

"Environmental Awareness and Practices Among Undergraduate Students: A Study on Sustainability and Responsibility"

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Abstract: This paper primarily focuses on environmental awareness and practices related to many variables, such as pollution causes, soil, forest, and air conservation, energy conservation, human health conservation, conservation of wildlife, and animal husbandry. The use of toilets, their use in the production of saplings, rainwater collecting, and their participation in environmental programs are all discussed, as are college students' ecological behaviours in general. Since environmental education is covered in their curricula, college students are the target group, and they can use what they have learned. People working on or for environmental cases will benefit from this study. The study is quantitative. It demonstrates that all responders, regardless of gender, have a high level of Awareness.

Key Words: Students, Environmental Awareness, Environmental Practice, Pollution, Conservation

Introduction: Environment includes all relationships between humans and their surroundings, all that impact upon them and all that they move. The environment is degrading at a much faster rate than our imagination. Most of these degradations are caused by human activities. Damage to the environment is both at the local and global levels. Depletion in the ozone layer and an increase in greenhouse gas emissions are examples of global damage; groundwater pollution and soil erosion are some examples of the regional impact of human activities on the environment.

Environmental education is necessary to protect, manage, and minimize environmental damage. It develops the required skills and expertise to handle the associated challenges. Ecological study aims to impart knowledge, create Awareness, inculcate an attitude of concern, and provide skills to address environmental challenges. Ecological education allows us to assess the environmental situation and the conditions leading to environmental damage.

Review of Related Literature:

Some Studies on environmental Awareness and attitudes towards the environment are discussed below. **Aniket Verma & Vishal Verma (2022)**, the relationship between gender, ecological awareness, and practice level is high. Still, the practice level is moderate, and there are some differences between gender and practice level among college students. **Dr Babhuti Kashyap et al. (2021)**: The Awareness of environmental issues and perception of environmental education among secondary male and female students were not found significant, but the relationship between ecological Awareness and perception of school environment among the students was found to be strong and positive **Gina K. Thomas et al. (2020)** study assessed the level of environmental Awareness and attitude of college students towards the environment. College students were very aware of the consequences of ecological Pollution and its impact on life. **Yildiz, Y., & Budur, T. (2019)** learnt that educators at schools should have curricular and extracurricular activities with learners to foster their Awareness of environmental issues as it is seen that by different school activities, students' attitudes to nature and the environment have changed positively slightly better. **Syazni Jusoh (2018)** Revealed that the level of environmental awareness among university students had a high level of knowledge, and the level of practice was moderate.

Objectives:

1. To assess the environmental awareness level among undergraduate students.
2. To study the general environmental practices among undergraduate students.

3. To suggest measures towards creating environmental Awareness and environment-friendly practices among undergraduate students.

Methodology

For this study, a sample of 80 undergraduate students was selected. A simple Random sampling technique was adopted for the study. A questionnaire containing 25 questions was given to fill each one of them. Questions were aimed at assessing the Awareness and knowledge about Govt. rules and works, Sources & effects of Pollution, reducing garbage and Pollution, Changes in behaviour and Concerns of the students about our environment. Data were analyzed, and tables, figures, and charts were prepared.

Results and Discussion:

