

AN ANALYSIS OF JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENTS' ATTITUDES TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

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Abstract:

Environmental protection has become a critical concern in the present era due to increasing environmental degradation caused by human activities. The attitudes and awareness of young individuals play a vital role in shaping responsible environmental behaviour. This study aims to analyse the attitudes of junior college students towards environmental protection in connection with their level of environmental awareness. The research focuses on understanding how awareness about environmental issues such as pollution, depletion of natural resources, climate change, and ecological imbalance influences students' perspectives and actions towards protecting the environment.

Educational institutions play a significant role in promoting environmental consciousness through environmental education, campaigns, and co-curricular activities. The study highlights the importance of developing positive attitudes among students so that they become responsible citizens who actively participate in environmental conservation. Data collected from junior college students helps in identifying the level of awareness and their willingness to engage in environmentally responsible practices. The findings indicate that increased environmental awareness positively influences students' attitudes towards environmental protection. Therefore, strengthening environmental education and awareness programmes in colleges can significantly contribute to developing environmentally responsible behaviour among youth and encourage sustainable practices for the protection of the natural environment.

Keywords: *Environmental Awareness, Environmental Protection, Students' Attitude, Environmental Education, Sustainable Development.*

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Background:

Many environmental problems are caused by society's irresponsible and lack of environmental behaviour. Unquestionably, one of the most important aspects affecting these behaviours is the negative thinking. Many different things can affect how attitudes are formed. An individual is affected by both official educational institutions and informal societal education. The surroundings have an impact on our way of life. However, due to people's lack of the irresponsible attitude towards their environment, the modern world is currently witnessing a number of environmental catastrophes.

Environmental awareness means creating awareness on the impact of environmental elements like pollution, population, atmosphere and natural resources on the environment. Better environmental awareness among the public in general and students in particular area will help to create clean environment. Environmental awareness can be made in the schools and colleges through environmental education. Environmental education means the generation of widespread awareness of environmental problems. The national policy of Education (1986) has emphasized the importance of creating environmental awareness among the school and college students.

Literature Review:

Christina Vanlalmangaihzvali, Lalhriatpuii of Mizoram University (2022). The research is to determine the level of student's attitude towards environmental protection. The study revealed the level of attitude towards environmental protection of undergraduate students of Mizoram in relation to their gender and Stream of study. In the study conducted by, Vikramjit Singh, Saint Xavier's College of Education (Autonomous) Patna (2019) on the attempt to know how much education has become successful in dealing with environmental concerns by providing suitable value systems to future citizens. The study here has tried to investigate the status of awareness of senior secondary students on environment and check their attitude too towards environmental protection.

Dr Sunitha Tewari, of GV and ADSL College of Education Ongole, Prakasam District (2024) present study has been designed to study the Awareness of Environmental Protection among Secondary School Students. The writer reviewed 200 students of Secondary schools to conduct his study. It was revealed that the situation is so alarming unless a proper care is given on this issue human life becomes so miserable in future.

Dr. D. Donmozhi, G. Ranjitha of Memorial College of Education, Vadalur, Tamil Nadu (2023) conducted a study to ascertain the levels of environment attitudes among school pupils to determine whether there are any stable differences between the sub- samples and predictors that have been chosen.

Statement of Aim:

Environmental Awareness is necessary to know the importance of keeping the environment clean and protecting the earth. So the study focuses on the topic entitled, "A study on Environmental protection and Environmental Awareness among junior college students in Mumbai district".

Objectives of the Study:

1. To examine the level of environmental awareness among junior college students.
2. To understand the attitudes of junior college students towards environmental protection.
3. To find out the Environmental Awareness of junior college students of Mumbai city.
4. To find out the significant difference in the environmental awareness of male students and female students of junior college.

Research Design:

In this research paper, survey method is used to achieve the purpose of the study. The main target of this research is the population of the junior college students in the Mumbai region. A mixed questionnaire was used as the research instrument for random sampling. The questionnaire was designed based on the objectives and the

available literature on the student's attitudes towards environmental protection in relation to environmental awareness. The collected data was analysed, tabulated, and interpreted in the following format to clarify the phenomenon under study.

