Analytical Review on Environmental Ethics and Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students in Mizoram

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Abstract

The latter part of the 20th century saw the evolution of modern environmental ethics philosophy. Environmental issues gained prominence due to issues such as resource scarcity, population growth, and environmental deterioration. But it also presented some difficulties for determining environmental ethics in the modern world. The main obstacles in creating environmental ethics were the disparities across societies, countries, and regions; the fundamental right to get the resources needed for a daily existence; the right to access resources, etc. Divergent opinions on environmental ethics have resulted from this.

The purpose of the research is to ascertain the level of environmental ethics, the attitudes of students towards protecting the environment, and the relationship between the two. The study employed "descriptive research" to examine the gender-related differences in Mizoram undergrad students' environmental ethics and attitudes towards protecting the environment. 450 male and 450 female students, out of the total 900 participants in the study, made up the final sample. The study's goals were analyzed using statistical techniques such as Mean, Standard Deviation, and t-test, and the results were interpreted in a meaningful way. According to the survey, the majority of undergraduates had high environmental ethics and an average attitude towards environmental conservation; however, female undergraduates had higher environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection compared to the male under-graduate students. Environmental ethics and undergrad students' attitudes towards environmental protection were shown to be substantially correlated in Mizoram, suggesting that a student with strong environmental ethics would likewise have higher environmental attitudes.

Keywords: Environmental ethics, Attitude, Environment protection, Under-graduate students, Mizoram, Gender, Relationship.

Introduction:

The term "environment" refers to the circumstances or surroundings that affect growth or development. It may be thought of as a system that consists of all entities, living and non-living, such as soil, water, air, plants, flora, and fauna. Environment may be defined as the circumstances around life. We are surrounded by a biotic and physical environment that we can see, touch, smell, hear, and feel. According to Anastassi (1937), "Everything that affects an individual's life except his genes is his environment." The word "environment" refers to the entirety of all biotic, physical, and extrinsic elements that have an impact on all living beings' lives and behaviours. Consequently, it is critical to protect the environment, which is made up of human-made plants, animals, and water as well as air are the components should be preserved and protected from degradation to enable maintenance of the ecological balance.

"Environmental ethics is concerned with the moral relations that holds between the humans and the natural environment," according to Taylor (1989). The study of environmental ethics examines the moral connections between people and their surroundings. It takes into consideration expanding the conventional bounds of ethics to include the non-human realm in addition to people. According to environmental ethics, we should base our actions on a set of moral principles that govern how we interact with other living things in the natural world. Not only is protecting natural resources urgently needed, but it is also our first responsibility. The preservation of natural resources now has a new angle because to environmental ethics. It has an impact on many academic fields, such as environmental sociology, environmental law, environmental ecotheology, ecological economics, ecology and environmental geography.

For the benefit of the environment and people, environmental protection is the practice of safeguarding the natural environment at the individual, organisation, and governmental levels. It entails contaminating the environment with various elements, killing them on the roadways, and disposing of their trash in residential areas where people dwell, so rendering the environment clean and dirty. Programmes for environmental protection include those that try to lower the hazards that pollutants like fuels, lubricants, and hazardous wastes provide to the environment. These programmes provide protocols for handling these compounds securely, examine storage vessels and sites, and identify preventive maintenance processes. They also handle pollution prevention measures and regulatory compliance. Environmental emergency plans are also provided; these outline what should be done in the case of a leak or discharge.

Review of Related Literature:

A research on "The relationship between Environmental Ethics and Environmental Attitude among College Students" was carried out by Rani and Singh (2018). The primary outcome of this investigation showed that among college students, environmental ethics and environmental attitude were positively associated. This indicates that pupils with strong environmental ethics were probably also more environmentally conscious, and vice versa. A favourable correlation has also been found between environmental ethics and a number of environmental attitude characteristics, including health and hygiene, wildlife, forests, pollutants, population growth, and environmental concern.

The research "Environmental Awareness and Behaviour of College Students in Regards to the Environment in Urban Area" was carried out by Ningrum and Herdiansyah (2018). The findings indicate that:

- 1. There is a gender variation in the degree of practice, but overall, respondents' levels of environmental knowledge and conduct are "good."
 - 2. This study finds that college students behave and are aware of the environment well.

