impact of human activity on its condition.
4. **Ukhrul District:** Ukhrul town is the picturistic hill town under the administration of Ukhrul Autonomous District Council.

Objective Of The Study:

1. There is high level of Environmental attitude among High school teachers in Ukhrul district.
2. To compare the attitude of the male and female teachers of High schools towards Environmental Education.
3. To find out the suggestion and remedial measures for the improvement of environmental education among the teachers of high schools.

Hypothesis Of The Study:

Hypothesis1: There is high level of Environmental attitude among High school teachers in Ukhrul district'

Hypothesis2: There is no significant difference between the attitude of the male and female teachers of High schools towards Environmental Education.

Delimitation Of The Study:

1. The present study was delimited to the high schools' teachers of Ukhrul District within the academic session 2025-26.
2. Two variable were considered for the present study i,e Government and Private. The present study will be delimited to only environmental awareness area.
3. The study will be confined to a sample of 80 teachers (40 from Govt and 40 from private) in different high schools of Ukhrul District.

STUDIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION:

(1) **Dhillon and Sandhu (2005)** conducted a study to assess environmental education awareness among elementary school teachers and found that there was significant difference in environmental education awareness between urban and rural school teachers. No significant difference was observed in the environmental education awareness between male and female teachers and significant difference was found among teacher with respect to their subject specialization. (2) **Ekambaram and Nagaraja (2010)** conducted a study to analysis the level of environmental awareness of prospective teachers. The sample of the study consisted of 200 B.Ed students from Tirupati College in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh. The study showed that the level of environmental awareness differs among science and non-science teachers with science teachers having a higher level of environmental awareness. (3) **Indumathi Bharambe (2013)** found that there is no environmental awareness among secondary school students. There is no significant gender difference in environmental awareness. There is

a significant difference between environmental awareness among students in relation to qualification of their parents. The environmental awareness among students having highly qualified parents is more than the lower qualified parents. The environmental awareness is more among the students whose parents are farmer than the students whose parents are teachers and labour. (4) **Amézquita-Galindo & Losada Salgado (2025)**, Conducted in Florencia, Colombia, this research analyzed teachers' knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding EE. The study highlighted the necessity for continuous teacher training programs focused on environmental awareness, tailored to local contexts, and employing active methodologies to strengthen EE within school curricula. (5) **Imran et al. (2024)**, This global study investigated teachers' perspectives on environmental education awareness. The findings underscored the importance of integrating EE into formal education to promote sustainable development. The study emphasized the need for aligning teachers' perceptions with students' attitudes to enhance the effectiveness of EE programs. (6) **Zafar (2024)**, This study assessed the environmental literacy of aspiring educators in Pakistan, focusing on their knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors. The research highlighted the importance of incorporating environmental literacy into teacher preparation programs to equip future educators with the necessary skills to promote sustainability. (7) **Sutherland (2017)**, This research explored how teachers' perceptions of high school students' receptiveness to conservation education compare to the students' actual receptiveness. The study found that teachers' perceptions often aligned with students' attitudes, suggesting that teachers' beliefs play a significant role in shaping EE programs.

Methodology of the study: As per the requirement of the study and to fulfil the objectives of the present study, the **Descriptive Survey** method was used.

For the present study, High school teachers of both government and private Schools Ukhrul form the population of the study.

Sample Of The Study: To draw a miniature picture of the entire population ,the investigator selects a sample of 80 teachers of government and private Schools, 40 Government (20 male and 20 female) and 40 private (20 male and 20 female). In getting these teachers randomized method is adopted.

Tools Of The Study: For the present study entitle "The attitude of High Teachers towards environmental education in Ukhrul district", a self-structured Questionnaire on Environmental awareness was used as a major tool to measure the environmental awareness of High school teachers.

