

Awareness of Population Education among the College Students of Lakhimpur District, Assam

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Abstract:

Population education is of utmost importance in the college levels since growing adults constitute a major portion from the college students. The study is undertaken to examine the awareness of population education among the college students in Lakhimpur District of Assam. The study is descriptive and random sampling techniques is used. The study is based on both primary and secondary data collected through online google form by sharing among the college students. A total of 50 students were selected on gender and locality basis from North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous), Lakhimpur, Assam. The researcher used independent t-test to examine the awareness of population education between male and female students and rural and urban students. The study reveals that there is highly significant difference between the male and female college students in terms of their awareness of population education and there is no significant difference between the rural and urban college students in terms of their awareness of population education in the study area.

Key words: Awareness, College students, Lakhimpur, Population education, Rural and urban.

Introduction:

Population explosion has been a fundamental concern of most of the developing nations including India. To facilitate population awareness among national populations, population education is of utmost importance in the college levels since growing adults constitute a major portion from the college students. Students start their college life mostly after the age of 18 years which is a very important stage to enhance the awareness about population education. The concept of population education was introduced by Dr. Sloan Wayland of Teachers College, Columbia University. Several attempts have been made to define population education but no commonly accepted definition has emerged. Intensive Training Programme of population education conducted by the Department of Education, Philippines, 1972 defined population education as, "Population

education is the process of developing awareness & understanding of population situation as well as a rational attitude & behavior towards this situation for the attainment of quality of life for the individual, the family, the community, the Nation and the World.” According to Gopal Rao, “Population Education is an educational programme which provides for the study of the population phenomenon so as to enable the students to take rational decisions towards problems arising out of rapid population growth.”

Concerted efforts have been made to promote public awareness of the growth of the world's human population, the environmental implications of this growth and ultimately its implications for the quality of human life. The growth rate of the world's population in the twentieth century has become very critical. The developing countries of the world, which together are the home of approximately 75 per cent of the world's population, have the most rapid growth rates. The massive acceleration in the birth rate in developing countries poses a threat to the socio-economic advancement of their populations. India’s current total population is 140.76 crores and stands at second position just after China’s 141.24 crores. The alarming population growth in the country brings about the very necessity of promoting the population education among the youth with a broader agenda.

Methodology:

The study is descriptive in nature. The data is mainly based on both primary and secondary source. Primary data were collected through online Google form shared among the students. Secondary data were collected from various books, journals, internet etc. One college named North Lakhimpur College (Autonomous) of Lakhimpur District, Assam has been selected purposively for the study. Then, Total 50 students were selected for the study. Among them 25 were male and 25 were female students. Data were analyzed and interpreted using tabular method of statistical technique where frequencies and percentage were used. t- test was used to know the awareness of population education among the students.

Objectives of the Study:

The study has the following objectives:

1. To study the awareness of population education among the male and female college students of Lakhimpur District.
2. To study the awareness of population education among the urban and rural college students of Lakhimpur District.

Hypotheses of the Study:

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in awareness of population education among the male and female college students of Lakhimpur District.

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in awareness of population education among the urban and rural college students of Lakhimpur District

Results & Discussion:

Table 1: Selected Profile of the Respondents

Category		No. of Respondents	Total
Gender	Male	25	50
	Female	25	
Locality	Rural	25	50
	Urban	25	

Source: Field Survey, 2020

Awareness of population education among the college students based on the Gender-

H₀₁: There is no significant difference in awareness of population education among the male and female college students of Lakhimpur District.

Table 2: Gender-wise awareness comparison of male and female students

Gender	N	Mean	SD	t- value	df	Level of significance
Male	25	27.4917	2.74	2.161	48	0.05
Female	25	29.0000	1.95			

Source: Field Survey,2020

From the above table it is seen that the result is statistically significant ($t= 2.161, p < 0.05$). Therefore, we reject the Null Hypothesis at confidence level i.e.,0.05 (95%). The researcher found that there is highly significant difference between the male and female college students in terms of their awareness of population education in the study area.

Awareness of population education among the college students based on the Locality-

H₀₂: There is no significant difference in awareness of population education among the rural and urban college students of Lakhimpur District.

Table 3: Locality-wise awareness comparison of male and female students

Gender	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	t- value	df	Level of significance
Rural	25	27.88	2.89	-1.004	48	0.05
Urban	25	28.60	2.13			

Source: Field Survey,2020

From the above table it is seen that the result is statistically not significant ($t= -1.004, p > 0.05$). Therefore, we accept the Null Hypothesis at confidence level i.e., 0.05 (95%). The researcher found that there is no significant difference between the rural and urban college students in terms of their awareness of population education in the study area.

Conclusion:

Population education is very much essential in the modern era. It should be taught in the schools, colleges and other institutions. Low level of population awareness or population education may lead to low level of productivity, overpopulation, environmental degradation etc. Therefore, it is suggested that effective programmes should be implemented to enhance the awareness of population education among the students as well as general people.

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