"Climate Change Awareness and Environmental Attitude of College students in one campus of a State University in the Philippines" was the subject of a research done by Magulod (2018). The study's findings showed that:

- 1. Cagayan State University in Lasam undergraduate students had a high degree of environmental attitude and awareness of climate change.
- 2. It was also discovered that the respondents' attitudes towards the environment and their awareness of climate change were significantly correlated.

Lahnstein and Ryder (2019) in their studies on "School Teachers' conceptions of Environmental Education: Reinterpreting a Typology through a Thematic Analysis" and showed that there were both complete and partial correlations between the instructors' concepts and the Sauvé typology, indicating that the teachers' notions were nuanced and could not be well captured by a single environmental education model.

Chavada and Charan (2020) conducted a study on "An analysis of Environmental Ethics among - college students. The finding revealed there is significant difference was found among them with regard to gender and there is no significant difference was found among them with regard to level of education.

Lalhmangaihzuali (2021) research entitled "Environmental Knowledge, Attitude and Activities of College Students in Mizoram". This study revealed that-

1. According to this survey, the majority of Mizoram college students had above average environmental attitudes, high environmental knowledge, and average environmental behaviours.

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- Male students outperformed female students in terms of environmental knowledge, and a sizable portion of male students exhibited better environmental attitudes than female college students. Compared to male students, female students engaged in more average environmental activities.
- 3. When it came to the study of environmental knowledge, attitude, and activities, science students outperformed students in the arts and commerce with the highest mean score.
- 4. Majority of college students of Mizoram had high environmental knowledge, had above
- College students coming from urban areas had high environmental knowledge than rural areas students. Students coming from urban areas had average environmental activities while students from rural areas had above average environmental attitude knowledge than urban areas students.
- 6. There is no significant difference between male and female students, there is a significant difference in the attitude of Arts and Science students of Mizoram towards the environment at 0.05 level. there is a significant difference in the attitude of Arts and Commerce college students of Mizoram towards the environment at 0.05 level of significance, Arts and Commerce college students of Mizoram is not significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 levels
- 7. There is a significantly positive correlation between environmental knowledge, environmental attitude and environmental activities of college students in Mizoram.

Objectives of the Study:

- 1. To find out the level of environmental ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.
- 2. To compare the environmental ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender.
- 3. To find out the level of attitude towards environmental protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.
- 4. To compare the attitude of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram towards environmental protection with respect to their gender.
- 5. To study the relationship between environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.

Hypotheses:

- 1. There is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender.
- 2. There is no significant difference in the attitude of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram towards environmental protection with respect to their gender.
- 3. There is no relationship between environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.

Methodology:

The present study is descriptive in nature. Therefore, descriptive survey method has been employed. Blends of both qualitative and quantitative analysis had been employed in the present investigation.

Population:

The population of the study comprised of all under-graduate students of Mizoram affiliated to Mizoram University.

Sample:

For the present study, to study and compare environmental ethics and attitude, 900 students were selected as a representative sample. The final sample size comprised of 450 males and 450 females offering Arts, Science and Commerce of under-graduate students studying in Mizoram.

Tools Used:

The following tools were used for the present study:

- 1. Environmental Ethics Scale (EES) (2001) developed by Dr. (Mrs.) Haseen Taj; Professor, Department of Education, Bangalore University, Bengaluru.
- 2. Attitude Scale towards Environmental Protection (2021) developed by the investigator.

Data collection and analysis:

All 900 students were given the Environmental Ethics scale, which consists of 45 items, and the Attitude towards Environmental Protection scale, which consists of 38 statements. Data was gathered using a Google form app. They received a thorough explanation of the study's objectives as well as guidelines for marking the replies of their choosing. It was also explained to the responders that there is no right or incorrect answer. They were given enough time to consider each statement so that they would be able to respond honestly. They received assurances that the information they provided would be treated with the utmost confidentiality and would only be utilised for study. As the respondents filled out their completed replies, it was made sure that each question and statement were responded and that the required personal information was provided by them.

Analysis of data was done by making use of descriptive and inferential statistics like Mean, Standard Deviation and t-test. Analysis was done manually and by using Microsoft Excel 2019.

