

Awareness of Human Rights Education among Undergraduate Students: An Analysis

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ABSTRACT:

Human rights are the rights which is inherent every person in this world regardless of caste, creed, race, sex language religion, ethnicity or any other status. Without the awareness of human rights nobody can fully enjoy their rights. Awareness on human rights among the individuals is the utmost thing to make the world a better place to live. So the present study is conducted mainly to know about the human rights awareness among the undergraduate students. The main objectives of this study is to access the level of awareness of undergraduate students towards Human Rights Education and to make a comparison of awareness of Human Rights Education among undergraduate students on the basis of gender, location, stream of study and caste categories. In the present study a total of 250 undergraduate students were selected from Tihu College of Nalbari District in Assam as a sample through simple random sampling methods. The data were collected with the help of self-made questionnaire developed and standardized by the investigator. The results were statistically analysed using mean, standard deviation and 't test. The findings of the study reveals that there is a significant difference is observed on the awareness of Human Rights among undergraduate students with regards to location (Urban/Rural) and stream of study (Science/Arts). And no significant difference was observed on the basis of gender and caste categories. From this study it is also found that the level of awareness of Human Rights of undergraduate students is average.

Keywords: Awareness, Human Rights, Human Rights Education, undergraduate students

INTRODUCTION

Human rights are the rights which is inherent every person in this world regardless of caste, creed, race, sex language religion, ethnicity or any other status. It is a fundamental rights or basic rights or natural rights which is inherently possessed by every individual. Without human rights awareness no one can enjoy fully all the rights. Education in human rights is itself a fundamental right and also a responsibility. The preamble of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights exhorts ‘every individual and every organ of society’ to “strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms.” The international convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) declares that a government “many not stand in the way of people learning about their rights.” Awareness on human rights among the individuals is the utmost thing to make the world a better place to live. It develops the positive attitude towards human rights among all individuals. Basically, in undergraduate course it is of great need today that human rights education should be vital part of curriculum. Education is the most important instrument to bringing awareness among the masse about human right. Education plays an important role in making students aware of human rights in a more effective way.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A review of related literature is essential in almost all research studies. In this study, some previous research work has been reviewed related to Human Rights which support the present researches which are presented below:

Saikia J., ‘et. al. (2022) in their study Higher education students’ awareness the human rights dimensions in relation to nature of residence, level of education, stream and age group has found that there is a significant difference in awareness towards human rights dimensions among higher education students on the basis of their nature of residence, nature of qualification and age level but not on stream of study.

Hazarika P., ‘et.al. (2022) has conducted a study on “The awareness of human rights in India: a survey in the Nagoan district Assam.” In their study they found that in India the common people are not aware about the basic human rights. The common people still believe that Human rights are the rights of the citizen only, not of all the people residing in the country. This shows that the failure of Human rights education in creating general and scientific awareness among the young generation about the common perceptions of Human rights.

Baglari, N. (2021) conducted a study on the awareness of Human Rights Education among higher secondary school students to find out the level of awareness of students towards human rights education. The findings of the study reveals that the students have not possess in depth knowledge of human rights and its broad areas as well as its applicability. Significant differences were found among male and female students in awareness towards human rights education.

Kandpal, R. and Power, S. (2021) conducted a study on Human Rights awareness among B.Ed. level prospective teachers based on the demographic and academic characteristics. They found that Human Rights awareness level among the female trainees was 53.75% and male teacher trainees was 46.25%. females residing in rural areas belonging to arts stream who are unmarried postgraduate level teacher trainees were found to be more aware of Human Rights. The level of awareness based on the nature of residences was found that 66.25% was rural and 33.75% was urban.

Kour, A., “et al.” (2019) Conducted a study to find out the Human Rights awareness level of professional students in relation to their stream. The findings of the study reveals that there is no significant difference was existing among the students of engineering, computer application and Law regarding their knowledge about Human rights documents, understanding of Human Rights, concept and situations involving Human Rights violation and non-violations. Law students have more understanding of situation in which an individual’s Human Rights are being violated. No significances were found among professional students in their awareness level towards Human Rights on the basis of their stream of study.

Paulabhi, C.S.(2017) conducted a study of Human Rights awareness among College students. The objectives if the study was to access the Human Rights Awareness among rural and urban college students. The findings of the study reveals that Human Rights awareness among the urban students are found to be more as compared to rural college students. Boys are found to be more aware of Human Rights compared to girls among the urban college students. No significant difference was found in Human Rights awareness between rural boys and rural girls. Urban students are found to be more aware about Human Rights in their government and self-finance colleges compared to rural college students

Dayal, J. K., et. al (2015) conducted a comparative study on Human Rights Awareness among the teachers working in P.S.E.B. and C.B.S.E. Affiliated Schools. The study revealed that the teachers of C.B.S.E. schools were more aware of Human Rights as compared to those of P.S.E.B. Schools. Male teachers of C.B.S.E. schools were found to be more aware of Human Rights than the Female teachers.

