

Environmental Behaviour of Higher Secondary Tribal students of Jhargram, West Bengal

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Abstract

Human's life is rotating around the environment. But people, who always get beneficiary of environment, are mostly responsible for environmental destruction. They are forcing environment to face danger by their negative activities day by day. As a result, the future of human civilization is coming towards the edge. But till there are some groups of people who are practicing good behavior towards the environment through their daily life activities may be unknowingly. One of those is the tribal people who are considered as the original inhabitants of our country and they worship the nature as God. In the current study the researchers are interested to know how closely the behaviour of the tribal students is related to the environment. The present study is in-depth in nature. For this purpose the researchers collected data from a particular higher secondary school of Jhargram district, West Bengal, India. 250 samples were randomly collected from class IX to XII. Data was analyzed in simple percentage (%) method and graphical presentation of data analysis is presented here. The result of study reflected that tribal students follow 24 positive behaviour and only 3 negative behaviours out of 27 items as specified.

Keyword: Environmental behaviour, Tribal student, Higher secondary student

I. Introduction:

The world surrounds up always, and which has kept the flow of the life by continuous supply of light, water and air, is the environment. But unfortunately we are not leaving the environment to be polluted by our activities while meeting our daily needs from her. Our daily activities are putting the obstacle in protecting this environment from its existence. Activities of the human are responsible for most of the cases, -better to say for every cases for the contemporary circumstances that change this environment. It is only the human activities that are proven behind the change in the cases of season changes, heavy rainfall, drought, global warming, different natural calamities etc. Different researches have shown that these changes are most of the cases due to freely cut off more trees, deforestation, unplanned house building etc. As a result, the human civilization has come to such a critical situation that if not constructive decision is taken, there will be nothing except to regret in the near future. For this reason researchers are so much worried about the environment. As a result so many environments related conferences are organized till date. Although the conferences in 1972, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2012 and 2015 have focused on different views on the environment, but the main tune was tied to save the environment. In this consequence the four subjects are given importance to protect the environment e.g. Environmental Knowledge, Environmental Awareness, Environmental Behavior, and Environmental values.

Among these, a number of studies have already been performed in literature on environmental knowledge and environmental awareness. Whereas some works are initiated

on environmental behaviour and a very little works have been started on environmental values.

The future study will signify the saving of the environment by adopting good environmental behaviour. The Tribal are the oldest inhabitants of the country. From different news and studies it is observed that the tribal people have more or less kept their old traditions intact which are being reflected through their different social events. Many of their events organized in different times are related to environment and even they worship the environment imagining it to different gods. Thus it is expected that environmental behaviour will be found in a large scale in the tribal people and it is followed by them only to save their surrounding environment.

II. Related Studies

Before initiation of a survey it is always preferable to find and review some related works to get a right direction for the survey. Here the researchers reviewed the following works to construct a concrete path for the study.

Kos, Marjanca, et al. [1] in their study, "*Preschool Children's Understanding of Pro-Environmental Behaviours: Is It Too Hard for Them?*." elaborated that early childhood mind is like mud and can be shaped to any idol. Thus it is the best time to seed the environmental values and ethics and to build an environment friendly behavior in them and the charity mostly begins at home. Marjanca Kosa et. al. have performed a research study to evaluate the children understanding of how and why the environment friendly behavior of them influence their surrounding environment.

Steg, Linda, and Charles Vlek. [2] conducted a study, named as "**Encouraging pro-environmental behaviour: An integrative review and research agenda.**" In the study they highlighted that generation and maintaining pro-environmental behavior heavily depends on environmental psychology. **They** have reviewed the potential of environmental psychology in following and promoting environmental friendly behavior. They have proposed a framework which identifies change of behavior and can find out the driving factors leads to the change. The framework has also focused on the interventions required for getting the changed behavior to reduce environmental impact and have evaluated the effects of interventions.

Steg, Linda, et al.[3] in their study "**An integrated framework for encouraging pro-environmental behaviour: The role of values, situational factors and goals.**" found that there exists a tradeoff between actual gain and standard gain in good objective. Environmental behavior is not an exemption. In this study they have proposed a framework to boost the environment friendly behavior and have presented a framework which can be used in policy making regarding environment. To maintain some environment friendly behavior people may have to spend some money. (e.g.: To buy dustbin, Circuit setup for automatic switch off and on street lights etc.). A pro-environmental choice which can incur a huge cost will not be good choice at all. Here the goal is defeated in front of cost. The authors have suggested in keeping a balance between actual gain and standard goal.

Astrid and De Leeuw [4] in their study, "**Using the theory of planned behavior to identify key beliefs underlying pro-environmental behavior in high-school students: Implications for educational interventions.**" have performed a practical analysis using some questioner which is based on theory of planned behavior (TPB). Their analysis is to find out the standpoints that affects environmental behavior of the young generation, mainly

high school students. The results they have received have got an excellent match with the standard TPB model. They also have examined the effects of students' specific beliefs which can be useful for designing behavior change model.