Sampling design:

The data was collected from 50 junior college students of the Mumbai region during their academic session.

Scope:

The study is focused on students' attitude towards Environmental Protection in relation to their environmental awareness among junior college students in the Mumbai region.

Limitations:

1. This study covers only 50 junior college students.
2. The survey is restricted to 11th class junior college students of Holy family Junior College in Mumbai region.

Tool Making:

Self-constructed questionnaire was used as tools for data collection. The questionnaire administered the scale of environmental awareness and attitude towards environment to male and female students. The statistical techniques were employed to analyse the data in order to test the responses given by the students.

Data Collection:

Data collection was done through primary method of data collection by making questionnaires as per the given research topic, and then we circulated the questionnaires to the students in our internship college. Before circulating the questionnaires to the students we got it checked by our in charge. The questionnaires included 13 close ended questions and 2 open ended questions.

Analysis of Research:

Table 1: - Gender wise distribution of the junior college Students

Sr. No	Gender	Frequency	Percentage
1	Male	28	54.90%
2	Female	23	45.09%
	Total	51	100%

The Gender wise distribution of the junior college students studying in the colleges of Mumbai region is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 23 (45.09%) are female students and 28 (54.90%) are male students. It can be seen that male contribute as the major part of the population as compared to female. The graphical representation of the data above table is as follows: -

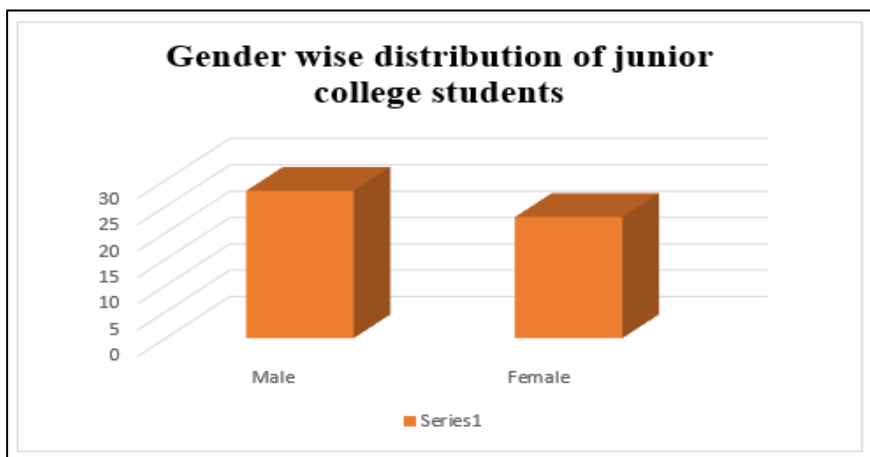


Table 2: - Positive Attitude towards environmental protection of the junior college Students

Sr. No	Positive Attitude	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	47	92.15%
2	No	04	7.84%
	Total	51	100%

The Positive Attitude towards environmental protection of the junior college students studying in the colleges of Mumbai region is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 47 (92.15%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 4 (7.84%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

