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Environmental consciousness and behavior of female students- A case study of Panchmura Mahavidyalaya, Bankura, west Bengal.

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Abstract

Environmental responsibility, consciousness and safe practices becomes an important issues at present era of civilization. Green technologies has been well adopted not in the field of the industries or manufacturing hubs but at the same time the students of various institutions are playing an important role to preserve the environment and promotes the sustainability concern. The present paper basically focuses upon the feminist impact on environment through assessment of role of female students in protecting environment and making a sustainable environmental practices. A survey was conducted in Panchmura college campus on 100 female UG students from various disciplines, selected through random sampling methods who are belongs from rural and urban residence. A questioner study is conducted to know their perception regarding environment, environmental decaying, and methods of sustainability. From this above survey method it can be concluded that if an institution and formal society spreads awareness on environmental issues the female students can play an effective role in saving trees, water, and can resists the use of plastics and other garbage in institutional premises. In this institution various awareness campaign, seminar, workshop and NSS activities plays a strong role to mold the mental set up of women students by their spontaneous participation and healthy practices in campus and surroundings. So a holistic approach is required to adopt in a more sensible way so that environmental conservation approach can be well implemented by the girl students by giving them ample opportunity and exposure to participate deliberately in environmental campaign and community wellbeing.

Keywords: *Environmental consciousness, Environmental practices, Sustainability, Environmental campaign.*

Introduction: At the present era of globalization we are living in a corporate world. The growing civilization makes immense problem like industrialization, urbanization, abrupt population explosion and other environmental hazards. Human made factors are responsible for this kind of environmental degradations. Unchecked population growth, expansion of settlement, deforestation, automobile emission and other technological progress makes this

kind of disaster. Greenhouse effect, acid rain, ozone layer depilation, smog, pollution and food contamination are the visible outcome of this human issues. In maximum portion of India, this kind of problems take a biggest role in ecological and habitat detrition. Human encroachment of lands create immense problem like, diminishing agricultural lands, loss of bio-diversity, excessive use of inorganic fertilizer and pesticides makes severe problems in environment. Although at present several environmental conservation are resorted like adoption of pollution control techniques, uses of green fertilizer, utilization of non-conventional energy resources (solar energy, bio-gas). In spite of all this efforts many problems are still existed in environment. Students and learners are the alternative strength, who can positively take effective roles in environmental conservation. From the feministic point of view it can be said that women can well understood the environmental principals and ethics. So a proper and continuous education, training, developmental programs may initiated in the institution by which they can deliberately participated in society as well as environment, through their efficacy and expertiseness in this skill to minimize the probable hazards in society. So, the traditional education system plays a significant role for build up the consciousness and awareness about environment and it will transmit in the future generations who are the upcoming citizens of the society. Both of the girl students belongs from rural and urban area are well aware about environment. The applied training and other initiatives are scheduled by the institution playing a significant role in this regard.

Ecofeminism and Environment Relations: Basically ecofeminism depicts the difference between the conception of patriarchal society about role of women in environment and originally the role of women practically found in environment. It shows the role of women actually played in the natural environment. A natural entity is found in the core of feminist approach. Women are treated more natural and close to be the rhythm of natural heartbeat. It has different disciplines like Natural Eco-feminism support the connection of natural and psychological entity of women with nature. They are thought to be a mother, home maker and careers focusing their principal role on nature. (Sandilands, 1998). Cultural Ecofeminism deemphasizes the role of women in nature rather they focuses upon the degrading concept of the imposed order of patriarchal societies over them. (Stephens et al., 2010, p. 554). Through this concept it tries to prove the equity and equality of men and women in societies as well as environment. In this paper it tries to focuses the perception, awareness and role of girl students on natural environment and its sustainability.

Study area: Panchmura Mahavidyalaya is a undergraduate college, which was established in 1965. It is a general degree college offering pass and honors of different subjects of science, commerce and humanities. It is located in Panchmura, Taldangra Block in Bankura district. Now it is affiliated to Bankura University. Panchmura village under Khatra subdivision of Bankura District is located between 22°58'00"N- 22°66'67"N and 87°10'00"E 87°16'67"E.