Data interpretation and discussion:

Objective No.1: Level of Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.

In order to find out the environmental ethics of under-graduate students of Mizoram, 'Environmental Ethics Scale (EES)' developed by Dr. (Mrs.) Haseen Taj was administered to all the 900 respondents. In order to establish the norms, the raw scores of all 900 respondents were transformed into the Stanine scale by organizing them in frequency distribution and then giving the percentage of each stanine score points according to the normal distribution curve. This way all respondents were categorized into three groups in accordance with the norms.

The following table and figure show the number and percentages of all respondent's level of environmental ethics.

Table no.1
Level of Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students in Mizoram.

N	Mean	SD	High Ethics	Average Ethics	Low Ethics
900	112.95	14.33	576 (64%)	113 (12.6%)	211 (23.4%)

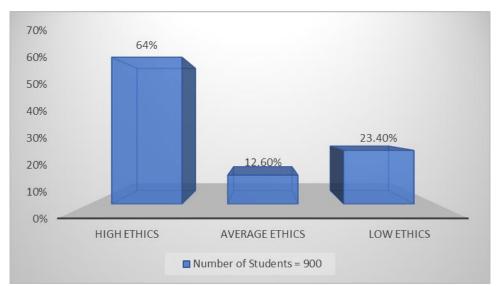


Figure 1: Level of Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.

The above table no.1 and figure1 reveals that out of 900 respondents, majority 576 (64%) of the student respondents have high environmental ethics, while 113 (12.6%) of the students have average ethics and 211 (23.4%) of the student respondents have low ethics. The Mean score of college students is 112.95 and Standard Deviation is 14.33 respectively. Therefore, we can conclude that the under-graduate students in Mizoram have a high level of environmental ethics.

Objective No.2: Comparison of Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender.

The students' levels of environmental ethics were compared on the basis of their gender. For this, the Mean and Standard Deviation of the scores were calculated. The mean differences were tested by applying 't' test and the details are presented in the following tables.

Difference in environmental ethics with reference to gender.

Hypothesis No.1 states that "There is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender".

The following table no.2 and figure 2 shows the comparison of Male and Female respondents with respect to their Environmental Ethics.

Table no.2 Comparison of Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender

Gender	N	High Ethics	Average Ethics	Low Ethics
Male	450	254	57	139
		(56.4%)	(12.7%)	(30.9%)
Female	450	322	56	72
		(71.6%)	(12.4%)	(16%)

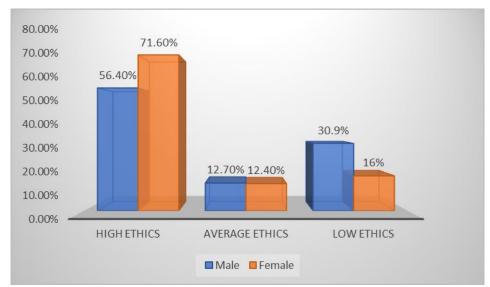


Figure 2: Comparison of Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender.

It is evident from table no.2 that both female and male college students have a high environmental ethics. Among the male students, majority 254 (56.4%) students have high environmental ethics, 57 (12.7%) have average environmental ethics and 139 (30.9%) students have low environmental ethics. Among the female students, 322 (71.6%) have a high environmental ethics, 56 (12.4%) have average environmental ethics and 72 (16%) have low environmental ethics.

Table no.3 shows the calculation of t-test of Male and Female respondents with respect to their Environmental Ethics.

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Table no.3

Difference in the Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with reference to their gender

Gender	N	Mean	df	SD	Calculated t-	Critic	al Value	Significant
		Value	898		value	0.05	0.01	Level
Male	450	109.88		15.39	6.59	1.96	2.59	**
Female	450	116.01		12.48				

^{**}Significant at both 0.05 and 0.01 level

A result of the above table no.3 reveals that the 't' value for the significance of difference between male and female under-graduate students is 6.59. Since the calculated 't' value is greater than the criterion 't' value at 0.05 and 0.01 level, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference between male and female under-graduate students with respect to environmental ethics. Therefore, the null hypothesis (No.1) that assumes "There is no significant difference in the environmental ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender" is rejected, since the two groups differed significantly at 0.05 and 0.01 level of confidence. A comparison of their mean scores shows that female students have higher mean score than the male students, therefore it can be concluded that female students have higher level of environmental ethics than the males. This indicates that under-graduate females possess better environmental ethics than their male counterparts i.e. the under-graduate males.