Norms For Interpretation Of Data: To test the environmental attitude of teachers, environmental awareness questionnaire was designed keeping in view the different aspects of environment. The environmental awareness questionnaire consists of 40 statements. It includes 37 positive statement and 3 negative statements. The 40 statements are constructed in 2 point scale. The mark which can be obtained by a teacher is from (0-40)

Data Collection: The investigator personally went to schools, after taking permission of the respective heads of the institutions, the questionnaire was distributed to all the teachers. A detail instruction for filling up was also included in each questionnaire. The collection of data was completed within a period of one month. After the collection of data, it was tabulated for the final analysis.

Statistical Techniques Used: The statistical method - mean, standard deviation, t- test, were employed to analyze and interpret the scores of the environmental attitude of the teachers

ANALYSIS OF DATA:

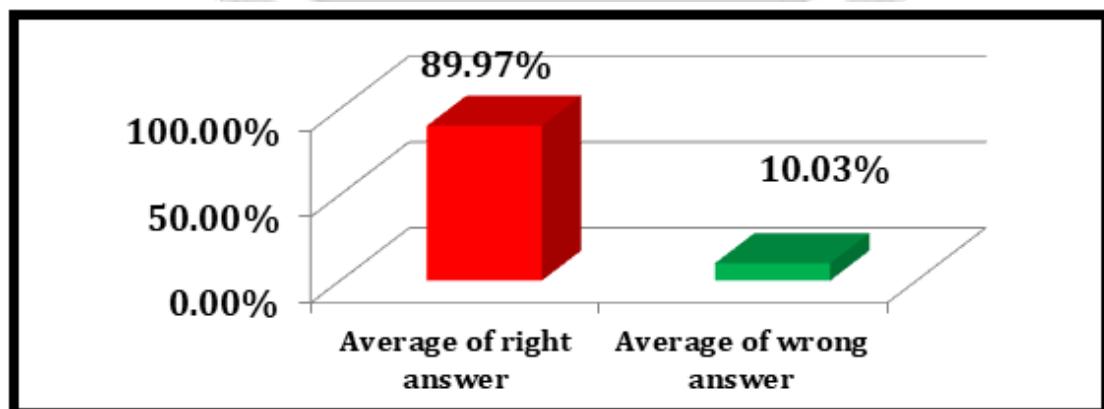
Hypothesis-1: There is high level of Environmental attitude among High school teachers in Ukhrul district'.

Table No: 1: Showing the overall level of Environmental attitude among High school teachers in Ukhrul district.

Qtn. Sl.no	Right response	Percentage (%)	Wrong response	Percentage (%)
1.	79	98.75	1	01.25
2.	75	93.75	5	06.25
3.	77	96.25	3	03.75
4.	78	97.50	2	02.50
5.	78	97.50	2	02.50
6.	70	87.50	10	12.50

7.	76	95.00	4	05.00
8.	73	91.25	7	08.75
9.	68	85.00	12	15.00
10.	73	91.25	7	8.75
11.	69	86.25	11	13.75
12.	65	81.25	15	18.75
13.	68	85.00	12	15.00
14.	68	85.00	12	15.00
15.	69	86.25	11	13.75
16.	68	85.00	12	15.00
17.	68	85.00	12	15.00
18.	77	96.26	3	3.74
19.	74	92.50	6	7.50
20.	69	86.25	11	13.75
21.	70	87.50	10	12.50
22.	72	90.00	8	10.00
23.	69	86.25	11	13.75
24.	72	90.00	8	10.00
25.	68	85.00	12	15.00
26.	68	85.00	12	15.00
27.	72	90.00	8	10.00
28.	70	87.50	10	12.50
29.	71	88.75	9	11.25
30.	68	85.00	12	15.00
31.	69	86.25	11	13.75
32.	71	88.75	9	11.25
33.	73	91.25	7	8.75
34.	74	92.50	6	7.50
35.	70	87.50	10	12.50
36.	77	96.25	3	3.75
37.	78	97.5	2	2.50
38.	75	93.75	5	6.25
39.	74	92.50	6	7.50
40.	76	95.00	4	5.00
	Average of right answer	89.97%	Average of wrong answer	10.03%

Figure No: 1: Showing the overall level of Environmental attitude among High school teachers in Ukhrul district.