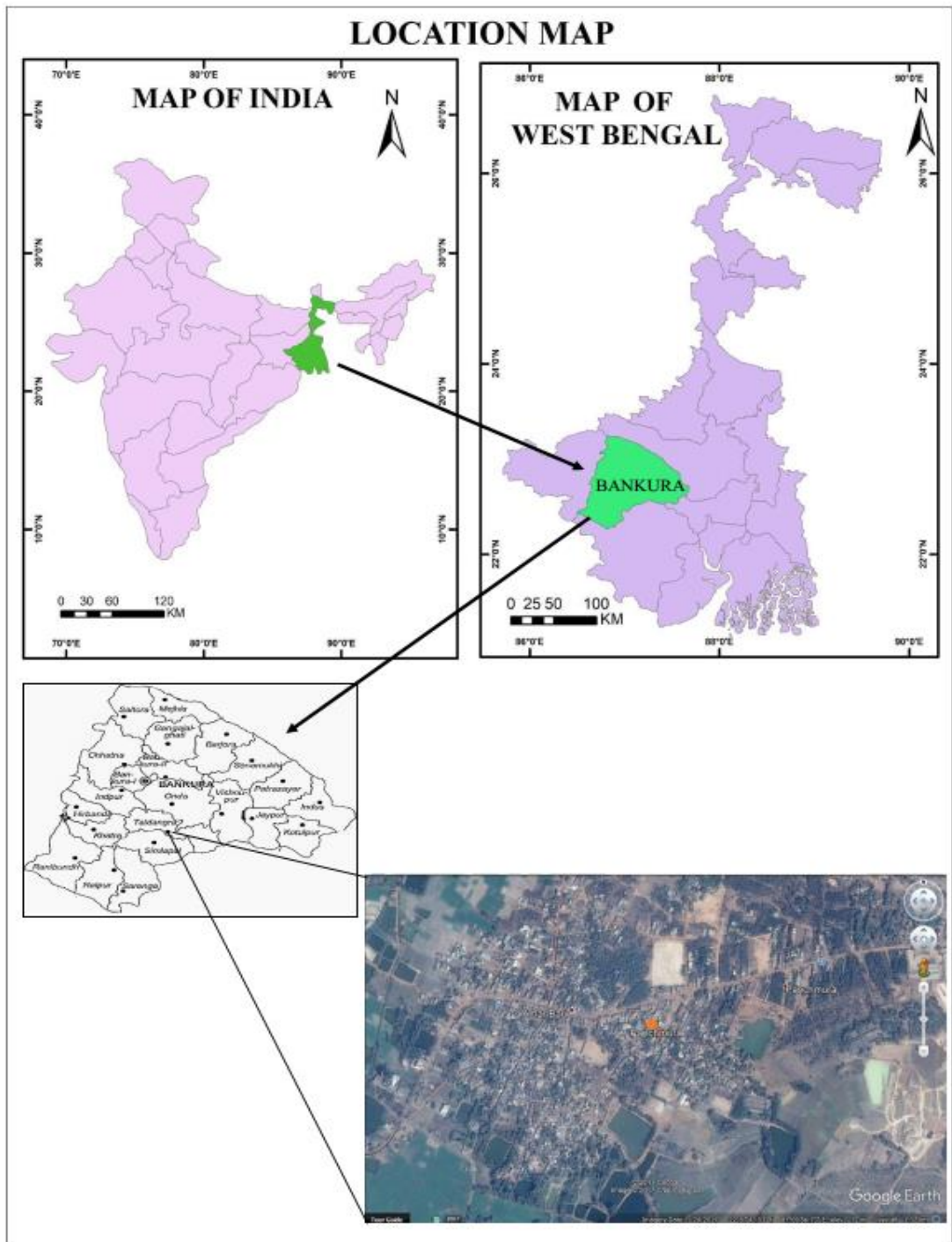


Figure 1: Location of Panchmura

Objectives:

The main objectives of this study are:

- I. To find out the perception and level of awareness of female students about the environment and its sustainability.
- II. To find out the feminist contribution in the field of conservation of environment.
- III. To find out the role of various academic programs and media participation in awareness building of women students.