Objective No 3: Level of attitude towards environmental protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.

In order to study the attitude towards environmental protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram, the investigator made use of the Attitude Scale towards Environmental Protection prepared by the investigator herself.

The following table shows the number and percentage of all respondent's level of attitude towards environmental protection.

Table no. 4
Level of Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram

N	Mean	SD	High Attitude	Average Attitude	Low Attitude
900	164.35	11.76	144 (16%)	629 (69.9%)	127 (14.1%)

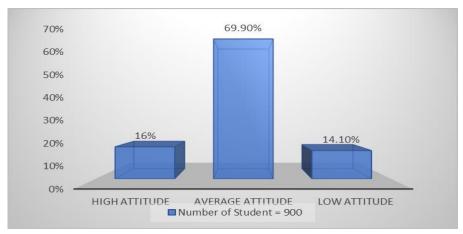


Figure 3: Level of Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate students of Mizoram.

Locking at table no 4 out of all the 900 respondents it can be observed that majority i.e. 620 (60 0%) of under

Looking at table no.4, out of all the 900 respondents it can be observed that majority i.e., 629 (69.9%) of undergraduate students of Mizoram have an average attitude towards environmental protection. The table also shows that 144 (16%) of under-graduate students of Mizoram had high attitude towards environmental protection while 127 (14.1%) had low attitude towards environmental protection. The Mean score of attitudes towards environmental protection of under-graduate students of Mizoram was 164.35 and Standard Deviation was 11.76.

Objective No.4: Comparison of Under-Graduate Student's Attitude towards environmental protection with

Objective No.4: Comparison of Under-Graduate Student's Attitude towards environmental protection with respect to their gender.

The students' levels of attitude towards environmental protection were compared on the basis of their gender. For this, the Mean and Standard Deviation of the scores were calculated. The mean differences were tested by applying 't' test and the details are presented in the following tables.

Difference in attitude towards environmental protection with reference to gender.

Hypothesis No.1 states that "There is no significant difference in the attitude of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram towards environmental protection with respect to their gender".

Table no. 5 shows the comparison of Male and Female respondents with respect to their attitude towards environmental protection.

Table no. 5 Comparison of Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender

Gender	N	High Attitude	Average Attitude	Low Attitude
Male	450	74	299	77
		(16.4%)	(66.5%)	(17.1%)
Female	450	70	330	50
		(15.6%)	(73.3%)	(11.1%)

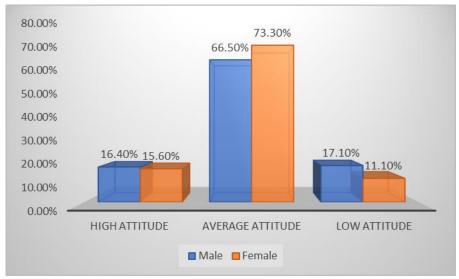


Figure 4: Comparison of Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with respect to their gender.

It is perceptible from Table No. 5 that majority i.e., 299 (66.5%) of male under-graduate students had average attitude towards environmental protection while 74 (16.4%) of male students had high attitude towards environmental protection and 77 (17.1%) had low attitude. It can also be seen that 70 (15.6%) of under-graduate female students had high attitude towards environmental protection, while 330 (73.3%) had average attitude and 50 (11.1%) of female students had low attitude towards environmental protection.

Table no. 6 indicated the calculation of t-test of Male and Female respondents with respect to their attitude towards environmental protection.

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Table no.6

Difference in the Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with reference to their gender

Gender	N	Mean Value	df	SD	Calculated t- value	Critical Value		Significance
						0.05	0.01	
Male	450	163.70	898	12.59	1.67	1.96	2.59	Not significant at both 0.05 and
Female	450	165.01		10.85				0.01

Table no. 6 shows that the 't' value for the significance of difference between male and female undergraduate students is 1.67. Since the calculated 't' value is less than the criterion 't' value at 0.05 and 0.01 level, it can be concluded that there is no significant difference between male and female under-graduate students with respect to their attitude towards environmental protection. Therefore, the null hypothesis 2 that assumes "There is no significant difference in the attitude of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram towards environmental protection with respect to their gender" cannot be rejected, since the two groups does not differ significantly at 0.05 and 0.01 level of confidence. A comparison of their mean scores shows that female students had higher mean score than the male students, therefore it can be concluded that female under-graduate students had higher level of attitude towards environmental protection than the under-graduate males.

