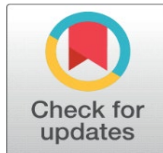
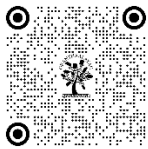


# INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM

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## DOI

[10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i6.2024.2406](https://doi.org/10.29121/shodhkosh.v5.i6.2024.2406)

**Funding:** This research received no specific grant from any funding agency in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

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## ABSTRACT

The Institutional Environment is defined as the socio-psychological, physical, social and cultural condition within an Institution. In this study, institution refers to school or colleges that offers higher secondary courses in Nagaon District, Assam. The present study aimed to study the level of Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Nagaon District, Assam and also aimed to compare the Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of the Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam. The researcher used descriptive research method to conduct the study. The researcher selected 840 students from 32 Institutions that offers higher secondary courses in Nagaon District, Assam by using proportionate stratified random sampling method and purposive sampling method. A self-structured Institutional Environment Inventory was used to collect data to fulfil the objectives of the study. This study found a significant difference in Institutional Environment among the Higher Secondary Level Students of Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges, and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam.

**Keywords:** Institutional Environment, Higher Secondary Level Students, Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges, and Degree Colleges

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The term Institutional Environment consists of two words: Institution and Environment. School or institutions is a social system where the younger generation learns liberty, equality and fraternity (Chandra and Sharma, 2004). The institution is a social platform where a child learns his lesson of socialization. In an institution, children are able to interact with their peers and also learn how to behave in a social situation. The origin of the word Environment comes from a French word 'Environer'. 'Environer' means to surround or encircle. Environment can be defined as the sum total of all the biotic and non-biotics elements and their effects that effects human beings. Environment is everything that surrounds an individual.

Institutional Environment means all the physical, psychological, social, emotional, cultural system that surround human beings in the institutional setting. The institutional environment is defined as the social, psychological, cultural and physical organizational condition established in an institution.

A good institution or school should be adaptive in new situations. School or institutions must have some roles and missions (Cook,1960). A good institutional environment is an essential condition for the proper development of a student. An Institution can be categorized as a good institution if the institution has small class size, prompt discipline, effective teachers, a good teacher-students relationship, a well-developed curriculum etc. Prompt discipline, effective teachers, small class size, adequate buildings and sufficient equipment, focus on time on task, scholastic and non-scholastic activities are some of the basic qualities of a good institutional environment (Malaviya,1960). Institutional Environment can be better understand with the help of the following diagram-



**Figure: 1** Elements of Institutional Environment

Institutional environment plays a crucial role in the holistic development of an individual. An institution consists of well and sufficient infrastructure facilities, a good and healthy environment for teaching and learning, where people can learn and develop their inner abilities and potentialities. It is a place where people learn social behaviour, develop balanced personalities, and gain physical and emotional strength to adjust in the society.

Keeping in view the significance of institutional environment in holistic development of the students, the researcher intended to study the institutional environment of the degree colleges, higher secondary schools and junior colleges that offers higher secondary courses in Nagaon District, Assam.

## 2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To Study the level of Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Nagaon District, Assam.
- To compare the Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of the Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam.

## 3. THE HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

- There is no significant difference in Institutional Environment among the Higher Secondary Level Students of Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges, and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam.

#### 4. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The researcher reviewed a number of studies while conducting the research work. Some of these are mentioned below- **Weinstein (1979)** conducted a study on the Physical Environment of the School. This is a review paper on the impact of classroom environment on students' behaviour, attitude and achievements. This paper studied environmental variables like seating position, classroom design, density, privacy, noise and the presence or absence of windows. This paper also discussed about the future direction for research and advantages and limitation of various research designs were summarized. This research study helps the researcher to understand how physical variables affect the environment of schools.