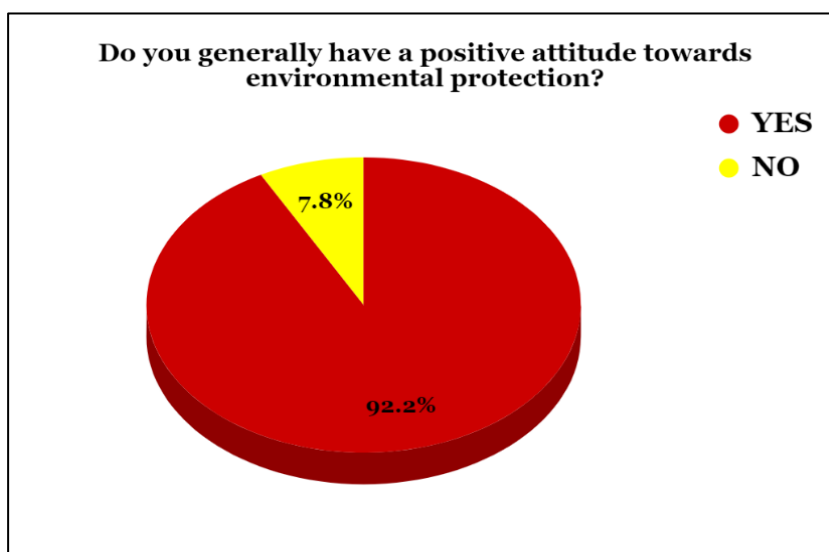


Table 3: - Awareness of the importance of environmental protection of the junior college Students

Sr. No	Awareness	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	45	88.23%
2	No	06	11.76%
	Total	51	100%

The awareness of the importance of environmental protection of the junior college students studying in the colleges of Mumbai region is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 45 (88.23%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 6 (11.76%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

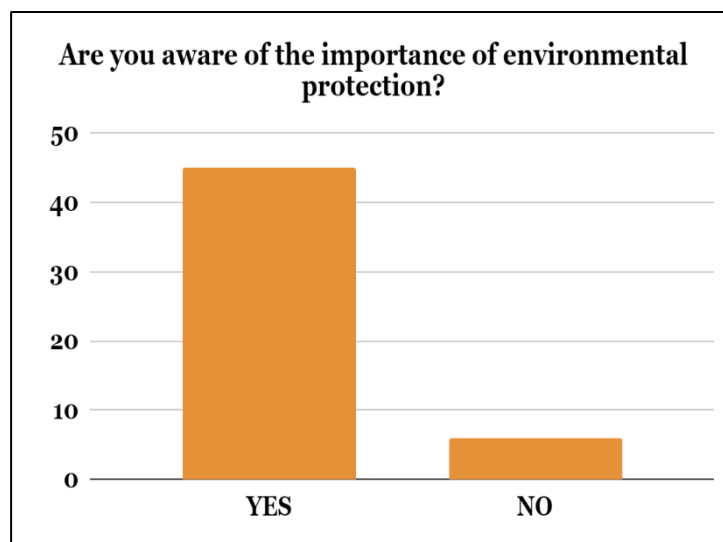


Table 4: - Recycling of paper, plastic and glass by the junior college Students

Sr. No	Recycling	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	30	58.82%
2	No	21	41.17%
	Total	51	100%

The recycling of paper, plastic and glass by the junior college students studying in the colleges of Mumbai region is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 30 (58.82%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 21 (41.17%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

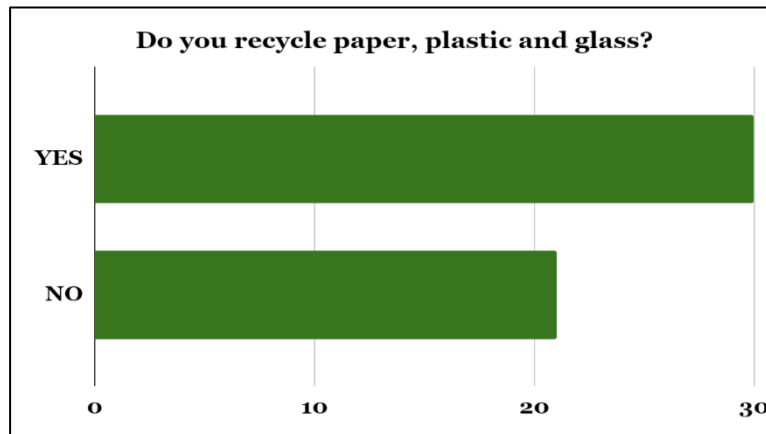


Table 5: - Reduction of the water consumption by fixing leaks and using water saving devices by the junior college Students

Sr. No	Reduction of water consumption	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	38	76.47%
2	No	13	25.49%
	Total	51	100%

The reduction of the water consumption by fixing leaks and using water saving devices by the junior college students studying in the colleges of Mumbai region is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 38 (76.47%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 13 (25.49%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

