Introduction

It is observed that degradation of environment mostly occur due to destruction of natural environs. Now there is a cry all over for protection and preservation of such natural resources. This can only be possible if we have a right type of attitude towards such issues and if we have proper awareness in the related matters. It is widely accepted that the development of such awareness and attitude can be possible through environmental education. Education is an important social instrument and means, which act as a catalyst in improvement of different aspect of life. Knowledge, awareness, skills, values and attitudes acquired through education keep one to lead desired quality of life. In order to protect and conserve the environment, emphasis has been given to both formal and non-formal system of education. Today the global concern is to struggle against environmental problems and maintain the standard of human environment. Environment in developing countries like India have been threatened by problems like poverty, pollution, over population and degradation and depletion of environment. In addition to the industrial revolution unprecedented scientific and technological revolution has resulted in disastrous changes in the environment leading to environmental problems. The environmental protection and preservation has been an urgent need of the hour.

Both developing and developed countries are facing serious environmental problems. While some of the problems might be alike due to their global nature (e.g. global warming, depletion of the ozone layer), others are specifically local ones. Different people of different cultures perceive these problems in different way and thus react accordingly. Environment Education, Awareness & Training (EEAT) Scheme is a
Central Scheme launched during the 6th Five Year Plan in 1983-84 with the following objectives:

1. To promote environmental awareness among all sections of the society;
2. To spread environment education, especially in the non-formal system among different sections of the society;
3. To facilitate development of education/training materials and aids in the formal education sector;
4. To promote environment education through existing educational/scientific/research institutions;
5. To ensure training and manpower development for environment education, awareness and training;
6. To encourage non-governmental organizations, mass media and other concerned organizations for promoting awareness about environmental issues among the people at all levels;
7. To use different media including films, audio, visual and print, theatre, drama, advertisements, hoarding, posters, seminars, workshops, competitions, meetings etc. for spreading messages concerning environment and awareness; and
8. To mobilize people’s participation for preservation and conservation of environment.

The objectives of this scheme are being realized through implementation of the following programmes launched over the years as such the National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC), National Green Corps (NGC), Global Learning & Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE), Strengthening Environment
Education in School System and other courses at Graduate and Post-Graduate level including Professional Courses, Advertising & Publicity, Seminars, Symposia, Workshops, Publication of Resource Material related to Environment, Grants-in-Aid to Professional Societies & Institutions, Other Awareness Programmes like Vacation Programmes, Quiz/Essay/Debate/Poster/Slogan competitions, training programmes etc. and Library.

World educators and environment specialist have repeatedly pointed out the solution to environmental crisis will require an environmental awareness and its proper understanding which should be deeply rooted in the education system at all levels of school education. The existing curricula at primary, secondary and college levels provide a lot of opportunities to make the students aware of environment. The integration of environmental education is possible if teachers have a will to introduce it in a quite natural way while teaching at different levels. In order to enhance awareness in students towards environmental matter and problems, various means and ways have to be used. These means and ways include formal education of students in school and colleges, use of various media like radio, T.V. newspaper etc. and specific orientation and training programmes. The speed and nature of environmental change in recent years have brought about a series of environmental problems of global magnitude. The environmental degradation or crisis has become a serious issue as it threatens not only the tranquility of people’s existence, but their health and lives as well. As such, environmental education for protection and preservation has been an urgent need of the hour.
Again, attitudes are by no means fixed and unchanging predispositions. They can change. Attitude are formed through direct or indirect experiences. Consequently they may be changed through acquisition of new experiences. Environmental education plays a very significant role in developing desirable attitude towards environmental problems. Environmental conservation and regeneration are the emerging concerns for one and all. These should not be seen as someone else’s responsibility. The results are of consequences to all of us across all age groups and social strata especially students. In order to fasten their awareness towards environmental problems it is necessary to know the level of attitude, they posses in these areas. The role of students would go a long way in achieving such desired goals. In order to fasten their awareness towards environment it is necessary to know what level of environment awareness they posses in these area. Hence the researcher has selected the problem as stated in statement of a problem.