**Thomas and Berk (1981)** conducted a study on the Effect of School Environment on the development of Young Children's Creativity. The study intended to measure the impact of school environment on the development of creativity. In this study, six schools were participated. All the first grade and second grade students of the selected six schools were selected for the study. This study found that school environment effects the creativity of school children. This study found that informal schools are less facilitating than the formal schools.

**Higgins,et.al. (2005)** conducted a study on the Impact of School Environments. This is a review paper that explored the impact of learning environments on students' achievements, affective state, attendance and well-being. In this study, it was found that the basic physical variables have strong, consistence effect on learning.

**Chandak (2013)** conducted a study on the Effect of School Environment on Student's Personality, Adjustment and their Academic Performance. This study intended to measure the different dimension of personality, over all academic performance of students, relationship between school adjustment and school environment among the students and long term effect of school inputs on life's success. The researcher collected data from 155 students of residential schools and 155 students of non-residential schools. Standardized psychological tools related to dimensions of personality, over all academic performance of students, school environment were used to measure the variables of the present. This study showed higher score for residential school students in creative stimulation, acceptance and permissiveness and high score for non-residential school children in cognitive encouragement, rejection and control.

**Madireddy and Paripally (2022)** conducted a study on the Impact of School Environment on Creativity of Secondary School Students. This study attempts to investigate the impact of the school environment on the creativity of secondary school students. The sample of the study comprised of 600 high school level students. The samples were selected by using purposive sampling technique. This study found that a good school environment enhances creativity in children and also leads to good academic performance and enhances personal and professional skills within the individuals.

#### 5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Institutional environment plays a very important role in the academic achievement, formation of career maturity, social intelligence, leadership qualities, personality development, self-esteem among the students (Birknerova,2011; Fonllem et.al.2020;Kaur,2012; Rahmatika and Hernawati,2016). School or an Institution is a place that drills children in cultural orientation (Grandstaff, 1969). S. Balakrishnan defines the concept of school and said that a well-conducted school is a sacred, happy, social center and a miniature society (as cited in Aggarwal, 2009). The future generations learn and transmit a society's culture and learn their social rules by means of identity and perception formation in the school (Chandra and Sharma, 2009). The school aims to prepare students to occupy social roles according to their abilities and capacities after leaving school (Chandra and Sharma, 2009).

Institutional environment plays a crucial role in the holistic development of an individual. The teacher's behaviour among themselves and towards the head of the institution teaches the students about behaviour among equals and the behaviour towards the seniors. An institution consists of well and sufficient infrastructure facilities, a good and healthy environment for teaching and learning, where people can learn and develop their inner abilities and potentialities. It is a place where people learn social behaviour, develop balanced personalities, and gain physical and emotional strength to adjust in the society.

Each educational Institution has a particular environment and this can be noticed in comparison to the private and government, urban and rural institutional environments (Chandra and Sharma, 2009). Keeping in view the significance

of institutional environment in holistic development of the students, the researcher intended to study the institutional environment of the degree colleges, higher secondary schools and junior colleges that offers higher secondary courses in Nagaon District, Assam .

## 6. METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

### 6.01 METHOD OF THE STUDY

The researcher used descriptive research method to conduct the study.

### 6.02 POPULATION OF THE STUDY

The population of the study is comprised of all the higher secondary level students of Nagaon District, Assam, studying in AHSEC recognised higher secondary schools, Junior Colleges and Degree colleges of Nagaon District, Assam. There are total 126 AHSEC recognised institutions that offers Higher Secondary courses in Nagaon District, Assam(According to AHSEC centre list 2018) viz; 66 Higher Secondary Schools, 41 Junior Colleges, and 19 Degree Colleges.