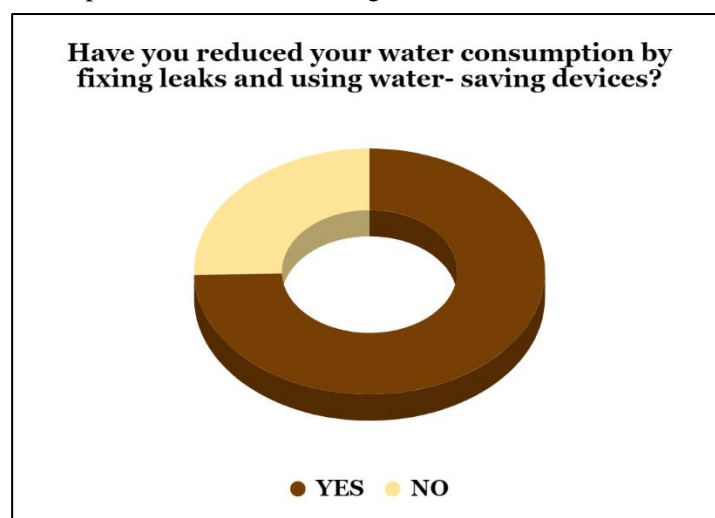


Table 6: - Junior college Students who have switched to energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances

Sr. No	Switched to energy-efficiency	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	34	66.66%
2	No	17	33.33%
	Total	51	100%

The junior college students who have switched to energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 34 (66.66%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 17 (33.33%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

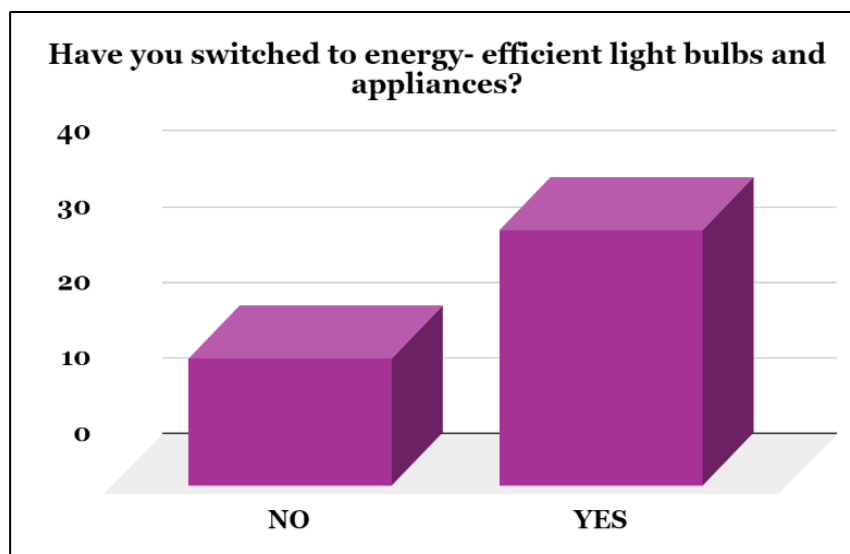


Table 7: Reusable shopping bags used instead of single- use plastic bags by the junior college Students

Sr. No	Use reusable bags	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	37	72.54%
2	No	14	27.45%
	Total	51	100%

The junior college students who use reusable shopping bags instead of single- use plastic bag is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 37 (72.54%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 14 (27.45%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

