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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

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- Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

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THE IMPACT OF OVERCROWDED CLASSROOM ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE STUDENTS AT SECONDARY LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the impact of overcrowded classrooms on the academic performance of the students at secondary level. How can the efficiency of the teachers and their morale can be affected in overcrowded classrooms? How student can physiologically, sociologically and psychologically deprived in heavy classes? And what is the relation between students and teachers in overcrowded classroom? These were such questions that motivated the researcher to carry out a thorough investigation into the problems. The study was descriptive in nature. Thus the collected data was arranged, tabulated and presented in percentages. For this purpose statistical methods are used to draw conclusions. Basically five aspects namely, loss of teachers efficiency, physical conditions of classrooms, students physiological, sociological and psychological problems were evaluated through the help of questionnaires, interviews and from the analysis of past result of grade 10th. This study revealed how and to what extent over crowded classrooms can effect students' academic achievement and how teachers can actively utilize and manipulate the physical classroom-learning environment as part of their instructional design. Overcrowding can have a direct impact on learning. Teachers like to teach small classes (in size) because they are easier to handle. This study will be very fruitful in the best interest of the students, teachers, administrators and government to think over the problem and do something positive for the improvement of the education in Pakistan. At the end of the research conclusion was drawn for the improvement of overcrowded classrooms.

KEYWORDS

overcrowded classrooms, academic performance.

INTRODUCTION

chool is a place where the teacher and the taught are living in close proximity. The teacher and the taught are living under the umbrella of teaching learning process. It is a place where an individual gets formal education. The more this umbrella provides facilities the more genuine learning will be taken place. In this regard school building is of the prime importance. School is a place where we can expect to produce good citizens, where students can have the idea about their culture, tradition, values and ideas.

In school, classroom is performing its role in the form of a unit of teaching learning process. It is a place where many students group together in a room for some special purpose. The dictionary of education tells that classroom is the name of a body where some students have been gathered for the purpose of collective instruction. Classroom is a place where students from different stratum of society come in close contact with one another. Here individual as well as group studies are taken place.

Well organized classroom is the sign of the best learning activities. Classroom will be managed in terms of various aspects. Students' performance will be judged on one hand discipline of the classroom may also not be spoiled. Classroom management means to increase attendance, to provide fun way teaching, to motivate the students and to reduce problem behavior. That classroom is considered well disciplined in which students are physically and mentally involved and feel at ease.

The classroom size should be 22-25 feet's so that the teacher voice may reach to each student easily. It should be wide by 20 feet. The recommended strength is 35 but the classroom may accommodate 40. (Education cod 1935)

It has been observed that lightening, temperature and the proper flow of air would have some effect on the teaching learning environment, McGuffey (1982). Cleanliness of the classroom also affects the attitude of the learners, Lackney (1996). Lack of space has a great impact on teaching learning process, Weinstein (1981).

According to the Education cod of K.P.K. (1935) paragraph 30, each student may be provided with separate seat and desk. Each student should be provided with enough space. The seats should be arranged in such a way that the teacher may move very easily between the rows. Each seat may have a reasonable space so that students may move or stand easily.

Noisy environment results in poor listening as the quieter environment provide good listening. Noisy environment affects reading ability and also affects the teacher instruction, (McGuffey, 1982).

FACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OVERCROWDED CLASSROOMS

Increase in population is the major cause of overcrowded classrooms. The size of class has become the topic of heated controversy these days (Taylor & Francis, 1994). Student's population in secondary education is unprecedented these days. This increase will remain continue in the coming time as well. This is alarming situation and everybody is worried about it. Students and teachers are the most sufferer and most of the students are failing to enter the school four walls. It results in overcrowded classroom filled with the students belonging to multicultural and multi social backgrounds.

Today secondary education needs reform to reduce burden over the teachers and to pull out the students from the boring situation. Overburden classrooms are one of the alarming factors in the low literacy rate of our country. Over crowded classrooms can cause many problems like the following;

I. PHYSIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

In overcrowded classrooms there is easy position to catch respiratory diseases, and other infectious illnesses. Over-crowded environment reduces the quality of air the individual's breathe by limiting the availability of oxygen, which adversely affects the health of individuals.

Temperature and light are also influential factors of the environment. Temperature tends to influence social behaviors such as aggression, while light, especially natural light, has been shown to enhance the performance of secondary level students.

II. PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL PROBLEMS

The purpose of education is to inculcate desirable habits, to prepare an individual to become good citizen, to prepare for vocation, to teach to use time wisely and to build moral character of students. In this way, the educational need of pupils will be satisfied. Since school has accepted these responsibilities. The school has to improve:

- Their personal development.
- Their social development.

METHODOLOGY

The study was descriptive in nature. For the collection of data points likert questionnaire was used. The data was collected, tabulated and analyzed to achieve the objectives of the study. It was an attempt to answer the question what is the link between class size and educational attainment.

POPULATION AND SAMPLING

Students and teachers of the government schools were the over all population of the study. A total of 200 students from Government High School Shaheen Town, Government High School Sufaid Dheri, Government High School Tehkal Bala, Government High School Agriculture University, Government High School for Girls Agriculture University, Government High School Palosi and Government High School Hayat Abad were selected as random sampling. 20 students and 5 teachers from each school were selected from class 10th.

INSTRUMENTATION

The investigator designed a five point's likert questionnaire to get students' perception about the overcrowded classroom. The questionnaire consisted of 39 items. These items were arranged properly to investigate the impact of overcrowded classroom on the academic performance of the students at secondary level in Khyber Pakhtunkhawa.

DATA COLLECTION

Questionnaire Method (Farooq, 2001) was followed for the collection of data. The researcher is teaching in Islamia Collegiate School since long so, he administered the questionnaire personally and some with the help of the students. Some of the random sampling population (the students) was instructed by the investigator personally. To facilitate the students, the questionnaire was translated in the native language of the students along with interpretation for the students.

TABLE NO 1: THE OPINION OF THE RESPONDENT ABOUT 40 STUDENTS IN A CLASS

Nature of responses	SA	A	DA	SDA	UD	Total
No of respondents	70	30	--	--	--	100
%	140	60	--	--	--	200

TABLE NO 2: THE IDEA OF THE RESPONDENTS ABOUT GOOD LIGHTENING

Nature of responses	SA	A	DA	SDA	UD	Total
No of respondents	03	11	48	24	--	100
%	12	44	96	48	--	200

TABLE NO 3: THE NO OF THE RESPONDENTS WHO ARE SATISFIED WITH EASY MOVEMENT OF THE TEACHER IN CROWDED CLASSROOM

Nature of responses	SA	A	DA	SDA	UD	Total
No of respondents	12	22	16	50	--	100
%	24	44	32	100	--	200

TABLE NO 4: IN OVERCROWDED CLASSROOM STUDENTS ARE NOT ABLE TO PARTICIPATE

Nature of responses	SA	A	DA	SDA	UD	Total
No of respondents	30	44	24	02	--	100
%	60	88	48	04	--	200

TABLE NO 5: DIFFERENT TYPES OF DISEASES CAN SPREAD IN OVER CROWDED CLASSROOMS

Nature of responses	SA	A	DA	SDA	UD	Total
No of respondents	30	50	02	16	--	100
%	60	100	04	32	--	200

It is very obvious from the above tables that 100% of the students recommended for 40 students in a class. Most of the students and teachers are not satisfied with the lighting system in overcrowded classrooms. Large number of the teachers and students are of the view that teachers cannot move easily in over crowded classrooms.

DATA ANALYSIS

The data was collected from the students sample in December 2011. The collected data was tabulated, analyzed and interpreted by using simple % method due to the nature of the data and time constraints.

DISCUSSION

For decades studies have shown that there is an explicit relationship between the physical facilities and the students' academic performance. It has found through different researches that students' academic performance is greatly affected by the physical characteristics of classroom. According to Earthman, G 2004:18, School building in which students pass considerable time has great influence upon students' academic performance. Better classroom arrangement has direct influence on the effectiveness of the teachers in their daily life. (Siegel, J 1999)

A survey was conducted by the SDPI (Sustainable development policy institute) 1998. The survey declared that overcrowded classroom is the major factor responsible for academic failure in Pakistan.

A research was conducted on the impact of physical facilities (including seating, density, noise, privacy, air quality, windowless classrooms, playground light etc.) on the students attainment, engagement and attendance (keep, G 2002; Higgins et al 2005; Lackney and Jacobs, 2004; gump, 1987; McGuffey 1982; Earthman 2004; Sundstrom, 1987; McNamara and Waugh 1993; and Weinstein 1979)

Temperature, light, heat and air quality are very important for the students' achievement (Earthman, 2004)

Most experts agree that in small class teachers have more opportunities for individualized interaction with students. In small learning groups the morale of a teacher also tends to be higher. They have more opportunities for in-depth teaching of basic content. They can collect materials to engage students in authentic learning experiences. Small classes reduce the effects of large schools on both the teachers and students;

- In crowded classrooms fewer students perform well;
- In contrast students get more benefits in small classes; especially minority group is the most benefiting.
- Students are paid individual attention in small sized class.