INTERPRETATION:

It can be interpreted that the level of Environmental attitude among High school teachers in Ukhrul district comes out at the average score of 89.97%, it shows high positive attitude towards environmental education. The first hypothesis that “there is high level of environmental awareness among High teachers in Ukhrul district

"is accepted. Therefore, high school teachers of both government and private institutes shows reliably high level of environmental awareness.

Hypothesis-2: There is no significant difference of attitude between the Male and Female teachers towards environmental education.

Table No. 2: To comparison of Environmental attitude among the Male and Female High school teachers.

Sl. No.	Group	N	Mean(x)	S.D	df	' t ' - value
1	Male	40	33.75	4.05	78	-2.05 P= .044
2	Female	40	35.45	3.34		

Remarks: Significance difference, P < 0.05

INTERPRETATION: The given 2nd hypothesis "**There is no significant difference of attitude between the Male and Female teachers towards environmental education**" is **rejected**, since the scores of the female teachers have significance difference with the Male. The female scores higher with the Mean and S. Ds of 33.45 and 3.34 while male scores are 33.75 and 4.05. The 't' value between the groups has been found to be -2.05 and p value of .044 Which is found significant at .05 levels. Thus, there is significant difference of attitude among the Male and Female teachers. The female teachers show higher level of attitude towards environmental education.

MAIN FINDINGS, EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.

1. It can be interpreted that the level of Environmental attitude among High school teachers in Ukhrul district comes out at the average score of 89.97%, it shows high positive attitude towards environmental education. The first hypothesis that "there is high level of environmental awareness among High teachers in Ukhrul district" is accepted. Therefore, high school teachers of both governments and private institutes shows reliably high level of environmental awareness.
2. The 2nd hypothesis "**There is no significant difference of attitude between the Male and Female teachers towards environmental education**" is **rejected**, since the scores of the female teachers have significance difference with the Male. The female scores higher with the Mean and S. Ds of 33.45 and 3.34 while male scores are 33.75 and 4.05. The 't' value between the groups has been found to be -2.05 and p value of .044 Which is found significant at .05 levels. Thus, there is significant difference of attitude among the Male and Female teachers. The female teachers show higher level of attitude towards environmental education.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS: NEP 2020 promotes environmental education not just as knowledge, but as awareness, values, and practices. It wants students to become environmentally conscious citizens who can contribute to sustainable development

The present study has significant implications for various stakeholders in the education sector, including teacher educators, educational planners, educators, and educational administrators. It is crucial to make environmental education a mandatory subject for all faculties in both the science and arts.

To achieve this, teacher education programs and planners should organize dedicated awareness programs, such as seminars, symposiums, camps, and community visits. These activities are essential for promoting environmental awareness and highlighting the importance of environmental education.

There is a pressing need to improve the curriculum development. The educational department should consider recruiting more curriculum experts specializing in environmental education. The development of skills and the cultivation of teamwork and collaboration among colleges are also key to successful curriculum changes.

"Only environmental education can develop awareness towards environment in student teacher, students and community at large, so that the quality of our environment will be maintained between present and future. Therefore, to foster better knowledge, understanding and skills about environment, to bring awareness among masses regarding the need of better environment and to protect environmental degradation and continuous exploitation of natural resources, the need of environmental education cannot be overlooked. So, every individual must be educated and enlightened on the subject with an objective of "Think globally and Act locally". This is what the Chinese say about the need to educate. "If you plan for a year, plant rice, if you plan for ten years, plant

trees, but if you plan for ten years, educate the people". With this we can say that educating people about the environment is necessary to protect the human race and the planet earth."

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