Methodology: The data for proposed research issues has been collected both from primary and secondary sources. The primary data has been collected through in depth interviews. The interviews were directed by pre-structured questioner. The 100 female students from various disciplines are selected by random sampling method. Interview consisted the questions related to environmental awareness and sustainability. The study fulfils the above mentioned objectives. It will help to assess the level of consciousness of female students regarding environmental ethics and principals. The female students from both rural and urban sectors are incorporated for our study. The primary data's are collected through questionnaire survey, focus group interview, individual opinions and secondary data has been collected through hand books, register books of college and its concern websites. The field survey was conducted during January to February in 2018. Every individuals are asked the following questions for 20-25 minutes in a stress free psychological situations. They are asked the questions to assess the level of environmental consciousness in both local and global perspective. Their environmental practices are assessed through their using of cosmetics, plastic bags, napkins. It also asked whether they are well aware about the practical knowledge's on environmental protection and traditional laws. The main purpose is to study the practical knowledge on environmental conservation and its basic applicability sense among the UG students in this colleges.

Interpretation of Result and Analysis: From the time immemorial feminism is strongly connected to Green Earth Strategies. Women are playing very significant role for build up the conception and awareness of nature and ecology. The spontaneously participated in various environmental movement to sustain and follow up various environmental laws and strategies. Eco-feminism is the concept in which women are found to be played a role of protection and conservation of environment. From "Chipko Movement" to "Narmada Bachao Movement" in every sphere women are playing dominant role. In spite of that women role are remain ignored and unexplained. The traditional education system, its curriculum configurations may enriched this kind of functions. Vandana Shiva, an eminent physicist and environmental protectionist first introduce the term "Women and Environment" in 1975, at the World Conference of Women held in Mexico (Mandal and Mondal, 2016). To analyze the present level of awareness and environmental practices in UG girl students in this said institution. A questionnaire survey is being conducted on the randomly selected girl students from various disciplines. Among the randomly selected respondents 74% are rural and 26% are the urban residence who are taken in the interview session to evaluate their opinion regarding environment and sustainability.

Table:1- Participation of Rural and Urban respondent in questionnaire survey.

Class wise distribution of respondent (%)					
First Year		Second Year		Third Year	
Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
20	7	24	11	30	08

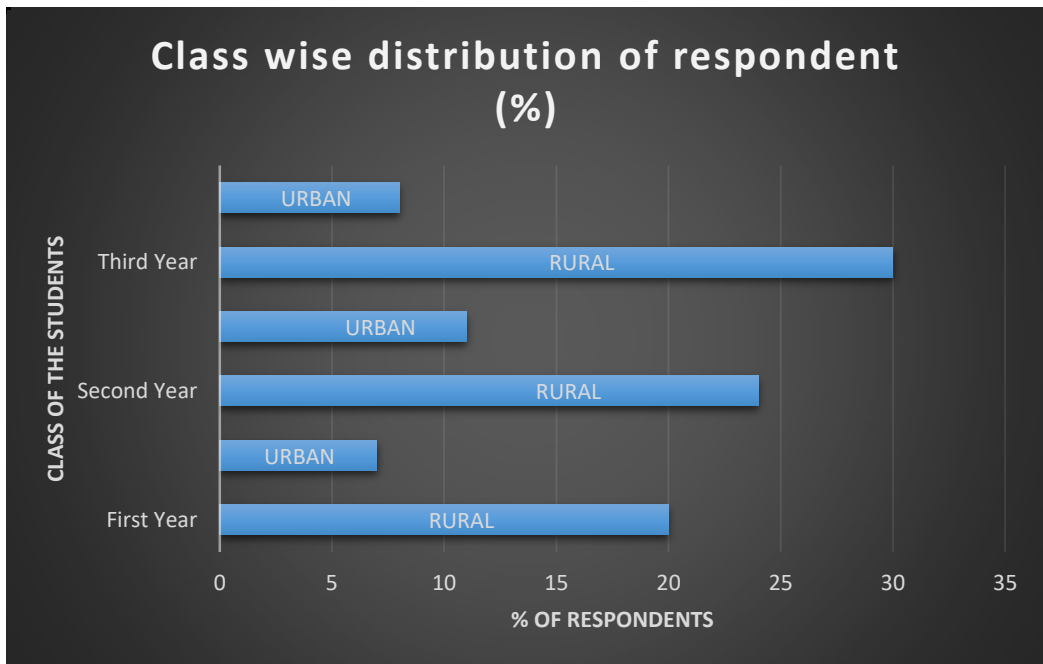


Fig: 1- Participation of Rural and Urban respondent in questionnaire survey.