Vimalkumar P., ‘et. al. (2014) conducted a study on the awareness of Human Rights among B.Ed. student teachers. The objective of the study was to study the awareness of human rights of B.Ed. student teachers. 300 sample has been collected through the self-made Human Rights Awareness Questionaries by the investigator adopting the normative survey method. The finding of the study reveals that the awareness of human rights of B.Ed. student teachers is found to be low level. Significant differences were found in male and female B.Ed. students teachers in respect of their awareness of human rights but no significant differences was found in urban and rural B.Ed. student teachers and Arts and Science B.Ed. student teachers in respect of their awareness of human rights.

NEEDS SND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

India is the largest democracy in the entire world. Apart from this the largest number of youths is lived in India. The future of the nation is depending on the quality of the youths of the present. Education is the only tool which helps to moulding the personality of the young generations. They are the future citizen of the nation who can change the nation. It is possible only if they have knowledge about their rights and duties. Human rights Education is the major source of knowledge. It is multidisciplinary and touches every dimension of human

experience. Therefore, the researcher takes the study to know about the awareness of Human Rights Education among the undergraduate students. Knowledge of human rights is most important issues for all round development of an individual. It makes aware the individual about their rights and duties as a citizen in a democratic country like India. In our college education this knowledge provided indirectly through different subjects and activities which is not up the mark. This present investigation will help to assess the level of awareness's of human rights among undergraduate students. The outcome of the of the study would help in locating the weak points in our college education system that would further help in rectifying the results.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The present study is entitled “Awareness of Human Rights Education among undergraduate students: An Analysis”

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

For the present research the following objectives are put forth-

1. To access the level of awareness of undergraduate students towards Human Rights Education.
2. To make a comparison of awareness of Human Rights Education among undergraduate students on the basis of gender, location, stream of study and caste categories

HYPOTHESIS

Ho1: There exist no significance differences on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education among male and female undergraduate students.

Ho2: There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education among urban and rural undergraduate students.

Ho3: There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness of Human Right Education among science and arts stream undergraduate students.

Ho4: There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness of Human Right Education among general and reserved caste undergraduate students.

METHODOLOGY

Research methods are of utmost importance in the research process. To achieve the objectives of the present study the investigator adopted the descriptive survey method to find out the level of awareness of undergraduate students towards Human Right Education.

POPULATION AND SAMPLE

In the present study all undergraduate students of Tihu college in the session of 2022-23 are considered as a population. A total number of 2100 students were enrolled in the undergraduate level enrolled in the session 2022-23. Out of 2100 undergraduate students the investigator has taken 12% of students of the total number population (2100) and the total number of samples become 252. But for the convenience of the study the number has been decreased to 250 and 12% of population of each stratum has taken as a sample through stratified sampling method. The sample was chosen on the basis of gender, location, stream of study and caste categories. The data was collected on the month of August 2022

TOOL USED

In the present study in order to measure the awareness towards Human Rights Education the investigator used of “Human Rights Awareness Questionnaire” which was developed and standardised by the investigator. This scale comprises 40 items covering three choices viz true(two), undecided(one) and false(zero).

PROCEDURE

In the present study to obtain the data, official permission was taken from the principal of Tihu college, Tihu, Nalbari, Assam. The data was collected from a total number of 250 undergraduate students on the basis of gender, location, stream and caste categories. The investigator explained the tool and the way to answer the questionnaire individually by all undergraduate students. The data was collected during the month of August 2022.

