

Climate Change and Global Warming Knowledge: A Way Forward for Secondary School Physics Students

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Abstract

The increasing rate of the greenhouse gases concentrations due to human activities on Earth has caused the average temperature on the Earth's surface to increase globally. It is very necessary for secondary school physics student to be well informed about climate change and global warming. This study used the survey design to investigate Secondary School Physics students' knowledge of climate change and global warming. The sample of the study consisted of 292 Senior Secondary School two (SSS11) Physics students (138males and 154females) drawn from four coeducational schools in Umuahia Education Zone of Umuahia North LGA of Abia State. The instrument used for data collection was the researcher's developed questionnaire of the four- point Likert type to elicit information on secondary school physics students' knowledge of climate change and global warming. Two research questions and one null hypothesis tested at 0.05 level of significance guided the study. The instrument was validated and its reliability obtained as 0.89 using Cronbach Alpha. Data collected was analyzed using mean to answer the research questions and t test statistics to test the hypotheses. The results showed that secondary school physics students and knowledge about climate change and global warming are very low. It was also found that there is no difference in students' knowledge of climate change and global warming caused by gender. Based on the findings, it is recommended that secondary school physics students should be exposed to the knowledge of climate change and global warming for them to be aware of the happenings in their environments.

Keywords: Climate Change, Global Warming, Science, Technology and Physics