### 6.03 SAMPLE OF THE STUDY

The Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling technique was used for selecting institutions offering Higher Secondary course of Nagaon District of Assam. The researcher selected 33% of the total population institutions for selecting sample institutions offering higher secondary courses. The sample was comprised of 7 Higher Secondary Schools, 7 Junior Colleges and 4 Degree Colleges in the urban area and 15 Higher Secondary Schools, 7 Junior Colleges and 2 Degree Colleges in rural area. The researcher selected 840 sample students (10 boys and 10 girls form each institution) from the selected institutions using purposive sampling technique to conduct the study. The sample design is shown in following figure-

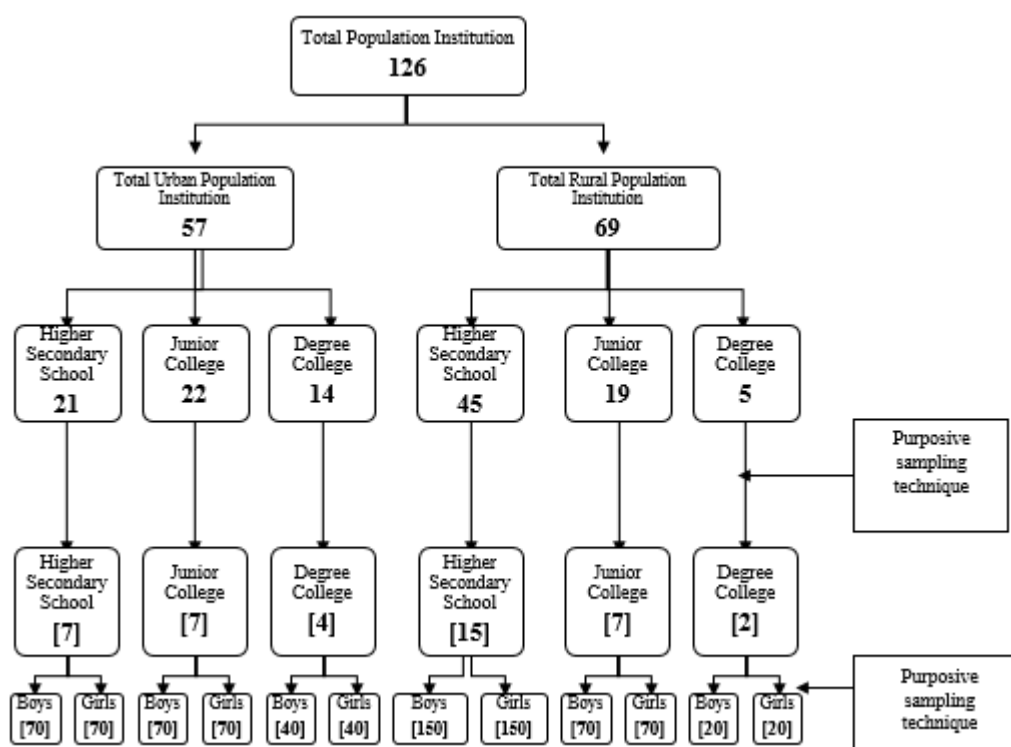


Figure 2 Sampling Design

### 6.04 TOOLS USED IN THE PRESENT STUDY

The researcher used a self-structured Institutional Environment Inventory to Conduct the study. There are total 40 statements in the institutional environment Inventory. The inventory has eight dimensions as- creative stimulation, cognitive encouragement, teacher-student relationship, competition, leadership, co-curricular activities, involvement and independence. The researcher used split half method to estimate the reliability of the inventory and found to be .80. The statements of the inventory is based on experts comments, therefore the inventory has a high content validity.