Berenguer, Jaime, José A. Corraliza, and Rocío Martín [5] **Conducted study named as "Rural-Urban Differences in Environmental Concern, Attitudes, and Actions."** This study elaborated that citizens' environmental concern, attitude and action also depend on the place and type of living. It is found that rural people behave more environment friendly than the urban people. It may be related to their lifestyle and art of living. Environment has great impact on their bread. As an example a rural people will not throw away a piece of plastic or thermocol to some open land which may be used for cultivation. They inherit this behavior or may have learnt from their daily life experiences. This is reflected in the present study. Here the researchers have taken two samples, one is from rural and another is from urban people. The values from the samples are analyzed with respect to three scales. The results indicate a tradeoff between environment concern and environment friendly behavior. It is found that urban people are more environment concern but possess a low pro-environment behavior. Whereas rural people behave more environment friendly but do not have so much knowledge about anti environment activities.

Yu, Xueying [6] **had entitled his study as "Is environment 'a city thing' in China? Rural-urban differences in environmental attitudes."** Whereas the present research in 2015 has pointed a bend in relation to environment attitude, when comparing urban and rural people. Though this research is based on the people of China, till as a leading developing country and a country with largest population, the results can not be ignored. From a large set of urban-rural combined samples, it is found that rural people are less environment concern than their urban fellow mates. They are less aware to environment pollution caused by their activities, nature conservation, global warming etc. and it is also reflected from their daily life activities. As an example rural people still depend on wood and dry leaves for cooking. According to the study it is observed that rural people are focused on the hazards and problems related to their agriculture. The research concludes that education plays a significant influential role in environmental attitude but not income.

III. Statement of the Problem:

The main objective of the current study is to measure the environmental behavior of the tribal students including secondary and higher secondary students of the school named as Guruma J.S. Vidyapith, Jhargram in terms of the other students of the rest of West Bengal. The school is located at village Guruma under police station Beliaberah in Jhargram district of West Bengal. It is a co-educational school established in 1967 and the students of Guruma and its surrounding villages like Bhamal, Ekur and Ghutia come to the school. These villages are mostly populated with tribal people. This is an in-depth study which was conducted on the 250 secondary and higher secondary tribal students of this particular school of Jhargram district.

IV. Objectives of the study:

The researchers considered the followings as the objectives of the study:

- To find out the nature of the environmental behaviour of secondary and higher secondary tribal students of selected school.
- To measure the environmental behaviour of secondary and higher secondary students of selected school.

V. Research questions:

The researchers considered the following as the research question of the study:

- What is the nature of the environmental behaviour of secondary and higher secondary tribal students of selected school?

VI. Method and Materials:

This study was qualitative in nature and item-wise analysis was done for conducting the study.

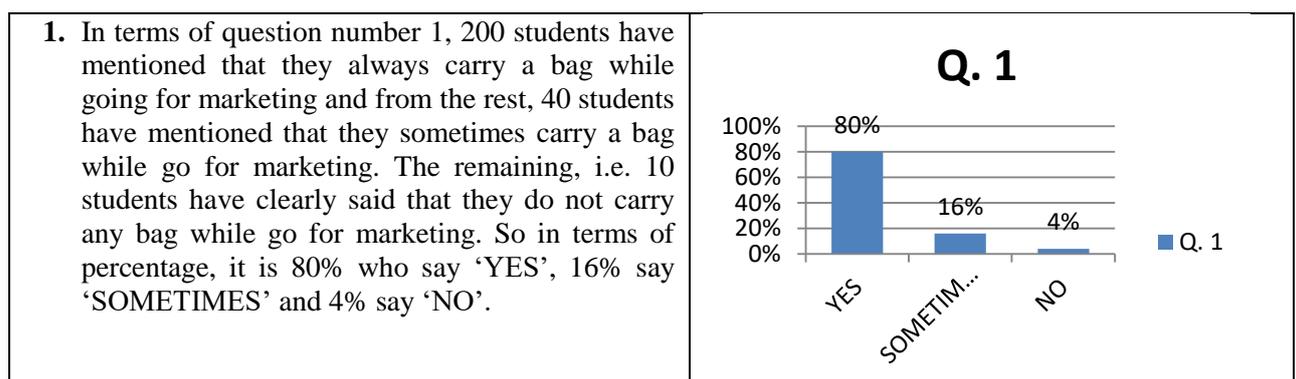
Variables: Environmental behaviour of the secondary and higher secondary students of selected school was considered as the variable in this study.