Level of understanding among female students about the environmental impacts on environment globally showing at a different level. The female respondents focusing more upon greenhouse effect and global warming as a major environmental impact. The global level impacts detected by the girl students are as follows.

Table: 2- Global environmental impacts as determined by the girl students.

Global Environmental Impacts	% of respondents
Loss of Bio-diversity	7
Green House Effect	61
Acid Rain	2
Depletion of ozone layer	6
Smog and pollution	4
Climate change	9
Decaying of renewable resources	11

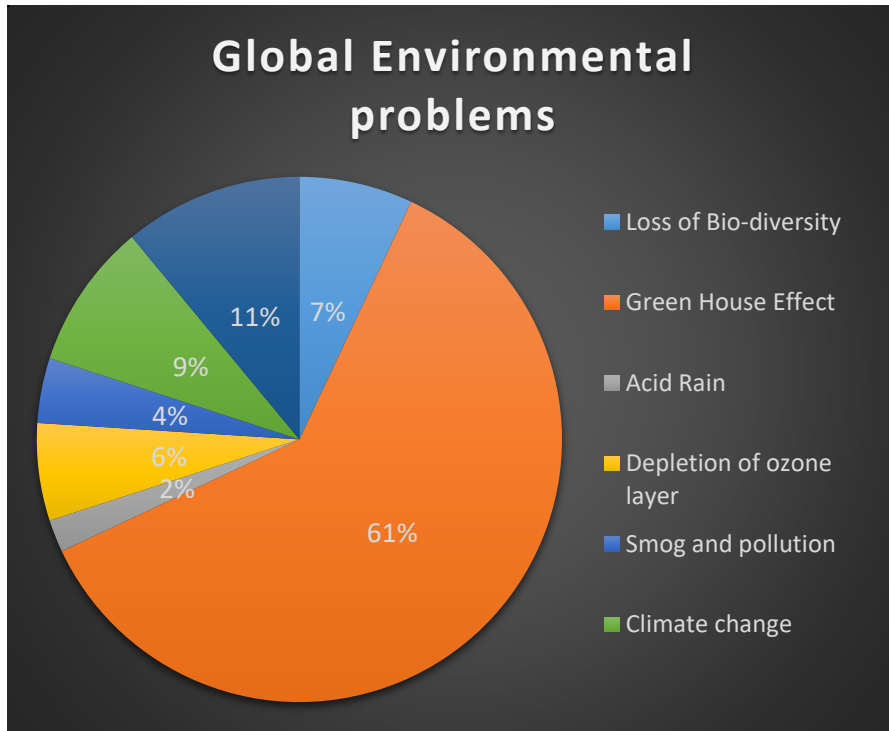


Fig: 2- Global environmental impacts as determined by the girl students.

The result of environmental degradation as detected by the female students are shown locally or regionally also significantly differs from each other's. The technological progress and human encroachment highly influenced the local forest cover besides that soil quality degradation, water contamination increased respectively.

Table: 3- Local environmental impacts as detected by girl students.

Local Environmental Impacts	% of Respondents
Decreasing quantity of water	6
Air pollution	7
Water pollution	8
Noise pollution	8
Encroachment of human habitation	9
Deforestation	51
Loss of soil quality	11