## 6.05 STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES USED IN THE PRESENT STUDY

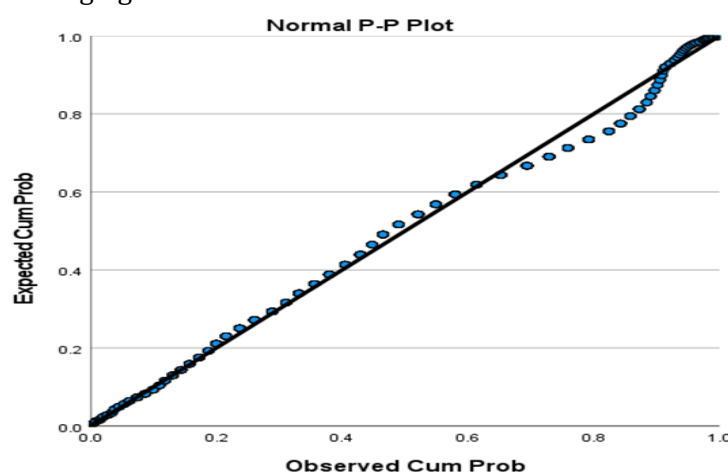
The researcher analyses the collected data with the help of Mean, Standard Deviation, skewness, Kurtosis, t-test and ANOVA.

## 7. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

### 7.01 ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM

#### 7.01.01 NORMALITY TEST OF THE SCORES OF INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM

As the researcher used purposive sampling technique in the present study, therefore the researcher felt it essential to find out whether the Institutional Environment scores are normally distributed or not. Therefore, the researcher found out the normal P-P plot of estimating normality of distribution of which scores. The illustration of normal P-P plot of the scores are presented in the following figure –



**Figure 3** Normal Probability-Probability plot (P-P plot) of Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level students

The scores of the Normal Probability-Probability plot (P-P plot) of Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students shows that the scores are not scattered and all of the scores fall near a diagonal line. Therefore, it indicates that the Institutional Environment scores of Higher Secondary Level Students of Nagaon District, Assam are normally distributed.

#### 7.01.02 LEVEL OF INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM

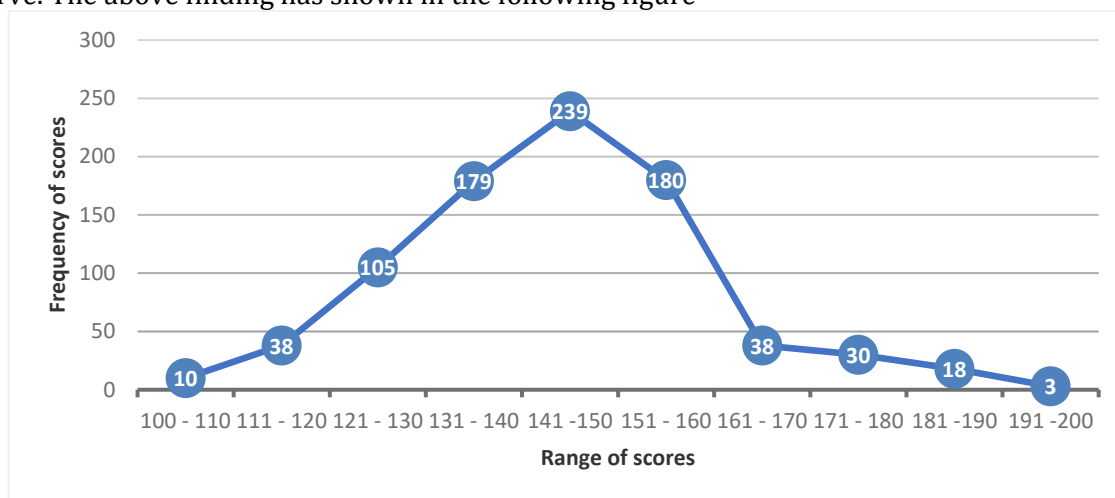
**Objective-01: To Study the level of Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Nagaon District, Assam.**

The scores obtained by the Higher Secondary Level Students on Institutional Environment Inventory developed by the researcher were used to find out the level of Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Nagaon District, Assam. These scores were used to calculate mean, median, standard deviation, skewness and kurtosis. The level of Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Nagaon District, Assam is presented in the following Table-1