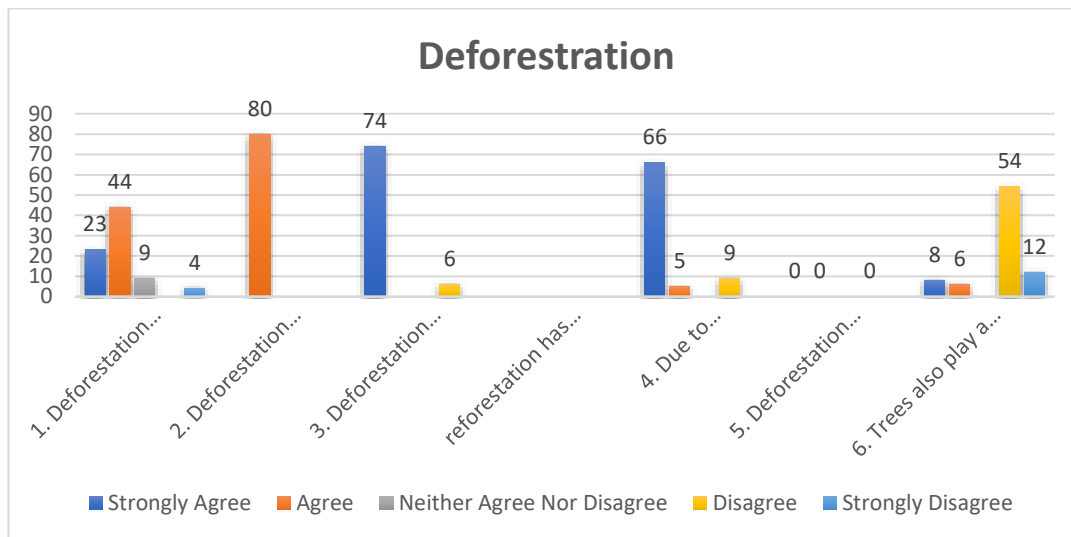
Knowledge and practice of environmental Awareness among undergraduate students in the Kamareddy district have greatly improved over the years, resulting in a more favorable social environment. Environmental education is also essential in society and the ethics of the community. There is a positive relationship between the level of education and the level of Awareness, knowledge and practice. Some countries in the world experienced difficulties in the economic framework for environmental protection and the need for more participation among the general public in ecological behaviors among the communities. Although environmental awareness problems are critical, they are widely known because of the growing awareness of all levels of society, including governments, the general public, and the scientific community.

Students' perception of Awareness and practices related to environmental concerns among undergraduate students. Students can discuss a few ecological issues that are, to some degree, constrained. Students can discuss a few ecological problems commonly known by numerous individuals in society.

Table No-1: Distribution of Respondents by Awareness of Deforestation

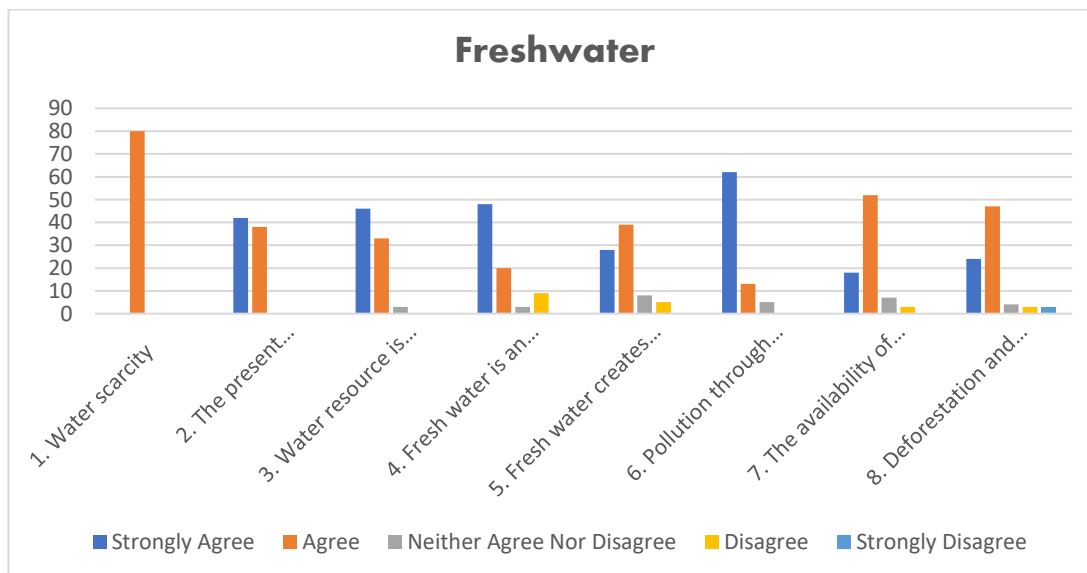
Statements	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
1. Deforestation occurs due to the need for land, trees and other human requirements.	23 (29%)	44(55%)	9(11%)		4(5%)	80(100%)
2. Deforestation has adverse effects on the environment.		80(100%)				80(100%)
3. Deforestation without sufficient reforestation has resulted in damage to habitat, biodiversity loss and aridity.	74 (92%)			6(8%)		80(100%)
4. Due to Deforestation, the most dramatic impact is a loss of habitat for millions of species.	66(83%)	5(6%)		9(11%)		80(100%)
5. Deforestation increases soil erosion.	24(30%)	44(55%)		12(15%)		80(100%)
6. Trees also play a critical role in absorbing the greenhouse gases that fuel global warming.	8(10%)	6(7%)		54(68%)	12(15%)	80(100%)