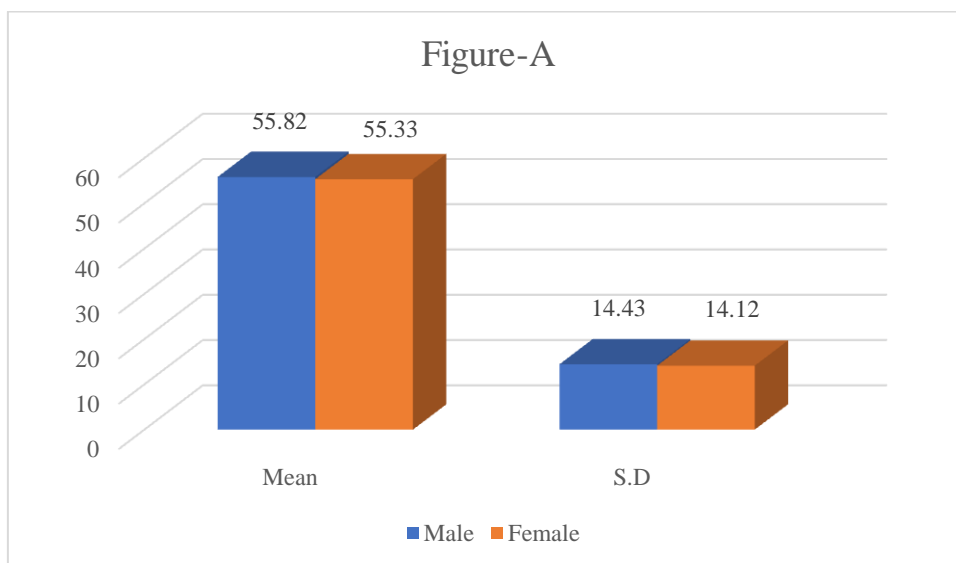
ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA

The collected data were analysed through the use of mean and standard deviation for a score on different variables. Further the students ‘t-test’ was used to find out the significance of difference in level of awareness of Human Rights Education between undergraduate students in relation to their gender, location, stream and caste categories.

Ho1: There exist no significance differences on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education among male and female undergraduate students.

Table-1: Showing the Mean, SD and ‘t-value among Male and Female undergraduate students regarding the level of awareness of Human Rights Education.

Gender	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Level of significance
Male	125	55.82	14.43	0.271	Not Significant
Female	125	55.33	14.12		

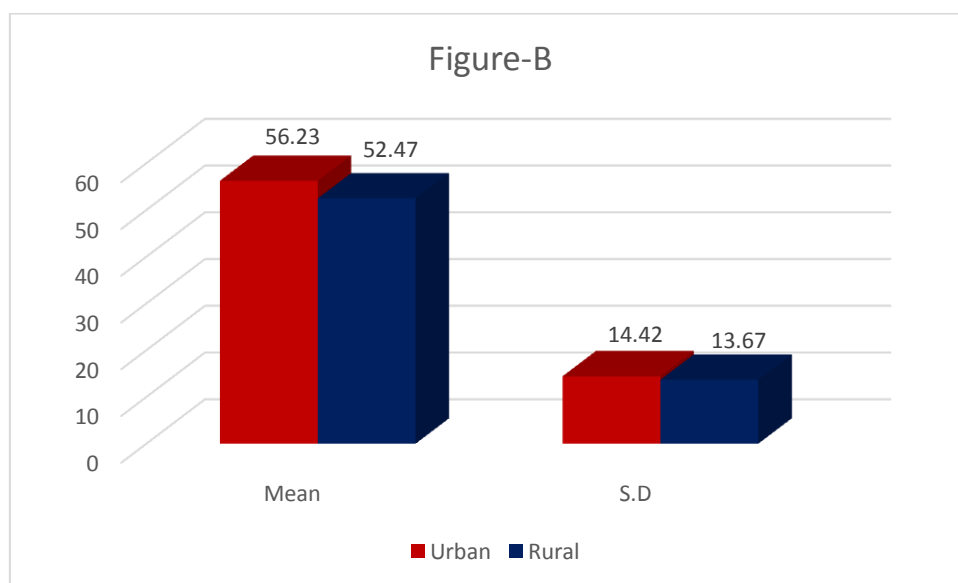


From the Table-1 and its corresponding Figure-A, it is observed that the mean score of the level of awareness of Human Rights Education for male undergraduate students is 55.82 and S.D. is 14.43. For female undergraduate students the mean score of the level of awareness of Human Right Education is 55.33 and S.D. is 14.12. The obtained results indicate that the mean value of male and female undergraduate students is almost equal (no major differences seen) in the level of the awareness of Human Rights Education. The calculated ‘t-value for the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of gender is 0.271 which is smaller than the table value at both 0.05% and 0.01% level of significance. So, the null hypothesis “There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness Human Rights Education among male and female undergraduate students” is accepted. The results further reveals that there is no significant difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights education on the basis of gender

Ho2: There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness of Human Right Education among urban and rural undergraduate students.

Table-2: Showing the Mean, SD and ‘t- value among Urban and Rural undergraduate students regarding the level of awareness of Human Rights education.