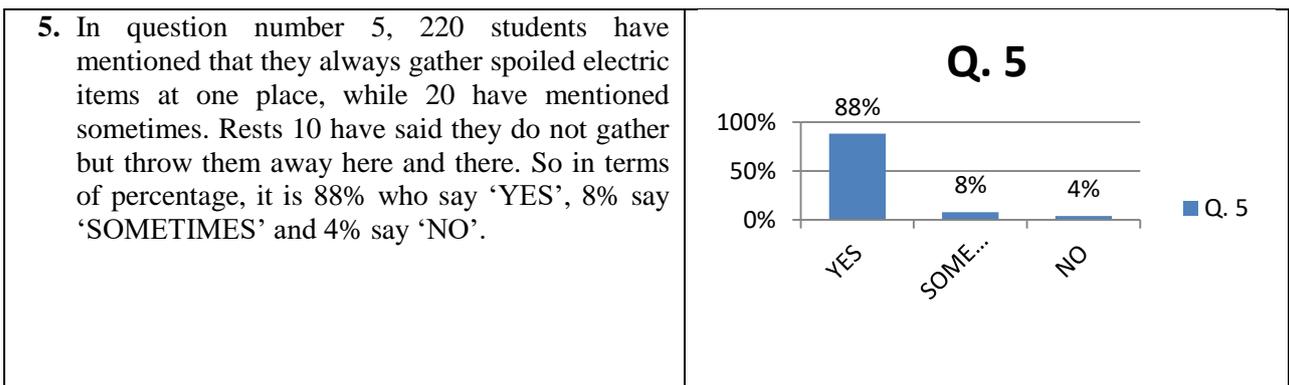
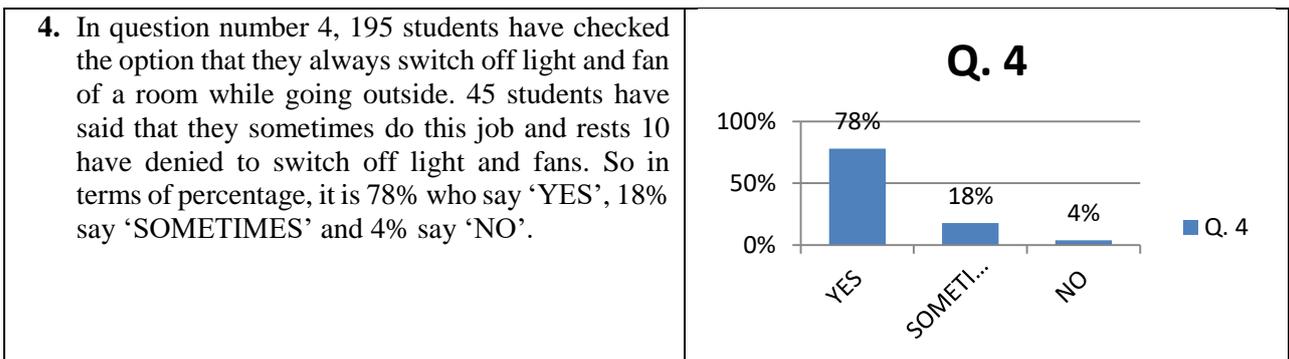
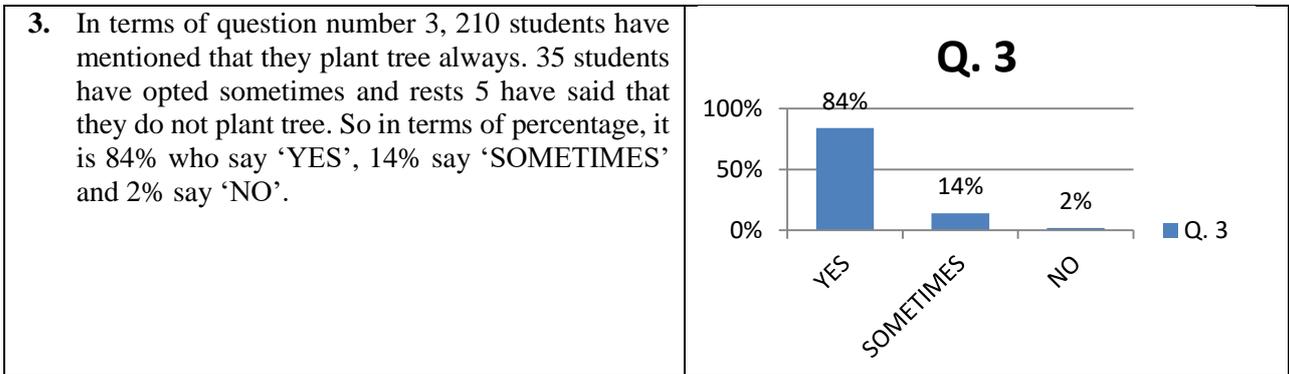
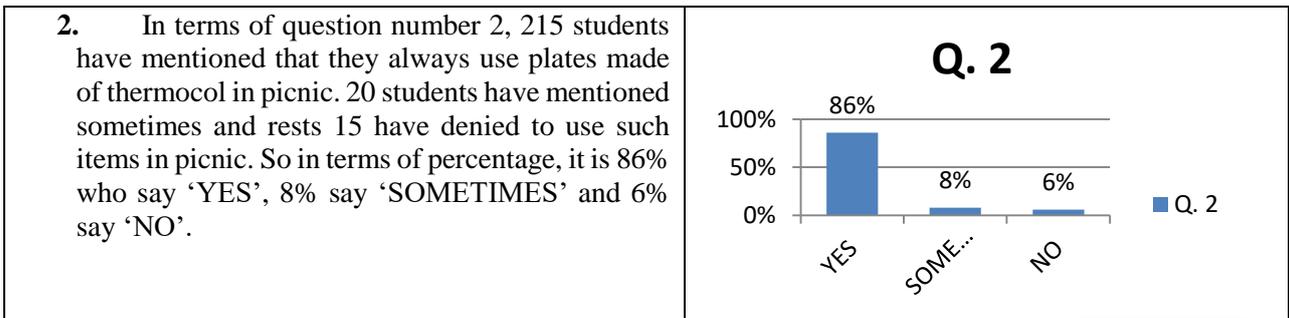
Sample: 250 students of class IX to XII including 80 students from class IX, 70 students from class X, 60 students from class XI and 40 students from class XII from the school of Guruma J.S.Vidyapith (H.S.) which is located at Jhargram district of WB was considered as sample and purposive sampling was used for sample selection.