**Table-01**  
Level of Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Nagaon District, Assam

| Variable                  | N   | Mean   | Standard Deviation | Variance | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---------------------------|-----|--------|--------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Institutional Environment | 840 | 144.35 | 15.390             | 236.851  | .281     | .510     |

In the Table 01 it has seen that the mean, standard deviation of the sample is found to be 144.35 and 15.390 respectively. The skewness value is found to be .281 means the distribution is positively skewed and most of the distribution is in the left side. The value of kurtosis is found to be .510. The distribution is Platykurtic in nature means the curve is flatter than the normal curve. The above finding has shown in the following figure-



**Figure:4** Distribution of Institutional Environment score of Higher secondary level students of Nagaon District, Assam

The above Figure of frequency curve shows that the scores of Higher Secondary level students of Nagaon District, Assam in the Institutional Environment Inventory constructed and standardized by the researcher. The figure shows that only 10 Higher Secondary Level Students of Nagaon District, Assam scored in the class interval of 100-110. Majority of the Higher Secondary Level Students (239) scored in the class interval of 141-150. Only 3 students scored in the class interval of 191-200.

## 7.02 COMPARISON OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT AMONG THE HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS, JUNIOR COLLEGES AND DEGREE COLLEGES OF NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM

**Objective-02:** To compare the Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of the Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam.

To compare the Institutional Environment among the Higher Secondary level students of Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam, the researcher calculated ANOVA. The following tables show the comparative analysis of institutional environment among Higher Secondary Level Students of Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam.

**Table 02(A)**

**Means and Standard Deviation of Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level students of the Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam**

| Sample                   | N   | Mean   | Standard deviation |
|--------------------------|-----|--------|--------------------|
| Higher Secondary Schools | 440 | 144.40 | 15.92              |
| Junior Colleges          | 280 | 141.95 | 17.01              |
| Degree Colleges          | 120 | 147.16 | 15.44              |
| Total                    | 840 |        |                    |

**Table 02 (B)**

**Comparison of the Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of the Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam**

| Source of variation | Sum of squares | Df  | Mean square | F     | Inferences               |
|---------------------|----------------|-----|-------------|-------|--------------------------|
| Between groups      | 2459.714       | 2   | 1229.857    | 4.665 | Significant at .05 level |
| Within groups       | 220918.857     | 838 | 263.626     |       |                          |
| Total               | 223378.571     | 840 |             |       |                          |



The Table 02 (B) shows that the 'F' value 4.665 is significant at .05 level (greater than tabulated value 3). Hence, the null hypothesis i.e., ***"there is no significant difference in Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level students among Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges"*** is rejected. It means there is a significant difference in institutional environment among the Higher Secondary Level Students of Higher Secondary Schools, Junior Colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam. The researcher found a significant F-value therefore, the researcher further calculated t-value to study the difference in institutional environment of Higher Secondary Level Students between Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges, Junior colleges and Higher Secondary Schools and Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam. The findings are discussed in following heads-

### **7.02.01 COMPARISON OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF DEGREE COLLEGES AND JUNIOR COLLEGES OF NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM**

To study the difference in the Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree College and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam, the researcher formulated a null hypothesis ***"there is no significant difference in institutional environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam."*** The researcher calculated t-value to find out if there is any significant difference in Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam. The finding of the t-value calculation is tabulated below-

**Table 03**

**Difference in the institutional environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam**

| Institution Type | N   | Mean   | Standard Deviation | Mean difference | df  | t-value | Inferences               |
|------------------|-----|--------|--------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|--------------------------|
| Degree Colleges  | 120 | 147.17 | 15.442             | 4.72            | 398 | 2.87    | Significant at .05 level |
| Junior Colleges  | 280 | 142.45 | 14.816             |                 |     |         |                          |

Table 03 shows that the calculated 't' value is 2.87 at 398 df, which is significant at .05 level (greater than tabulated value 1.96). Hence, the null hypothesis, ***"there is no significant difference in Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam"*** is rejected. It shows that there is a significant difference in institutional environment of Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam.