Figure-1: Deforestation



The above table & figure show that the majority, 84 per cent of the respondents, strongly agree with that Deforestation occurs due to human-induced land transformation. Cent per cent of the respondents know Deforestation has adverse environmental effects. Eighty-three per cent of the respondents strongly agree that Deforestation impacts biodiversity. It was noticed that 68 per cent of the respondents disagree with the idea that trees ‘play an important role’ in absorbing the greenhouse gases that control global warming.

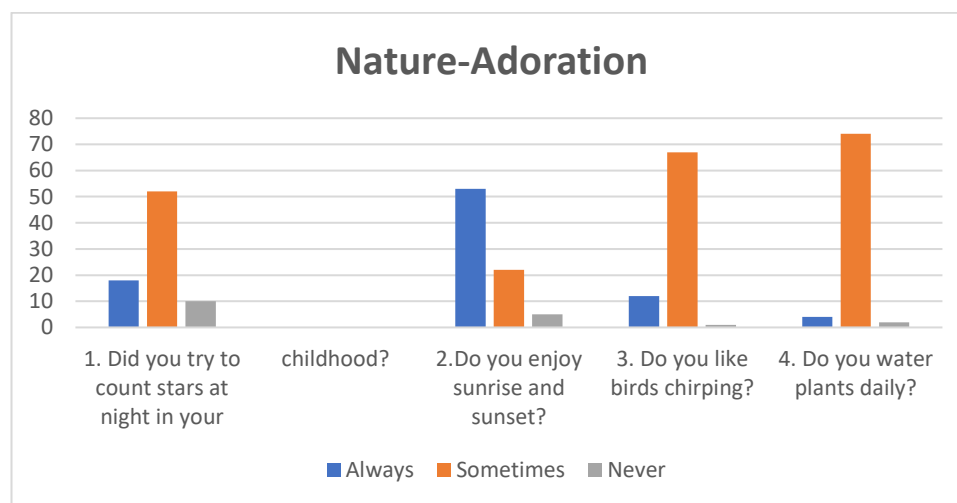
Figure 2: Freshwater: Drinking, Irrigation and Groundwater



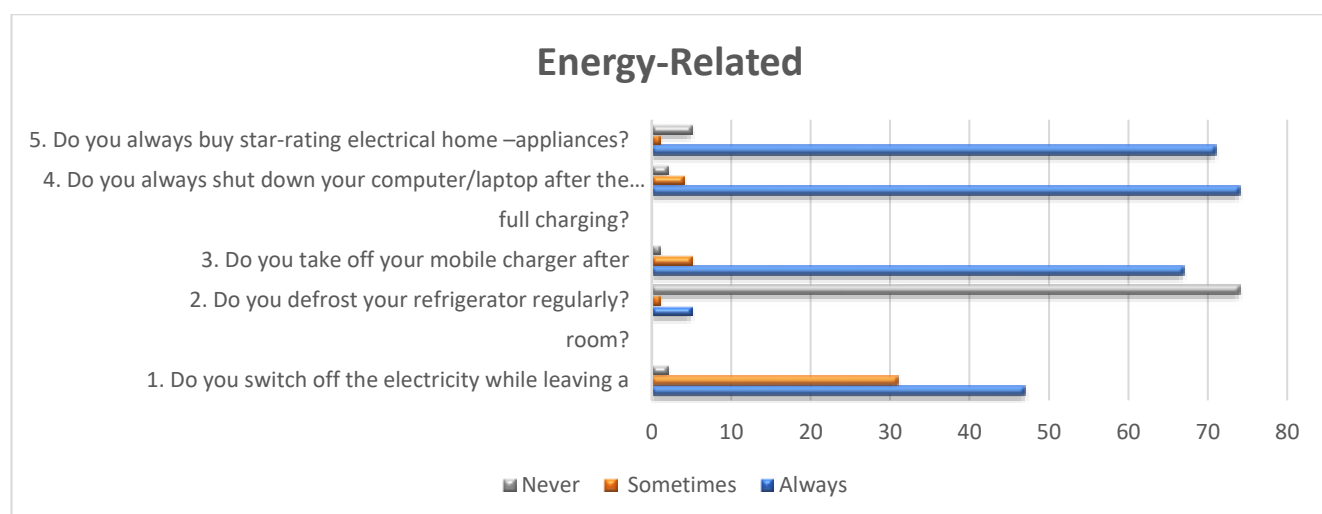
The above figure shows that the majority of the respondents, 85 per cent, agree that freshwater is an essential natural resource necessary for the survival of all ecosystems, and 92 per cent of the respondents agree that wastage released by human activities is a significant problem for freshwater pollution.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by Awareness of Environment-Friendly Habits-Nature Adoration