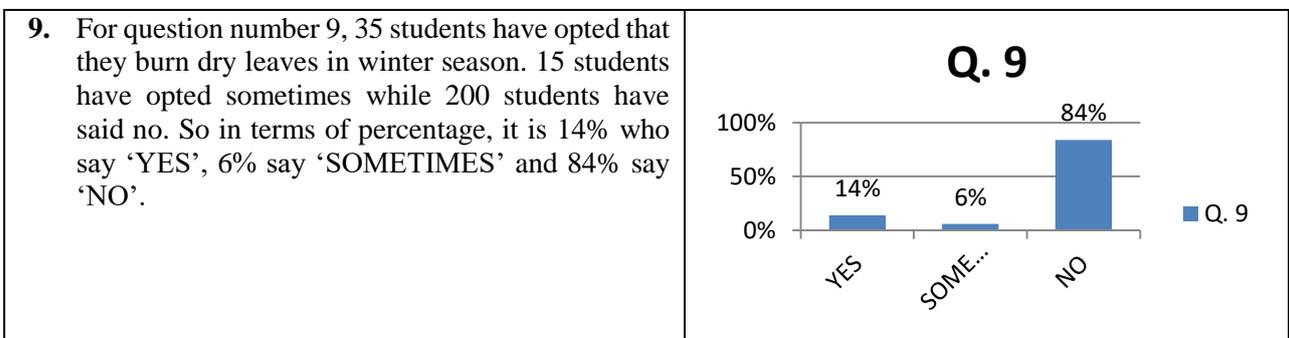
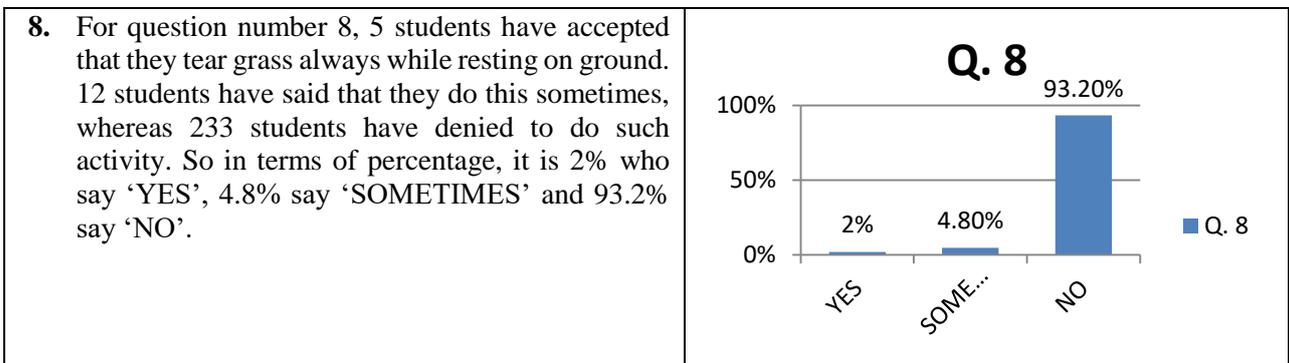
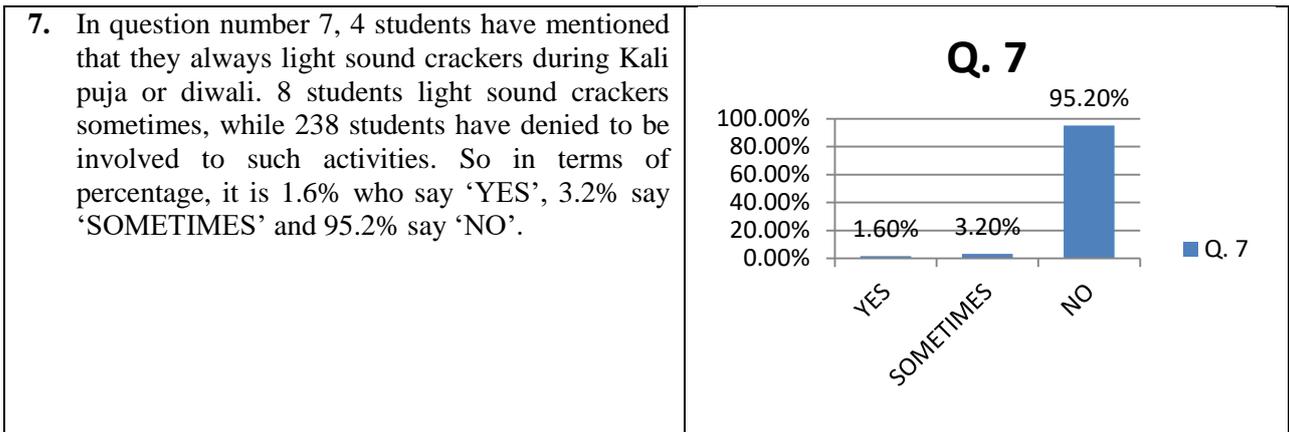
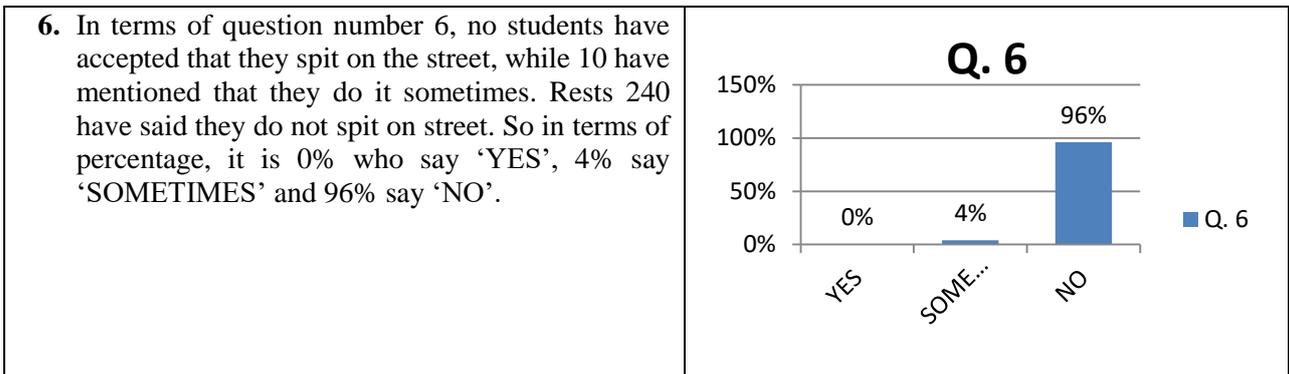
Tool used: Researcher developed a tool to measure environmental behaviour. After item analysis 27 items were selected. The validity and reliability were estimated by applying Test-Retest, Cronbach alpha, Inter-dimension correlation and they were found sufficient for the study.