### **7.02.02 COMPARISON OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF DEGREE COLLEGES AND HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM.**

To study the difference between the Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam, the researcher formulated a null hypothesis ***"there is no significant difference in Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam."*** The researcher calculated t-value to find out if there is any significant difference exists in institutional environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam. The finding is tabulated below-

**Table 04**

**Difference in the Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam**

| Institution             | N   | Mean   | Standard Deviation | Mean difference | df  | t-value | Inferences                   |
|-------------------------|-----|--------|--------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|------------------------------|
| Degree Colleges         | 120 | 147.17 | 15.442             | 2.77            | 558 | 1.697   | Not Significant at .05 level |
| Higher Secondary School | 440 | 144.40 | 15.907             |                 |     |         |                              |

Table 04 shows that the calculated t-value is 1.697 at 558 df which is less than 1.96. Hence, t-value is significant at .05 level. Therefore, the null hypothesis, ***"there is no significant difference in Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree College and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam"*** is accepted. It shows that there is no significant difference in Institutional Environment of Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam.

### 7.02.03 COMPARISON OF THE INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT OF HIGHER SECONDARY LEVEL STUDENTS OF JUNIOR COLLEGES AND HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF NAGAON DISTRICT, ASSAM.

To study the difference in the Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary level students of Junior College and Higher Secondary School of Nagaon District, Assam, the researcher formulated a null hypothesis "*there is no significant difference in Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level students of Junior Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam.*" The researcher calculated t-value to find out if there is any significant difference exists in Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Junior Colleges and Higher Secondary School of Nagaon District, Assam. The finding is tabulated below-

Table 05

**Difference in the Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Junior Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam**

| Institution Type | N   | Mean   | Standard Deviation | Mean difference | Df  | t-value | Inferences                   |
|------------------|-----|--------|--------------------|-----------------|-----|---------|------------------------------|
| Junior Colleges  | 280 | 142.45 | 14.816             | 2.77            | 558 | 1.647   | Not Significant at .05 level |
| Higher Secondary | 440 | 144.40 | 15.907             |                 |     |         |                              |

Table 05 shows that the calculated t value is 1.647 at 558 df, which is not significant at .05 level (less than tabulated value 1.96). Hence, the null hypothesis, "*there is no significant difference in Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Junior Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam*" is accepted. It shows that there is no significant difference in Institutional Environment of higher secondary level students of Junior Colleges and higher secondary schools of Nagaon District, Assam.

## 8. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE STUDY

The findings of the present study are mentioned below-

- As evidenced in the present study, the distribution of the Institutional Environment scores is positively skewed and most of the distribution is on the left side. The distribution is Platykurtic in nature.
- In this study, it is also revealed that there is a significant difference in Institutional Environment among Higher Secondary Level Students of Higher Secondary Schools, Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam. Studies done by Barerah and Wani (2018), Khan(2019), also found a significant difference in Institutional Environment between Government and Private Institutions. For the significant F test, the researcher further conducted t-test to test the difference between groups viz; degree colleges, higher secondary schools and junior colleges. The findings are mentioned below-
- The researcher found that there is a significant difference in the Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam.
- In the present study, the researcher found that there is no significant difference in the Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools.
- The researcher found that there is no significant difference in the Institutional Environment of Higher Secondary Level Students of Junior Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools of Nagaon District, Assam.

## 9. EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

This study found a significant difference in institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level Students of Junior colleges and Degree Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam. Therefore, this study bears a special significance in the context of the formulation of various plans and programs to bridge the gap between Institutional Environment of the Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam to ensure quality education for holistic development of the students.

## 10. CONCLUSION

The present study aimed to study the level of the Institutional Environment of the Higher Secondary Level students of Nagaon District, Assam. The present study reveals significant difference in the Institutional Environment of the Degree Colleges and Junior Colleges of Nagaon District, Assam.



## CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

None.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

None.

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