Objective No.5: Relationship between Environmental Ethics and Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram

In order to find out the relationship between environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection of under-graduate students of Mizoram, Pearson product moment correlation was employed.

Table no.7
Relationship between Environmental Ethics and Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram (N=900)

Variables	Critical	r value	Calculated r	Significance
Ethics	0.05	0.01	0.98	Significant
Attitude	0.062	0.081		

Table no.7 indicates that the R-value is 0.98 in relation to the correlation between environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection of under-graduate students, which is high or extremely high correlation. By looking at the critical table it reveals that the r value at 0.05 and 0.01 levels of significance are 0.062 and 0.081 respectively. Since the calculated r value is higher than the critical value of r, it may be concluded that there is a significantly positive correlation between environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection of under-graduate students of Mizoram. Hence, the null hypothesis (No. 3) stating "There is no relationship between environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram" is rejected. This implies that with greater ethics about environment, attitude towards environment will also increase.

Major Findings:

The following are the major findings of the present study:

Findings and discussion regarding the level of Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.

Findings – The findings of the present study revealed that out of 900 under-graduate students in Mizoram, majority 576 (64%) of the student respondents have high environmental ethics, while 113 (12.6%) of the students

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have average ethics and 211 (23.4%) of the student respondents have low ethics. The Mean score and Standard Deviation of under-graduate students was found out to be 112.95 and 14.33 respectively. Therefore, we can conclude that majority of under-graduate students in Mizoram have a high level of environmental ethics.

Discussion - The present study found that the majority of under-graduate students have high level of ethics. The topics on environmental studies is incorporated in the schools and as a compulsory paper at 4th Semester in the college in Mizoram. The study further elaborated that the probable reason why under-graduate students in Mizoram possessed high environmental ethics could be because the students were influenced by what they learnt in the schools and colleges.

Findings and discussion regarding the comparison of Environmental Ethics of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with reference to their gender.

Findings – The findings of the study showed that out of 900 respondents, majority i.e., 254 (56.4%) of male under-graduate students have high environmental ethics, while 57 (12.7%) have average ethics and 139 (30.9%) of male students have low environmental ethics. Among the female students, we can see that 322 (71.6%) of have high environmental ethics, while 56 (12.4%) have average ethics and 72 (16%) of female students have low environmental ethics. The mean score of male students was 109.88 and the mean score of female students was 116.01. Standard Deviation of male students was 15.39 and female students was 12.48. The 't' value for the significance of difference between male and female under-graduate students at both 0.01 and 0.05 levels.

Discussion – By looking at the present study, it was found that there is a significant difference between male and female under-graduate students and by comparing their mean scores, it shows that female students have higher mean score than the male students, therefore it can be concluded that female under-graduate students have a better ethics about the environment than their counterparts i.e., under-graduate males. The reason why male under-graduate students have lower environmental ethics than the female students is male students believed that there is no reason why they should fully adhere to the environmental ethics especially if it is not being imposed to them by law. Meanwhile if female under-graduate students consider environmental ethics in terms of care and compassion, there is every reason why female student should have higher environmental ethics than the male under-graduate students. Conceivably, female students will instinctively care for the environment because of their innate characteristics and tendencies which is an inborn trait. Therefore, it is not without a reason that the present study found that female under-graduate students possessed higher environmental ethics compared to the male under-graduate students.

Findings and discussion regarding the level of Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.

Findings – The findings of the present study revealed that out of all the 900 respondents it can be seen that majority i.e., 629 (69.9%) of under-graduate students of Mizoram have average attitude towards environmental protection. The table also shows that 144 (16%) of under-graduate students of Mizoram have high attitude towards environmental protection while 127 (14.1%) have low attitude towards environmental protection. The Mean score and Standard Deviation of under-graduate students' attitudes towards environmental protection was 164.35 and 11.76 respectively.