VI. Data Analysis:

The collected data was analyzed by percentage wise and those are presented graphically.

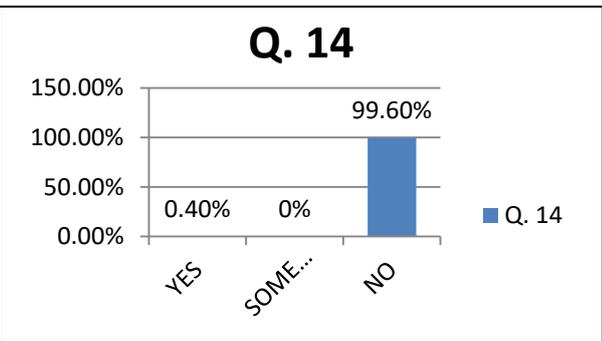




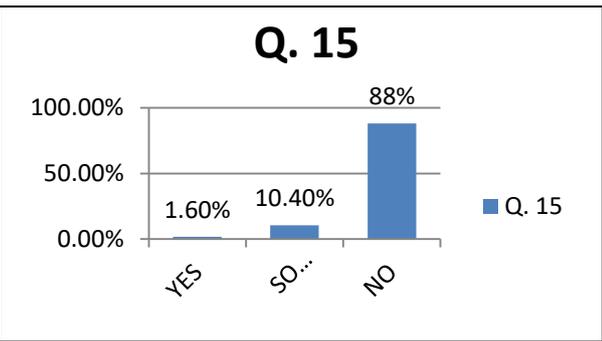


<p>10. In question number 10, only one student have accepted that s/he always throw away empty plastic water bottles while on go. 9 students have said to do this sometimes, whereas 240 students have opted that they do not do this anytime. So in terms of percentage, it is 0.4% who say ‘YES’, 3.6% say ‘SOMETIMES’ and 96% say ‘NO’.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q. 10</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>0.40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOMETIMES</td> <td>3.60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>96%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	YES	0.40%	SOMETIMES	3.60%	NO	96%
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<p>11. For question number 11, 230 student have said that they always love animals while 20 students have mentioned that they love animals sometimes but no student is found who do not love animal. From the result in terms of percentage, it is 92% who say ‘YES’, 8% say ‘SOMETIMES’ and no student say ‘NO’.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q. 11</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>92%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOMETIMES</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	YES	92%	SOMETIMES	8%	NO	0%
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<p>12. For question number 12, 20 students have said that they use plastic wrapper while giving something to other. 5 students have accepted that they do this sometimes, whereas 225 students have firmly denied not to use plastic wrapper. So in terms of percentage, it is 8% who say ‘YES’, 2% say ‘SOMETIMES’ and 90% say ‘NO’.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q. 12</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOMETIMES</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	YES	8%	SOMETIMES	2%	NO	90%
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<p>13. For question number 13, 200 students have said that they use plastic glasses in their family occasion while 5 students have accepted that they do this sometimes, whereas 45 students have said that they do not use plastic glass in family occasion. So in terms of percentage, it is 80% who say ‘YES’, 2% say ‘SOMETIMES’ and 18% say ‘NO’.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Q. 13</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>YES</td> <td>80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOMETIMES</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NO</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Percentage	YES	80%	SOMETIMES	2%	NO	18%
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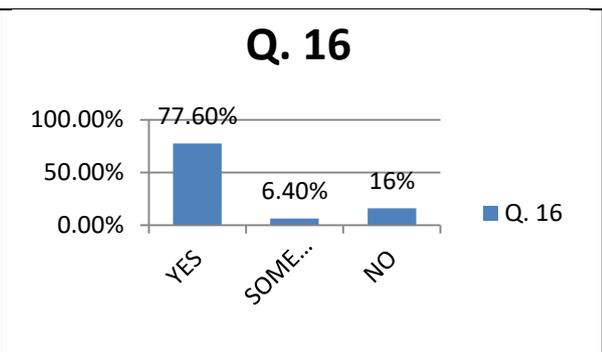
14. For question number 14, only one student have said that s/he tear off leaves without any reason, whereas rests 249 students have mentioned of not to do such activity. So in terms of percentage, it is 0.4% who say 'YES', 0% say 'SOMETIMES' and 99.6% say 'NO'.