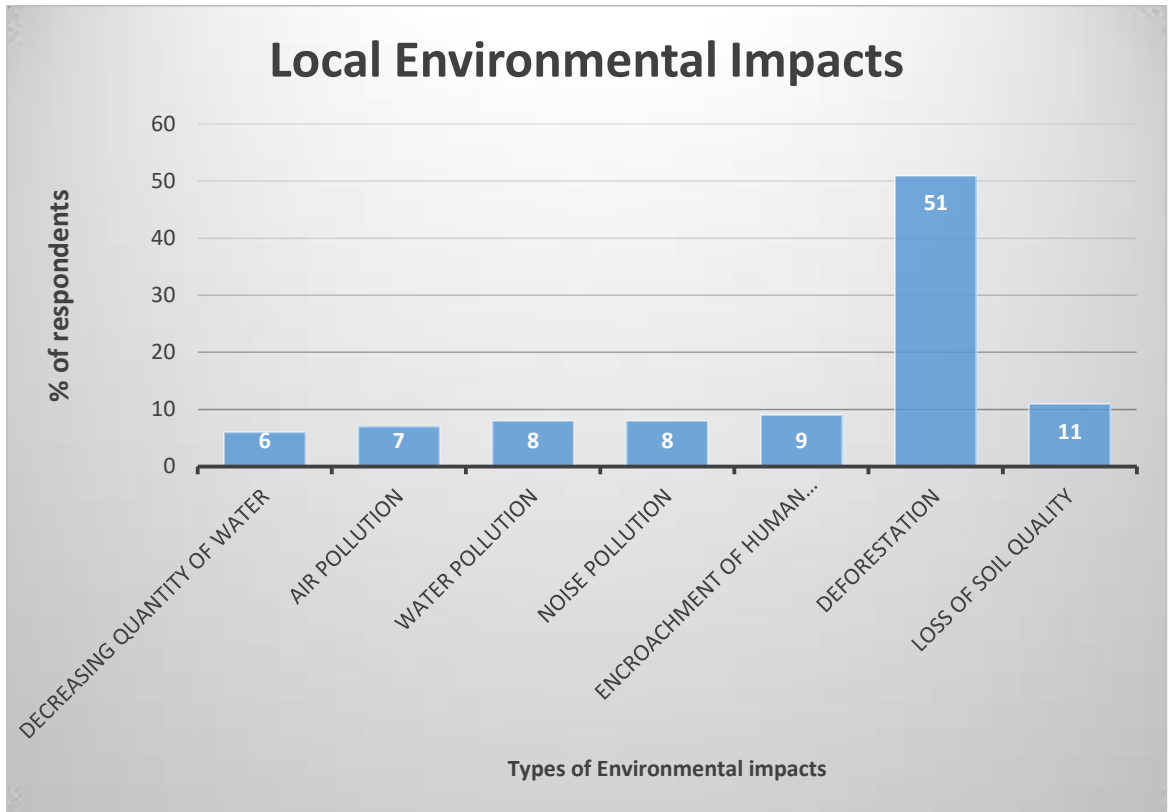


Fig: 3- Local environmental impacts as detected by girl students.

As women are treated to be a mother of society, so they could feel and understand better what the real scenario of environmental hazard and its worst effect on human body. So from the feminist point of view it can easily be understood the environmental degradation impact on human body and organs. At present students also suffers from acute disorders due to imbalance of natural environment. From the random samples of female respondents it depicts that sever health impacts are found on Breathing and pulmonary problems due to environmental degradations. Other impacts are as follows.

Table: 4- Impacts of environmental pollutions on human health.

Impact on Human health	% of respondents
Eye diseases	10
Breathing and lungs problems	33
Cardiac problems	11
Hearing disorders	13
Skin disorders	12
Cancer	07
Decreases of immunity power	14