Location	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Level of significance
Urban	125	56.23	14.42	2.11	Significant at 0.05% level
Rural	125	52.47	13.67		

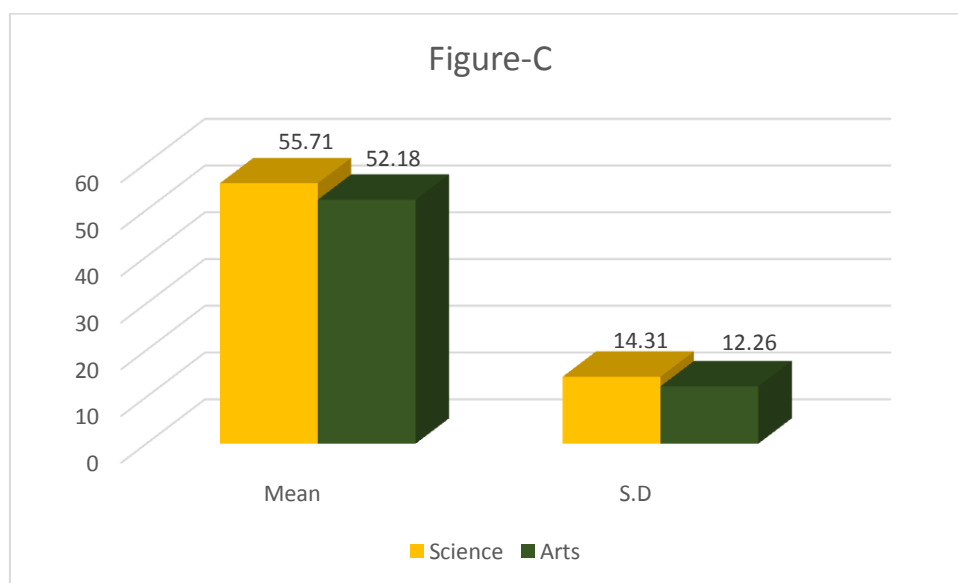


From the Table-2 and its corresponding Figure-B, it is observed that the mean score of the level of awareness of Human Rights Education for urban undergraduate students is 56.23 and S.D. is 14.42. For rural undergraduate students the mean score of the level of awareness of Human Right Education is 52.47 and S.D. is 13.67. The obtained result indicates that the mean value of urban undergraduate students is higher than the mean value of rural undergraduate students on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education. The calculated ‘t-value for the level of awareness of Human Rights Education of undergraduate students on the basis of location is 2.11 which is higher than the table value at 0.05% level of significance. So, the null hypothesis “There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education among urban and rural undergraduate students” is rejected. The results reveals that there is a significant difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of location.

Ho3: There exists no significant difference on the level of awareness of Human Right Education among science and arts stream undergraduate students.

Table-3: Showing the Mean, SD and ‘t- value among Science and Arts stream undergraduate students regarding the level of awareness of Human Rights Education.

Stream	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Level of significance
Science	125	55.71	14.31	2.101	Significant at 0.05% level
Arts	125	52.18	12.26		