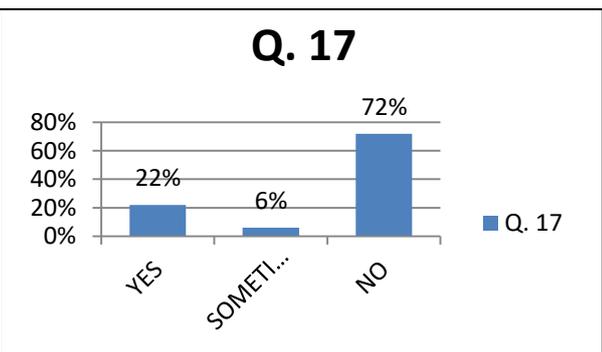
15. For question number 15, 4 students have said that they keep the lighting of the house light without any need. Whereas 26 students accepted to do this sometimes and 220 students have mentioned that they only light the lightings when required. So in terms of percentage, it is 1.6% who say 'YES', 10.4% say 'SOMETIMES' and 88% say 'NO'.



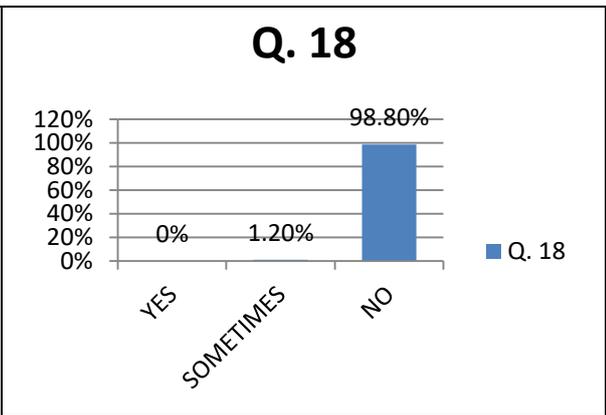
16. For question number 16, 194 students have accepted that they always throw used plate and bowls of thermocol after picnic. Whereas 16 students accepted to do this sometimes and 40 students have mentioned that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it is 77.6% who say 'YES', 6.4% say 'SOMETIMES' and 16% say 'NO'.



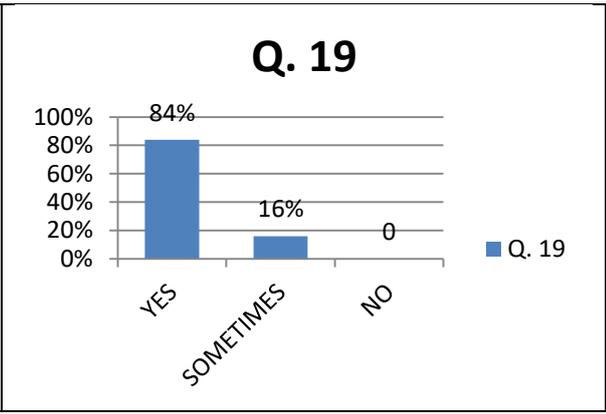
17. For question number 17, 55students have mentioned that they always take tea in plastic cup not in mud cup or glass while taking tea outside. Whereas 15 students accepted to do this sometimes and 180 students have mentioned that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it is 22% who say 'YES', 6% say 'SOMETIMES' and 72% say 'NO'.



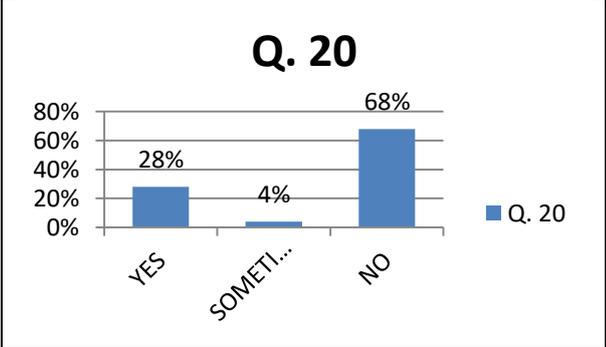
18. For question number 18, no student has mentioned that s/he always throw stones at the street dogs. Whereas 3 students accepted to do this sometimes and 247 students have mentioned that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it none who say 'YES', 1.2% say 'SOMETIMES' and 98.8% say 'NO'.