Discussion - The present study found that the majority of the students have average attitude. There were a few students who have a low level of attitude, while a large number of students were found to have high attitude towards environmental protection. The similar finding investigated by Magulod (2018) also found out that the undergraduate students of Cagayan State University at Lasam have a high level of environmental attitude towards conserving the environment. This finding also adheres with the finding of Lalhmangaihzuali (2021) and found that majority of college students of Mizoram have above average environmental attitude. Therefore, the main reason why under-graduate students of Mizoram possessed high environmental attitude could be because the students were influenced by what they have learnt from schools, colleges, home and community.

Findings and discussion regarding the comparison of Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram with reference to their gender.

Findings - The findings indicates that out of 900 respondents, majority i.e., 299 (66.5%) of male under-graduate students have average attitude towards environmental protection while 74 (16.4%) of male students have high attitude towards environmental protection and 77 (17.1%) have low attitude. It can also be seen that 70 (15.6%)

of under-graduate female students have high attitude towards environmental protection, while 330 (73.3%) have average attitude and 50 (11.1%) of female students have low attitude towards environmental protection. The mean score of male students was 163.70 and the mean score of female students was 165.01. Standard Deviation of male students was 12.59 and female students was 10.85. The 't' value for the significance of difference between male and female under-graduate students is 1.67. Since the calculated 't' value is less than the criterion 't' value at 0.05 and 0.01 level, it can be concluded that there is no significant difference between male and female under-graduate students with respect to their attitude towards environmental protection.

Discussion - The present study found that there is no significant difference between male and female undergraduate students with respect to their attitude towards environmental protection. But by comparing their mean scores, it shows that female students have higher mean score than the male students, therefore it can be concluded that female under-graduate students have higher level of attitude towards environmental protection than the undergraduate males.

Findings and discussion regarding the relationship between Environmental Ethics and Attitude towards Environmental Protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram.

The study shows that the relationship between environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection of Under-Graduate Students of Mizoram is 0.98. Since the calculated r value is higher than the critical value of r, it may be concluded that there is a significantly positive correlation between environmental ethics and attitude towards environmental protection of under-graduate students of Mizoram. This implies that a student who have good ethics about environment also have good attitude towards environment will also increase. This finding signified with the findings of Magulod (2018) and Lalhmangaihzuali (2021) also found that there is a significantly positive correlation between environmental knowledge, awareness, activities and attitude of the students.

Conclusion:

Based on the findings of the present study, the following conclusions have been drawn. The present study can be concluded that the ethics of under-graduate students of Mizoram was in a positive direction. Majority of the students had high ethics, and these shows that in terms of understanding the environment, students have high grasp towards the environment. As a result, under-graduate students in Mizoram had high environmental ethics may be the result that environment ethics is an integral part of environmental studies since it establishes human-environment relationships. Most of the students had an average attitude towards the environment, and shows that in terms of understanding the environment, students still have an average grasp of the subject. Developing the right attitude is more important since having average environmental protection is not enough to conserve the environment that is degrading. However, having average attitude towards environmental protection is not enough in order to conserve the degrading environment. Significant difference was found between male and female undergraduate students with respect to their environmental ethics. Male and female students did not show any difference in their attitude towards environmental protection and by comparing their mean scores, it shows that female students had higher mean score than the male students, therefore it can be concluded that female under-graduate students had a better ethics about the environment and attitude towards environmental protection than their counterparts i.e., under-graduate males.

Our environment should be adequately understood by imparting knowledge and training to solve various environmental problems in a systematic manner. Deeper attention about environmental education is needed for future generations as they must be more aware and keeping the state as the cleanest environment. Therefore, it is also essential to nurture in the home environment as well as inside the classroom. A deep understanding about the environmental issues should be implemented in institutions from the early stage. Environmental education/awareness should be accessed not only within the institutions, it should be enhanced within the society as a whole. A greater investment in this subject may result in greater results. An individual itself can also do a lot to protect the environment not only as a group. The indication about environmental knowledge, awareness and positive activities towards environment should be implemented more in the institution, and real action should be taken to protect the environment.

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