

A Study On Awareness On Climate Change Of College Students Of (Baddi Barotiwala**Nalagarh) BBN Region****Dr. INA RANI, Vijay Mehta****Assistant Professor, JBT****Department Of Commerce, GCPS****Government College****Barotiwala****District Solan (HP)**Email id: inasachdeva@gmail.com

(Received:25August2023/Revised:13Septembr2023/Accepted:24September2023/Published:30 September 2023)**Abstract**

Climate change is very important for the economic and environmental health of all people around the world. We can understand it as a long-term significant change in the weather pattern of a region over a specific period. Climate change is the greatest immediate threat facing humans and understanding and addressing it represents a key goal in building sustainable communities and lives. The importance of this can be understood from the fact that life on Earth has become possible only due to favorable climate and environment, but due to some human activities, the climate is constantly changing. In addition to the climate changes in the entire world, there have been many changes in the climate and environment of the BBN region in the last two decades, which has affected the lives of the people living here. So, with the help of this study, an attempt has been made to find out how much the students of this region know about the urgency of climate change. This study on Awareness on Climate Change of College Students of (Baddi Barotiwala Nalagarh) BBN Region was conducted using descriptive quantitative research design approach, involving 100 randomly selected respondents (students). For this study, an instrument consisting of 6 point modified Likert scale questionnaire along with some other closed ended questions was used.

The research findings revealed that majority of the respondents were aware that manufacturing of goods, excessive use of transportation, industrial emissions, deforestation are some of the factors that are responsible for climate change. However, among the students who were found to

be aware of climate change believed that climate awareness in education should be promoted more and it should be an important part of curriculum of all subjects.

Keywords: Climate Change , Questionnaire, Students Awareness, Qualitative Research Design, BBN region.

Introduction

Climate change describes global warming—the ongoing increase in global average temperature—and its effects on Earth's climate system. Climate change in a broader sense also includes previous long-term changes to Earth's climate. The current rise in global average temperature is more rapid than previous changes, and is primarily caused by humans burning fossil fuels.⁷

The environmental impacts of climate change are far-reaching, greatly affecting the oceans, ice and weather. Climate change is directly contributing to humanitarian emergencies from heat waves, wildfires, floods, tropical storms and hurricanes and they are increasing in scale, frequency and intensity. Research shows that 3.6 billion people already live in areas highly susceptible to climate change. Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is expected to cause approximately 250 000 additional deaths per year, from undernutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress alone.¹² Roughly three in five(62%) Indians perceive climate change as a threat to their country in the next 20 years -- with 37% seeing it as a “very serious” threat -- according to data aggregated from the 2019 and 2021. ⁸

The Government of India launched National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) on 30thJune, 2008 outlining eight National Missions on climate change. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) aims at creating awareness among the representatives of the public, different agencies of the government, scientists, industry and the community as a whole, on the threat posed by climate change and the steps proposed at the level of India to counter this changes.⁶

These missions are:

- 1. National Solar Mission**
- 2. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency**
- 3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat**
- 4. National Water Mission**
- 5. National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem**

6. National Mission for a Green India

7. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture

8. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

The frequency and intensity of climate-related disasters has steadily increased around the world. We can no longer remain ignorant of the dangers of climate change. Now climate disaster poses a huge threat to our entire nature. No economy and no human can fight this climate change alone. Therefore, it is very important now to increase the awareness of climate change and collective efforts should be made to make climate changes favorable, otherwise we will have to pay its consequences.

With the risks of climate change increasing, it is very important to connect the climate change awareness with education and students. So that students become aware of climate change. The aim of this study is to know how much knowledge the students in BBN Region have about the changes taking place in climate change and its causes and effects. While doing this research, these objectives have been kept in mind.

Objectives

1. To assess the level of awareness and practices related to climate change by college students in BBN region.
2. To find out the response of college students in BBN region on solutions of problems of climate change related issues.
3. To observe the awareness level of students on cause and effects of climate change.

Taking into consideration these objectives, this study also aimed at to encourage the college students to become more aware of their behavior on climate change.

Methodology

Simple random sampling technique was used to draw a sample size of 100 college students in BBN region. The instrument used for data collection was a well structured questionnaire. This questionnaire was divided in two sections, I and II. Section I documents the personal data of the respondents while the Section II contained questions in the form of 6 point modified Likert scale and some more close ended questions.