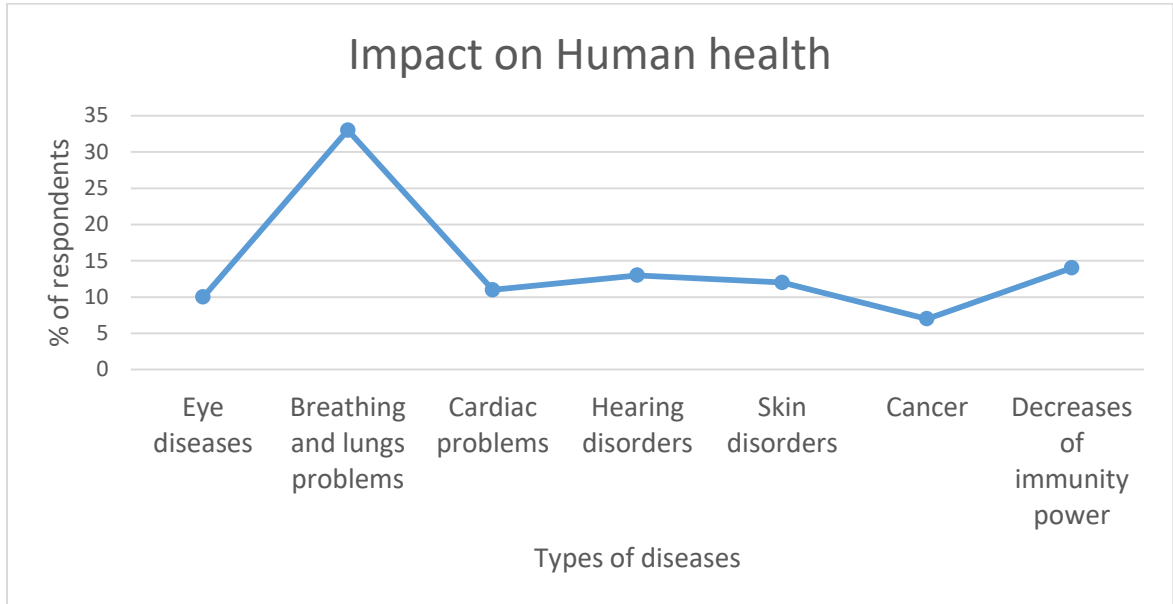


Fig: 4- Impacts of environmental pollutions on human health.

Traditional education system helps not only in making the students literate but it will surely help to build up the compassion on nation as well as humanity. The women empowerment at present decade indicating that women can liberally participated in environmental protection and awareness campaign. So in this college several academic programs are introduces in last academic session to build up their effort and willingness to participate in this environmental conservation issues. Among them NSS (National service scheme) and NCC (national cadet corps) plying most effective role to spontaneous participation and shape up their sound environmental practices.

Table:5- Role of Academic program to build up the Environmental perception of Female students.

Academic Programs	% of respondents
NSS and NCC	27
Awareness Campaign	20
Environment related seminar	25
Workshop	13
Community development program	15

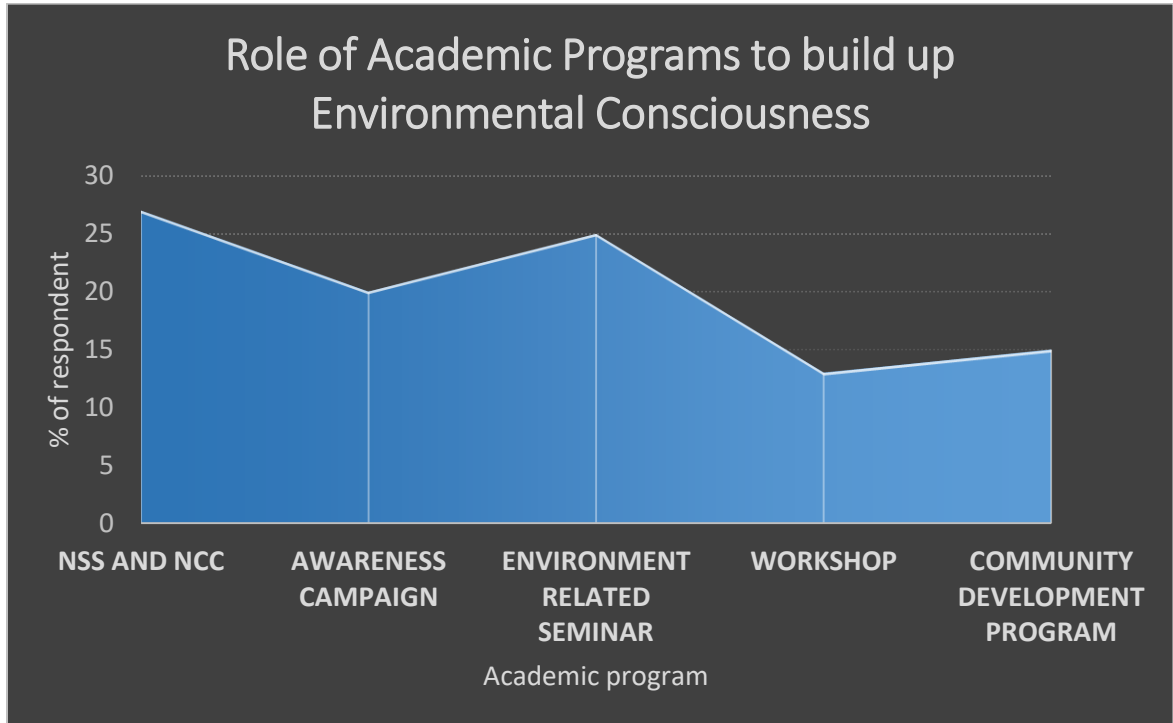


Fig: 5- Role of Academic program to build up the Environmental perception of Female students.