Questions	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total
1. Did you try to count stars at night in your childhood?	18(22%)	52(65%)	10(13%)	80(100%)
2. Do you enjoy sunrise and sunset?	53(66%)	22(28%)	5(6%)	80(100%)
3. Do you like birds chirping?	12(15%)	67(84%)	1(1%)	80(100%)
4. Do you water plants daily?	4(5%)	74(92%)	2(3%)	80(100%)

Figure 3: Distribution of respondents by Awareness of Environment-Friendly Habits- Nature adoration


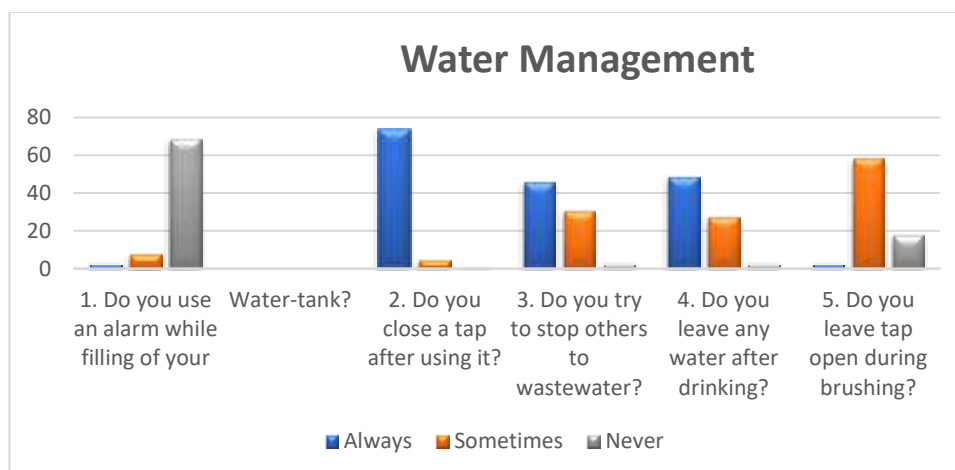
Based on the result of another study, the table & figure show that 70 per cent of the respondents have been asked nature-adoration questions like counting stars in the night, enjoying sunrise and sunset, birds chirping and watering plants daily, it is found that the maximum per cent, i.e. 92 per cent of the respondents have replied that they will sometimes enjoy only.