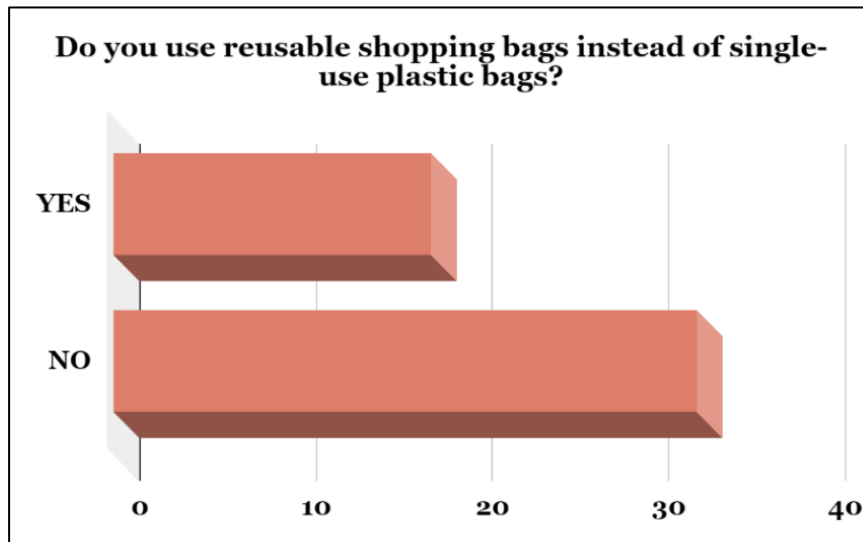


Table 8: Participation of the junior college Students in community clean- up events

Sr. No	Participation	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	18	35.29%
2	No	33	64.70%
	Total	51	100%

The junior college students who have switched to energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 33 (64.70%) have responded No Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 18 (35.29%) have responded Yes. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

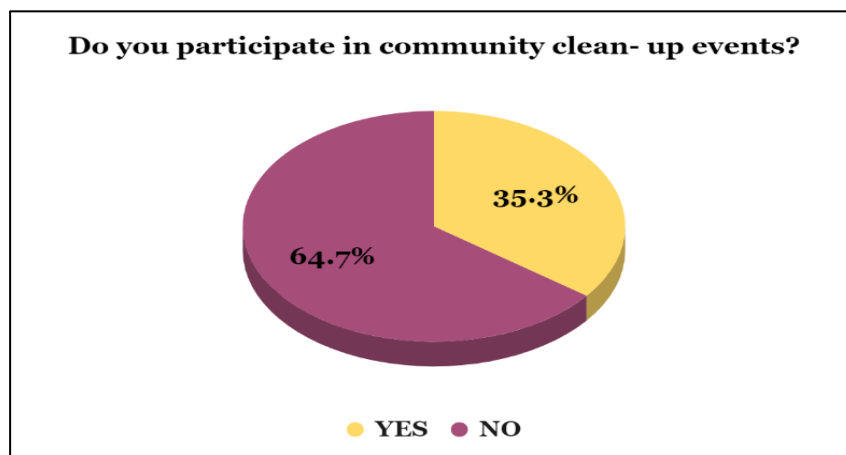


Table 9: Plantation of trees or support of tree planting initiatives by junior college students

Sr. No	Planted trees	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	36	70.58%
2	No	15	29.41%
	Total	51	100%

The junior college students who have planted trees or supported tree planting initiatives is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 36 (70.58%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 15 (29.41%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

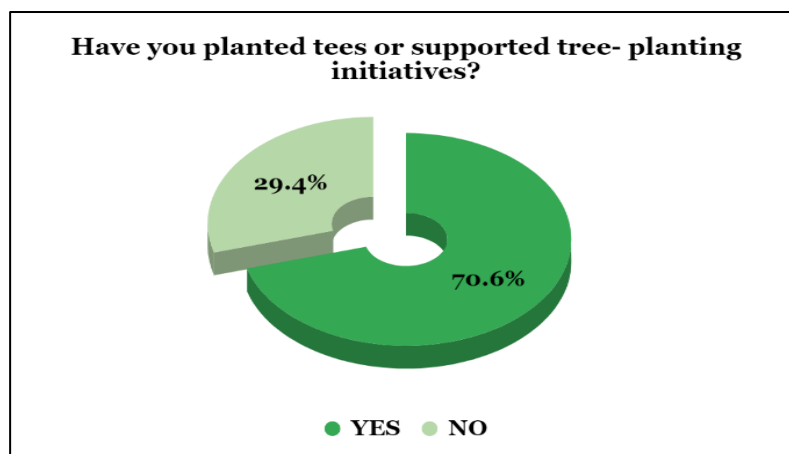


Table 10: Use of public transportation, walk or bike instead of driving alone by junior college students