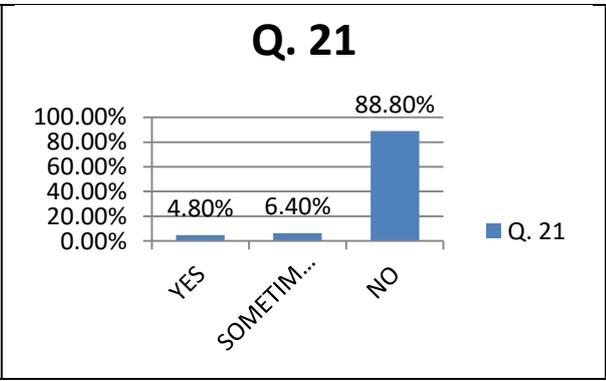
19. For question number 19, 210 students have accepted that they always donate unused old cloths to poor people. Whereas 40 students accepted to do this sometimes and no students have mentioned that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it 84% who say 'YES', 16% say 'SOMETIMES' and no one say 'NO'.



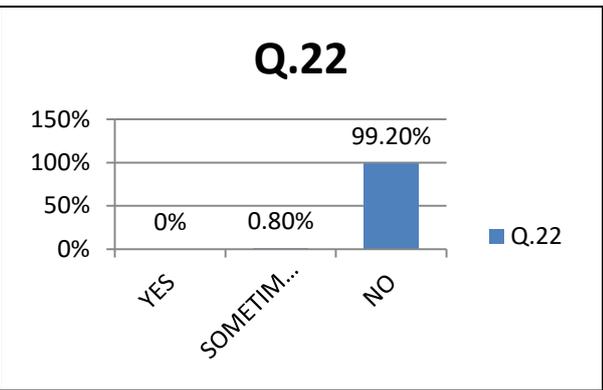
20. For question number 20, 70 students have said that they always decor ceremony stage using thermocol. Whereas 10 students said that they do this sometimes and 170 students have said that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it 28% who say 'YES', 4% say 'SOMETIMES' and 68% say 'NO'.



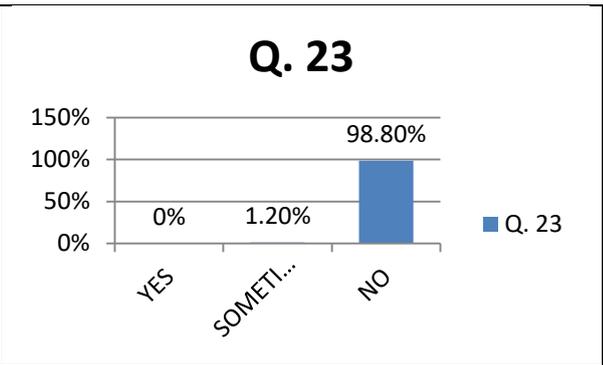
21. For question number 21, 12 students have mentioned that they always carry bottles in plastic bags. Whereas 16 students accepted to do this sometimes and 222 students have mentioned that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it 4.8% who say 'YES', 6.4% say 'SOMETIMES' and 88.8% say 'NO'.



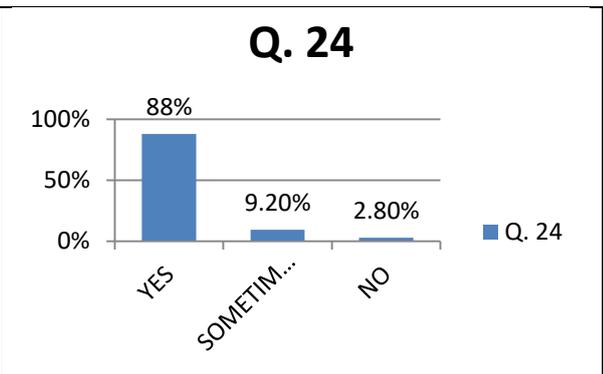
22. For question number 22, no student has accepted that they always litter home garbage on the street. Whereas 2 students accepted to do this sometimes and 248 students have mentioned that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it is none who say 'YES', 0.8% say 'SOMETIMES' and 99.2% say 'NO'.



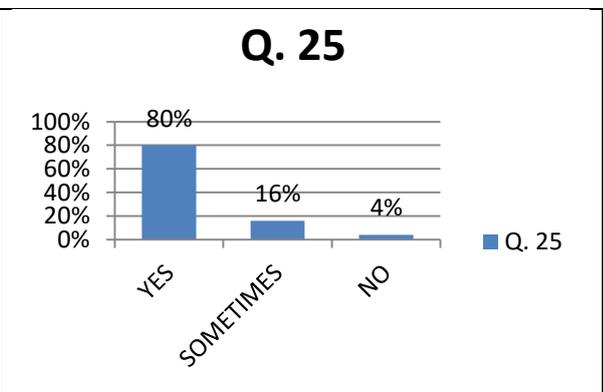
23. For question number 23, no student has said that they always throw fast-food wrapper here and there. Whereas 3 students have said to do this sometimes and 247 students have said that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it is none who say 'YES', 1.2% say 'SOMETIMES' and 98.8% say 'NO'.