Figure 4: Distribution of respondents by Awareness of Environment-Friendly Habits-Energy Related


Student's response to Energy related Awareness: it is clear that the majority of the students are always aware of buying star-rating electrical home appliances in their homes,

Table 3: Distribution of respondents by Awareness of Water management

Questions	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total
1. Do you use an alarm while filling out your Water-tank?	3(4%)	8(10%)	69(86%)	80(100%)
2. Do you close a tap after using it?	74(93%)	5(6%)	1(1%)	80(100%)
3. Do you try to stop others from wastewater?	46(57%)	31(39%)	3(4%)	80(100%)
4. Do you leave any water after drinking?	49(61%)	28(35%)	3(4%)	80(100%)
5. Do you leave the tap open during brushing?	3(4%)	59(74%)	18(22%)	80(100%)

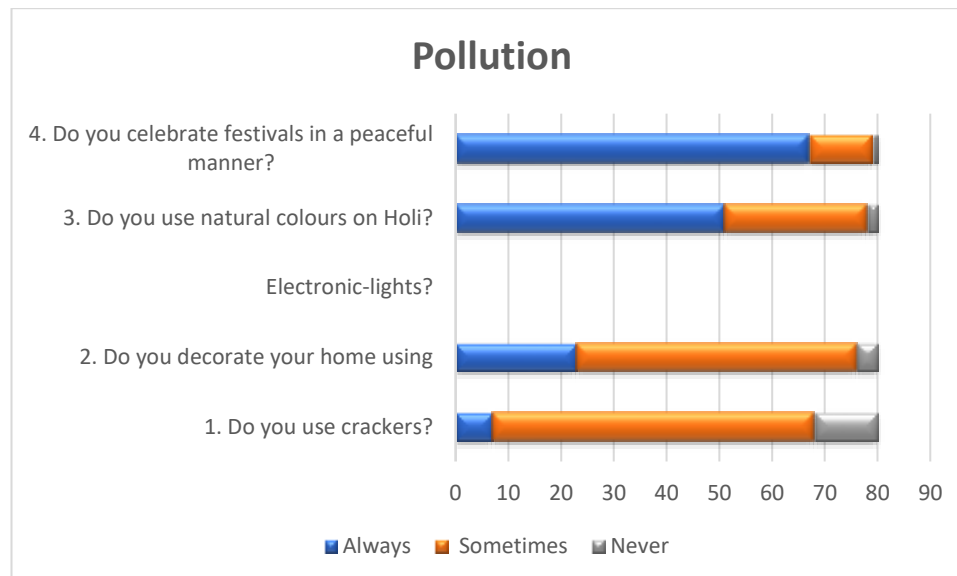
Figure 4: Distribution of respondents by Awareness of water management


Regarding Awareness, 80 per cent of the respondents were asked about understanding water management and waste management questions like proper drainage systems, dustbins everywhere, and public transportation.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by Awareness of Pollution

Pollution				
Questions	Always	Sometimes	Never	Total
1. Do you use crackers?	7(9%)	61(76%)	12(15%)	80(100%)
2. Do you decorate your home using electronic lights?	23(29%)	53(66%)	4(5%)	80(100%)
3. Do you use natural colours on Holi?	51(64%)	27(34%)	2(2%)	80(100%)
4. Do you peacefully celebrate festivals?	67(84%)	12(15%)	1(1%)	80(100%)

Figure 5: Distribution of respondents by Awareness of Pollution



Does the table & figure show that Above 50 per cent of the respondents have used crackers? Home electronic lights and natural colours on the occasion of Holi and celebrate festivals peacefully. Eighty-one per cent of the respondents will pay for more environmentally friendly products; a green lifestyle solves environmental crises. Sixty per cent of the respondents agree that environmental Pollution is beyond control. Forty per cent of the respondents disagreed with the usage of plastic.

Conclusion

The respondents' awareness level is quite good, but implementing the environmental aspects is complex. However, it is difficult; it is possible only by joining hands, i.e., whole community participation. Since today's youth are tomorrow's citizens, there is a lot of responsibility on your part to conserve nature, protect nature and habitually follow environmentally friendly practices. The student community must be made aware and consciously made to understand the importance of the ill effects of environmental degradation not only on the bus but also on future generations. The present older generation citizens should be role models for the young age to look up to. As part of the curriculum, though these are taught as small lessons, there is still a need to make environmental studies a compulsory subject, considering the increasing rate of Pollution. Government policies related to ecological Pollution have to be made stricter to follow and encourage young minds to take up research in the environment and society, as well as make the young generation more responsible.

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