The data analysis approach used in this study includes descriptive analysis and percentage analysis.

Results

Table 1 shows the profile of the respondents. Out of total 100 respondents, 46 % were males and 54 % were females. Furthermore, 62 respondents were in the age group of 17-21 years and 38 respondents were in the age group of 22-28 years. In terms of subject/faculties, 56 respondents were in the commerce and management faculties, 18 respondents were in Faculty of Law, 12 respondents were in faculty of Arts and 14 respondents were in Faculty of pharmacy.

Table 1
Profile Of The Respondents In The Climate Change Awareness Study

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| No. of Respondents | Male | 46 |
| | Female | 54 |
| | Total | 100 |
| Age (in years) | 17-21 | 62 |
| | 22-28 | 38 |
| | Total | 100 |
| Subject / Faculty | Arts | 12 |
| | Commerce and Management | 56 |
| | Law | 18 |
| | Pharmacy | 14 |
| | Total | 100 |

Table 2
Response On Climate Change Awareness

| Items | Strongly agree | agree | neutral | disagree | Strongly disagree | Undecided |
|--|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|-----------|
| 1. Climate change is only a natural process | 7 | 10 | - | 6 | 72 | 5 |
| 2. Climate Awareness and Climate Change are taught as an important | 55 | - | - | 20 | 18 | 7 |

| topic in curriculum | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 3. Climate awareness education should be taught to everyone | 90 | 10 | - | - | - | - |
| 4. There have been many changes in climate change due to the arrival of industries in BBN region. | 77 | 5 | 16 | 2 | - | - |
| 5. Climate change is a global problem because it is linked to the economic development of every economy. | 66 | 23 | 4 | - | 2 | 5 |
| 6. When climate change education and Awareness program is started in various institutions, a lot of understanding about environment is created among the students. | 62 | 34 | 4 | - | - | - |
| 7. Climate Awareness Programs are run in this region to bring awareness towards climate change. | 9 | 4 | - | 28 | 42 | 17 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------|---|---|---|---|
| 8. . Human efforts are necessary to make the climate changes favorable. | 91 | 9 | - | - | - | - |
|---|-----------|----------|---|---|---|---|

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents (72 %) strongly disagreed that the climate change is only a natural process. They believed that human factor is most responsible factor for climate change.

55% of the respondents were strongly agreed that climate change and climate awareness are taught as an important topic in their curriculum. In addition, all the respondents felt that climate awareness education should be taught to everyone.

As far as BBN region is concerned, majority of the respondents (89 %) believed that due to industries, the climate has changed a lot here which has increased the health issues of the people living here. It was also observed in this study that very few Climate Awareness Programs are conducted in this region. Also, all the respondents were strongly agreed and agreed on the fact that human efforts are necessary to make the climate changes favorable.

Table 3

Responses On Awareness Level Of College Students On Cause And Effects Of Climate Change

| Items | Strongly agree | agree | neutral | disagree | Strongly disagree | Undecided |
|--|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Unforeseen climate change is fatal for human lives | 89 | 9 | - | - | - | 2 |
| 2. Deforestation is a curse for human and for our earth. It should be stopped. | 91 | 2 | - | 7 | - | - |

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 3. Climate Change affects economic development | 71 | 14 | 5 | - | 8 | 2 |
| 4. Industrial releases have had a huge impact on the climate change in the BBN region. | 67 | 24 | 9 | - | - | - |
| 5. Solar output is also a cause of climate change | 31 | 21 | 22 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| 6. Climate change threatens government efforts to eradicate illiteracy and it could enhance poverty | 27 | 19 | 25 | 13 | 6 | 10 |
| 7. Excessive use of transportation is posing a major threat to the climate in the BBN region and the world. | 88 | 5 | 7 | - | - | - |
| 8. Climate change also negatively affecting people's eating habits and health issues. | 64 | 6 | 15 | 12 | 3 | - |

Table 3 shows the responses on Awareness level of college students on cause and effects of climate change in the world as well as in BBN region. 89% of the respondents strongly agreed and 9 % of the respondents agreed on the fact that unforeseen climate change is fatal for human lives. Furthermore, a total of 93% of the respondents agreed and strongly agreed that Deforestation is a curse for human and for our earth and it should be stopped. 71 % of the respondents strongly agreed that climate change also affects economic development. 93 % of

the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that the use of excessive transportation is posing a major threat to the climate. In addition, majority of the respondents believed that climate change also negatively affecting people's eating habits and health issues. However only 52% respondents agreed and strongly agreed that solar output is also a cause of climate change. Many respondents were not aware of the causes and effects of solar output.