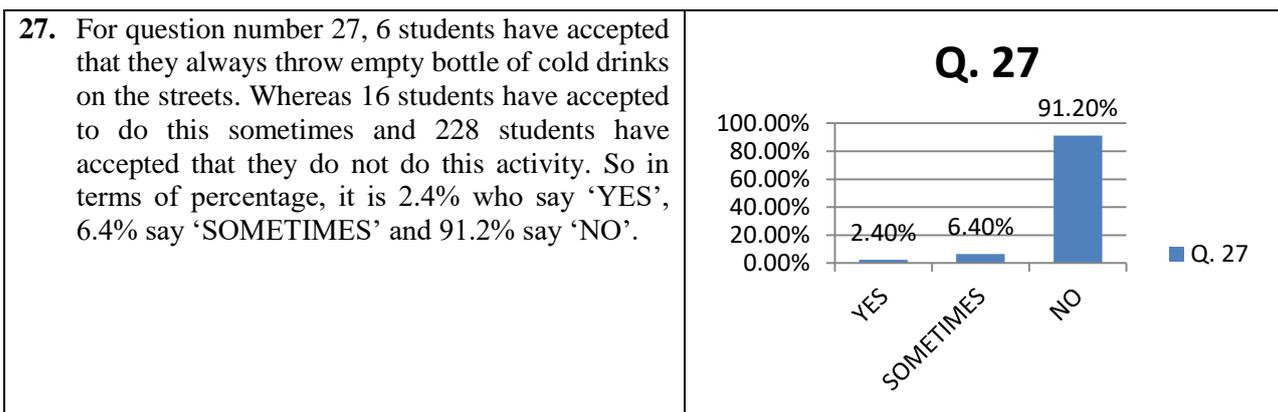
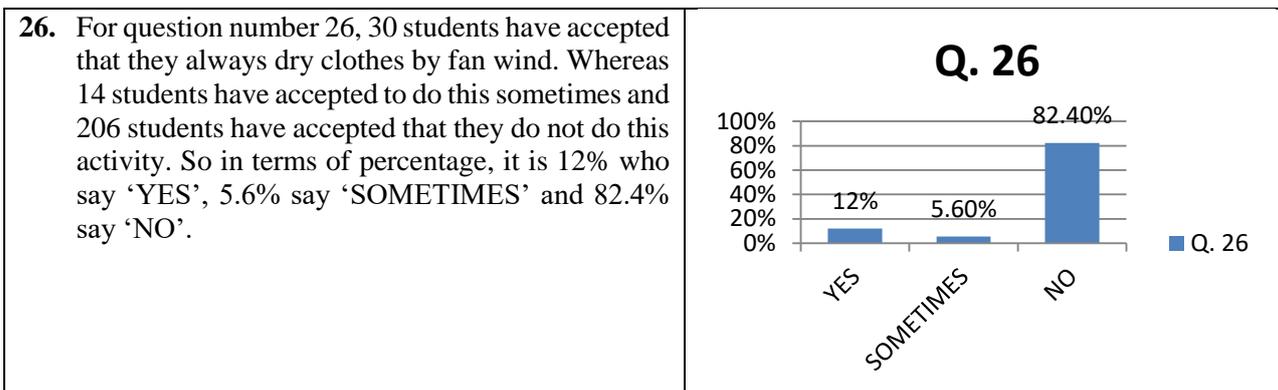


24. For question number 24, 220 students have mentioned that they always keep aside used plastic at one place. Whereas 23 students have mentioned to do this sometimes and 7 students have mentioned that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it is 88% who say 'YES', 9.2% say 'SOMETIMES' and 2.8% say 'NO'.



25. For question number 25, 200 students have accepted that they always carry plastic cup for taking tea or coffee in picnic. Whereas 40 students have accepted to do this sometimes and 10 students have accepted that they do not do this activity. So in terms of percentage, it is 80% who say 'YES', 16% say 'SOMETIMES' and 4% say 'NO'.





VII. Discussion:

So from the above data presentation it is found that for three questions negative answers are received from the learners. For question number 13 it is seen that 80% students always use plastic glasses in their family occasion, as mentioned by themselves. In response to question number 16, 77.6% students have accepted that they always leave the used thermocol plates and bowls at the picnic place after picnic is over. An finally for question number 25 it is found that 80% students use plastic cup for taking tea or coffee in picnic. Except these three, for all the other questions students have responded positive answer. That is for 24 questions in the question set they have claimed to act environment friendly behavior. It is to be noted that among these 24 questions for 10 questions, the survey has received 90% or more positive answers. After special screening it is found that among these 10, for 5 questions more than 95% positive answer is received. For some distinct mentions- for question number 6, 96% students have denied of not spiting on the roads, for question number 10, 96% students have mentioned that they do not throw away empty plastic water bottles on the street after quenching their thirst, for question number 14 it is 99.6% who never tear off the leaves. Though there are only 3 negative behaviors, but the survey reveals maximum behaviors are positive.

VIII. Conclusion:

So from the results received from the study it is found that the tribal students conduct positive behaviour in different behavioral situations related to the environment. In other way it can be said that their behavior help in protecting environment. Though some negative behaviors are received but we believe that increasing environmental awareness among the students by organizing environmental awareness programs and camps, those negative behaviors can be transformed to positive behavior within a short duration. From

the survey it can be concluded that- though common people are not so much aware about the environment as reflected by their livelihood activities, but it is of great relief that the tribal students are not only much conscious about the environment but also active in protecting her. If this awareness and activeness is spread throughout the globe, then the future world will be a healthy and prosperous to live in and grow for all animals.

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