- There is friendly and congenial atmosphere in small classes.
- Discipline problems are reduced to the maximum.
- In small classes individual attention is paid and students are more actively involved in different activities. (Charles.M Achilles, 1996)

Generally it has been observed that in small class, during instruction, teachers devote more time to instruction and have to spend less time on classroom management and discipline. They complete basic instruction more quickly as students participate more and spend more time on task. They have a better understanding on teaching materials, more organization and more forms of creative instruction.

Within the curriculum, teachers find that learning could take no more variety, breadth, depth and richness. They have more time for covering additional materials and use more supplementary texts and enrichment activities. While assessing, teachers can use meaningful assessment tools and can spend less time on paperwork and grading. Whereas overcrowded classrooms can lead to assignments, which are not checked as quickly or carefully, thus stopping the benefit of feedback. (Sharpson, 1980)

Researchers have found that both personal and academic self-regard is more positive in smaller schools. Evidence of increases in social bonding to teachers and school, self-esteem, academic self-concept, suggests that [small alternative] programs can respond constructively to student's underlying needs (Nicholas Hans, 1998).

According to the report of commission on National Education, our own secondary school system is, remote from our actual and immediate needs that it has been rendered.. The commission is of the opinion that secondary school system must bring about the full development of the child as an individual, citizen and a patriot.

Students in small high schools have a greater "sense of belonging" to the group than students in larger schools. All of these things combined can make even a good student reluctant to come to class. The students neither take interest in the class, nor he want to become social or to take part in social activities.

"The smaller the class size the greater the effect in instructional process on pupil effect and on achievement" (Glass et al. 1982)

CONCLUSION

Student in smaller classes develop more positive attitudes, perceptions and human relationships. They can function more effectively as members and leaders of groups; also can learn basic skills and subject matter better, more easily and faster. They can think more creatively and divergently and can achieve higher attention and lower absence rates.

In small classes students are in more close relation, they develop better understanding and associate themselves with their classmates as well as with their teachers. (Boyesen M. and Edvin B. (1999)

Teachers and students must have sufficient classroom space and access to materials and services. Students and teachers feel overwhelmed, discouraged and often disgusted with the space shortage. Teachers do not have as much time per pupil for individual instruction and assistance.

Crowded classroom conditions not only make it difficult for students to concentrate on their lessons, but inevitably limit the amount of time teachers can spend on innovative teaching methods such as cooperative learning and group work leaving teachers stressed and overworked.

On the contrary in a smaller class, teacher experiences a greater sense of personal satisfaction. They feel great sense of achievement and deal more individually with misbehavior problems and diagnose causes before major problems occur.

Larger classes can also be the center of more behavioral problems, which distract from the learning environment. Students and teachers in overcrowded classes agreed that overcrowding negatively affected both classroom activities and instructional techniques. Students learn at different rates and in different ways. In a large class teachers couldn't spare the time which students may need for extra help.

Overall, both students and teachers have better attitudes toward smaller classes. The atmosphere is one of less anxiety and tension. Students of smaller classrooms have found a climate of warmth, reduced levels of frustration, and positive attitudes toward teaching and learning (Blatchford, 1980).

No system of education is worth the name, which ignores the experiences and values prevailing outside the school. In studying system of education we should forget that things outside the school matter even more. Things inside the school are govern and interpret the things outside.

Human life is very complex. If a person is ignorant about himself/herself, his/her abilities, aptitudes and interests, would not be able to serve. Life in the twenty-one century means survival of the fittest. Those who can keep pace the world will lie and those who cannot perish. To live a desirable life every person requires to know what abilities and interests are and what is going on around.

It is thus the task of the school to give students much information and provide them useful life experiences. It has been observed that if normal children are kept in crowded conditions, it can cause behavior disruption, conflict, punishment, diseases, lack one-to-one learning, less advantage, and sub standard academic achievement

1. Poor academic performance.
2. Poor health of the students.
3. Drop out of the students.
4. Moral corruption.
5. Social derivation.
6. No effective teaching.
7. Stressful life of the teachers
8. Discipline problems

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