Table 4

Response From College Students On Solutions To The Problem Of Climate Change

| Items | Strongly agree | Agree | neutral | disagree | Strongly disagree | undecided |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Environmental science and rules should be strictly followed. | 96 | 4 | - | - | - | - |
| 2. Only education can inspire students and society to be aware of climate change. | 64 | 19 | - | - | - | 17 |
| 3. Climate change awareness programs can significantly change the development of our economy, health and food related issues. | 79 | 11 | - | 10 | - | - |
| 4. People should reuse bags and bottles and avoid plastic | 94 | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| 5. By eating less meat and eating local and | 40 | 22 | 18 | 17 | 3 | - |

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---|---|---|-----------|
| organic, man can reduce the carbon footprint of his diet. | | | | | | |
| 6. Plant a tree and Gift a Tree Program can also save our eco system. | 83 | 3 | - | | | 14 |
| 7. Workshops, seminars and conferences should be organized for both teachers and students on environmental issues in various institutions. | 93 | 7 | - | - | - | - |
| 8. It is also important to strictly follow the rules related to the disposing off waste from industries. | 97 | 3 | - | - | - | - |

Table 4 shows the responses received from college students on solutions to the problem of climate change. All the respondents strongly agreed and agreed that Environmental science and rules should be strictly followed. They all also strongly agreed and agreed that the rules should be properly followed related to the disposing off the waste from industries. 93 % of the respondents strongly agreed that workshops, seminars and conferences should be organized for both teachers and students on environmental issues in various institutions so that awareness on climate change can be increased. All the respondents were in the favor of that People should reuse bags and bottles and avoid plastic. 83 % of the respondents were strongly agreed that plant a tree and gift a tree program can also save our eco system. In addition, 62 % of the respondents

were strongly agreed and agreed that by eating less meat and eating local and organic, man can reduce the carbon footprint of his diet.

Table 5
Response From Students On Climate Change Practices

| Items | Yes | No |
|--|--|------------------------|
| 1. Do you use environment friendly alternatives to your vehicles to go to your institutions? | 82 | 18 |
| 2. Do you practice garbage segregation? | 17 | 83 |
| 3. Do you use climate friendly alternatives while shopping instead of plastic bags? | 42 | 58 |
| 4. Do you know about the various National missions started by the Government of India to control climate change? | 32 | 68 |
| 5. Where do you get information about climate changes? | 1. Newspaper 2. Online sources 3. Journals, magazines and publications 4. Any other | 28 72 Nil Nil |

Table 5 shows that 82 % of the students adopted environment friendly alternatives to their own vehicles to go to their institutions. Most of the Students prefer to go to their institution by public transport instead of personal vehicle. It was also observed that only 17 % of the students practiced garbage segregation. Only 42 students out of 100 prefer to use climate friendly alternatives while shopping instead of plastic bags. Government of India has launched various missions to control climate change but 68 % of the students were not aware about it. It was also found that 72 % of the students got the information about climate from online sources and none of them viewed any journal and magazines.

Conclusion

The college students were quite aware of climate change and environmental issues in the world as well as in BBN area. Students were also aware about the health issues caused by climate change. But they were not fully aware about the various national missions launched by the

Government of India to control climate change. Some of the students felt an urgent need to be well informed with verified sources of information. Respondents were aware of climate change issues but did not know about the aspects of solar energy. All the respondents were aware of the disadvantages of plastic and hence were in favor of using reusable bags and bottles.

Although this study has been done on only a few students in BBN Region, it still represents the awareness of college students. Some important precautions and measures can be adopted to make climate change sustainable and to increase awareness of climate change.

1. Environment and climate awareness programs and projects should be promoted at each and every level of the society.
2. Production and use of eco friendly products should be promoted.
3. Information about the entire national and the state missions launched by the government should be disseminated to the students in every institution through the awareness campaigns.
4. The process of planting trees should be more motivated and programs like gift a tree to your relatives and friends should be promoted in the society.
5. Environmental monitoring agencies should pay special attention to the industrial pollution.

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