At present era of globalization media in both form of visual and printed playing a significant role for reconstruct the ideas and opinions about the real world and incidents. Basically television, newspaper, magazines, web documents are playing a vital role to build up the environmental awareness and consciousness. The impact of media on students for their environmental literacy is found significant from this survey schedule. The role of television and newspaper are major among all.

Table:6- Role of media for construction of environmental consciousness among women students.

Role of Media	% of respondents
Television	25
Radio	3
Film and feature film	7
Newspaper	17
Journal & Magazines.	10
Web Resources	11
Books	13
Environmental campaign	14

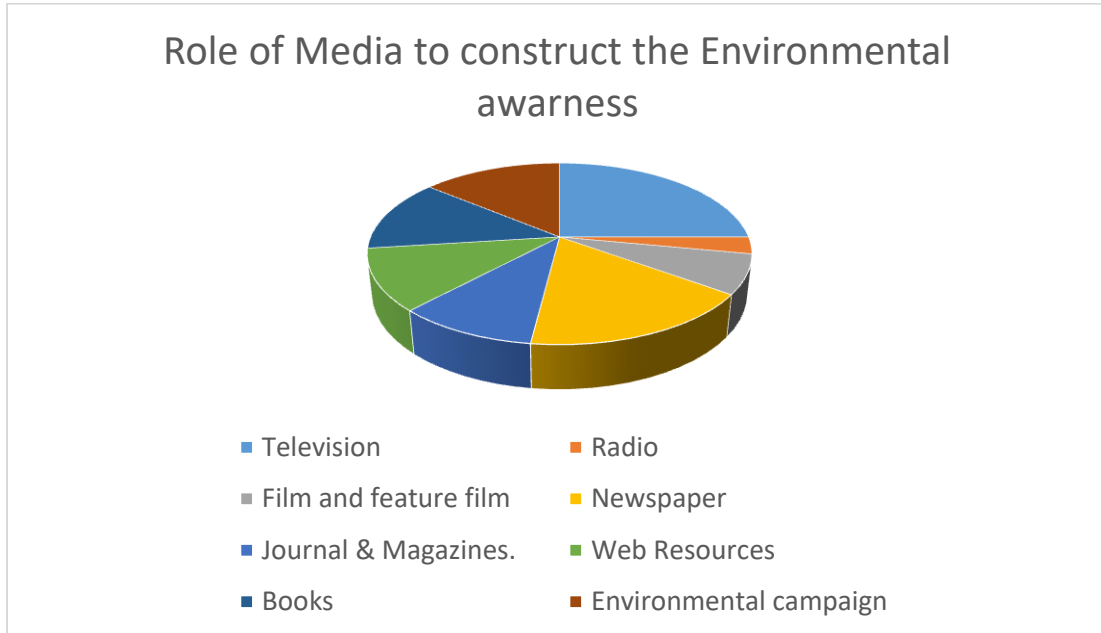


Fig:6- Role of media for construction of environmental consciousness among women students.

Major Findings: From the above discussion it can be interpreted that among the female students get benefits and knowledge's on environment and its way of preservation from the curriculum of Environmental Science that are incorporated course. The media also helps to reconstruct their ideas on safe environment practices. It can reflected by their use of Ayurveda products rather than chemicals. The female students are very progressive to use Bio-fertilizer instead of using chemical fertilizer and pesticides. The various NCC program and Environment workshop also established a successful way to educate them practically about the contemporary methods that are using at present to conserve the environment.

Conclusion: At the end it can be concluded that women are the functional and effective part of the society. From this above survey it can also be said women students at UG level are satisfactorily conscious about the environment. The institution have its significant role to boost up their effort and expertise in this field by implementing EVS curriculum in their course structure. Besides that various workshop and other activities like "Afforestation", "National Environment day", "Forest Week" must be performed in the college premises. This duties are now well performed in this college by NSS team very soundly. Women environmental literacy is very significant because through the literacy of a women student it can transmit the next generation who are the coming citizen of this nation. Media have to perform deliberate role in this regard for its successful implementation.

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