Sr. No	Use public transport	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	43	84.31%
2	No	08	15.68%
	Total	51	100%

The junior college students who use public transportation, walk or bike instead of driving alone is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 43 (84.31%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 08 (15.68%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -

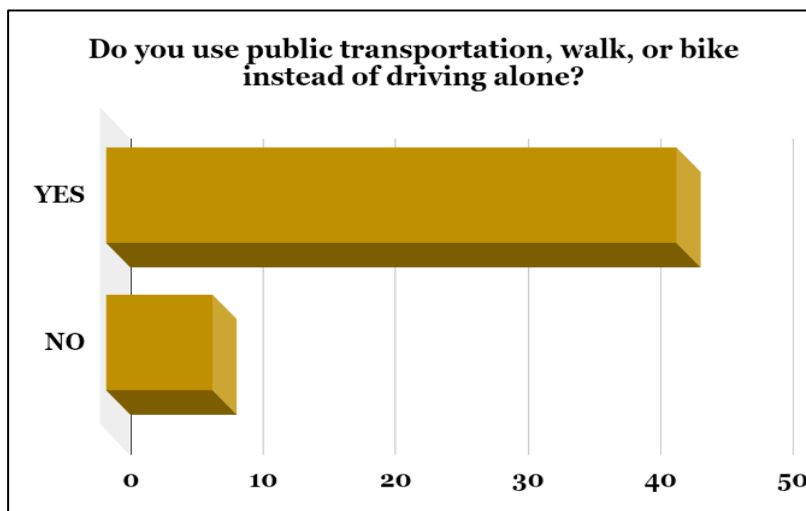
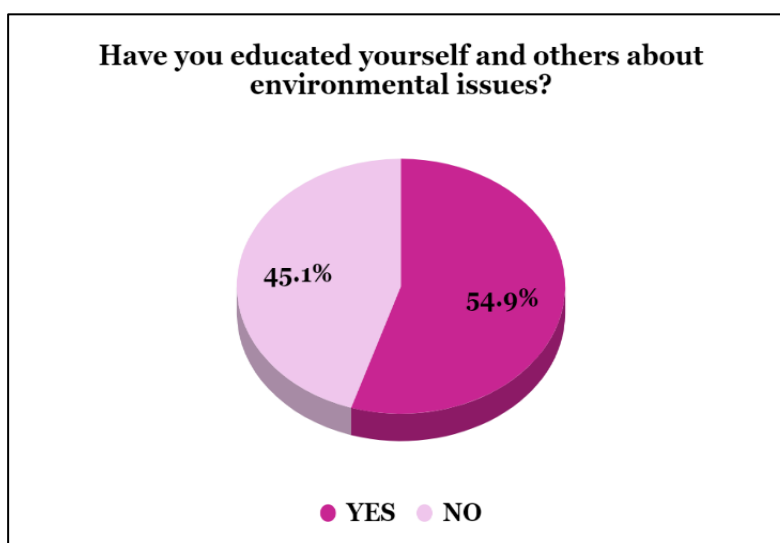


Table 11: Junior College students who have educated themselves and others about environmental issues

Sr. No	Education about environmental issues	Frequency	Percentage
1	Yes	28	54.90%
2	No	23	45.09%
	Total	51	100%

The junior college students who have educated themselves and others about environmental issues is given in the above table. It is observed that out of 51 students 28 (54.90%) have responded Yes Majorly. It can be seen that out of 51 students 23 (45.09%) have responded No. The graphical representation of the data given in the above table is as follows: -



Findings & Conclusion:

The findings indicate that students are actively involved in several eco-friendly practices such as conserving water, using public transportation, adopting energy-efficient appliances, recycling waste, and using reusable shopping bags. Moreover, strong support for environmental policies and regulations suggests that students recognize the importance of collective and governmental efforts in protecting the environment.

However, the study also highlights certain gaps between awareness and actual participation. Although students are knowledgeable about environmental issues, their involvement in community clean-up activities, wildlife conservation, and sustainable consumer practices remains limited. This suggests that awareness alone is not sufficient to bring about meaningful environmental action.

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