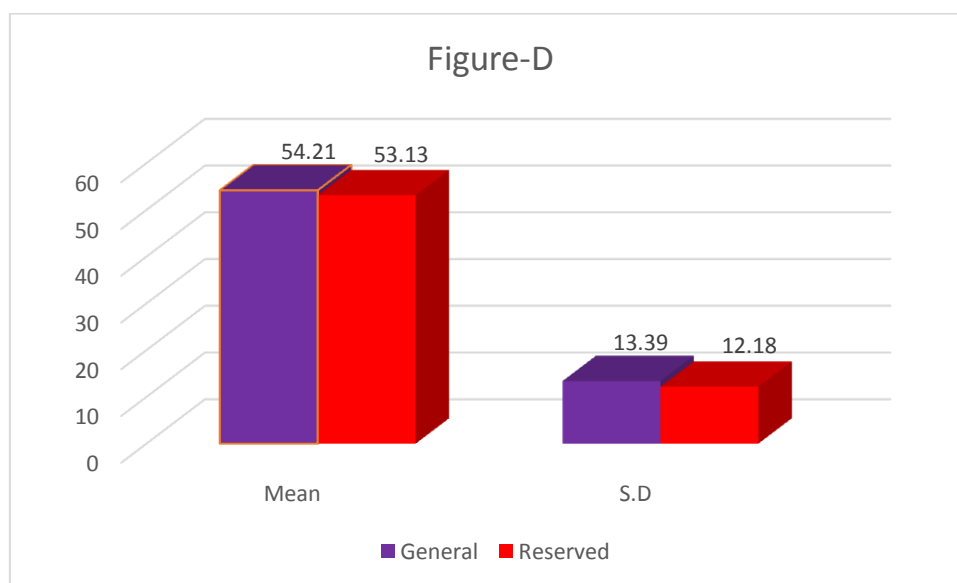


From the Table-3 and its corresponding Figure-C, it is observed that the mean score of the level of awareness of Human Rights Education for Science stream undergraduate students is 55.71 and S.D. is 14.31. For Arts stream undergraduate students the mean score of the level of awareness of Human Right Education is 52.18 and S.D. is 12.26. The obtained result indicates that the mean value of Science stream undergraduate students is higher than the mean value of Arts stream undergraduate students on the level of awareness of Human Right Education. The calculated ‘t-value for the level of awareness of Human Rights Education of undergraduate students on the basis of stream is 2.101 which is higher than the table value at 0.05% level of significance. So, the null hypothesis “There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness of Human Right Education among science and arts stream undergraduate students” is rejected. The results reveals that there is a significant difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of stream.

Ho4: There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education among general and reserved caste undergraduate students.

Table-4: Showing the Mean, SD and ‘t- value among Male and Female undergraduate students regarding the level of awareness of Human Rights Education.

Category	N	Mean	S.D.	t-value	Level of significance
General	125	54.21	13.39	0.667	Not Significant
Reserved	125	53.13	12.18		



From the Table-4 and its corresponding Figure-D, it is observed that the mean score of the level of awareness of Human Rights Education for general caste undergraduate students is 54.21 and S.D. is 13.39. For reserved caste undergraduate student the mean score of the level of awareness of Human Right Education is 53.13 and S.D. is 12.18. The obtained results indicate that the mean value of general and reserved caste undergraduate students is almost equal (no major differences seen) in the level of the awareness of Human Rights Education. The calculated ‘t-value for the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of caste is 0.667 which is smaller than the table value at both 0.05% and 0.01% level of significance. So, the null hypothesis “There exists no significance difference on the level of awareness Human Rights Education among general and reserved caste undergraduate students” is accepted. The results further reveals that there is no significant difference in awareness on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of caste categories.

FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

On the basis of analysed data and interpretation of the results the following findings have been emerged out of the study.

- Male and female undergraduate students have equal level of awareness of Human Rights Education. There is no significant differences in the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of gender. This findings is in line with Aggarwal, A. (2014) and Tehlan, I. (2015) and it is contradicts with Vimalkumar et. Al(2015), Dayal, et.al(2015) Paulbhai, C.S.(2017), Baglari, N.(2021)
- Undergraduate students from urban area have more level of awareness of Human Rights Education than the undergraduate students from rural residence. There is a significant difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of

locations. This finding is in the line with Paulabhi, C.S. (2017); Kandpal & Pauer (2021); Hooda (2018); Jadav (2016); and contradicts with Saikia J& Padmavathy,R.D.(2022); Venkateswarlu (2015): Srilatha(2016); Padmavathy & Pallabi(2015); Vimalkumar et.al.(2014)

- Science stream undergraduate students have more level of awareness of Human Rights Education than the Arts stream undergraduate students. There is a significant difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of stream of study. This study consonance with the findings of Suryakant (2011): Oomman (2018); Vankateswarlu (2015), Padmavathy & Pallabi(2015) and contradicts with the findings of Saikia.J. & Padmavathy. R.D. (2022); Kandapal & Pawar (2011); Kaur & Devi (2019); Paulabhi (1017); Vimalkumar et. al. (2014).
- General caste and Reserved caste undergraduate students have equal level of awareness of Human Rights Education. There is no significant difference on the level of awareness of Human Rights Education on the basis of Caste Category.

CONCLUSION:

Human rights education is the only guarantee of demonstrating our commitment to human dignity, promotion of an adequate standard of life to everyone and finally for the promotion of world peace and tranquillity. Human rights are the rights which is inherent every person in this world regardless of caste, creed, race, sex language religion, ethnicity or any other status. It is a fundamental rights or basic rights or natural rights which is inherently possessed by every individual. Without human rights awareness no one can enjoy fully all the rights. Awareness on human rights among the individuals is the utmost thing to make the world a better place to live. It develops the positive attitude towards human rights among all individuals. Basically, in undergraduate course it is of great need today that human rights education should be vital part of curriculum. The teachers also played an important role in this regard to make aware the students about human rights education. Awareness of human rights prevents the exploitation, injustice, violation, discrimination etc and it will help to maintaining the peace and tranquillity of the society.

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