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EXPLORING THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT ON STUDENT'S LEARNING

Barasha Devi

Independent Researcher,

E-mail: devibarasha@1gmail.com

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ABSTRACT:

Learning is a multidimensional process influenced by various interrelated factors. This study aims to focus on the impact of school environment on student's learning. The school environment or the surrounding of the school plays a crucial role in shaping of the learning experiences of the students. The present study includes the study of three basic dimensions of school environment--- physical, social and psychological and how they collectively influence student's learning. A well equipped physical setting along with a supportive psychological and social atmosphere is essential for well being of the students as well as their academic improvement. Since education aims at holistic development of the child, it is necessary for schools to provide an environment that foster deep and meaningful learning. There is a correlation between the availability of physical facilities, supportive learning environment or mental support and improved academic performance. In this study a descriptive survey method was used and data were collected through a self structured questionnaire administered to a sample of secondary school students. The present study highlights the importance of creating a holistic and stimulating school environment to enhance student's academic success.

KEYWORDS: *Academic performance, Mental support, Physical facilities, School environment, Student's learning.*

INTRODUCTION:

Education is a fundamental human right as per the Indian Constitution, under Article 21-A, which guarantees free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years. It's a key driven forces of personal, social and economic development of a nation. It makes an individual civilized, refined and cultured. As formal education occurs within a structured institution, the quality of education is heavily influenced by the environment of that institution. The environment of school or institute plays a pivotal role in students learning. This study aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of how different dimensions as physical, social and psychological of school environment affect student's learning.

A school is not merely a physical space where learning occurs; it's a dynamic environment where various factors converge to influence the effectiveness of the educational process. The school environment can be broadly categorized into three major dimensions----- physical, social and psychological. Each of these dimensions encompasses a range of elements that collectively impact student's learning. The physical infrastructure of a school including classroom design, lighting, temperature as well as seating arrangements can affect students learning outcome as these elements significantly influence various learning aspects.

Social environment of a school involves teacher-student relationships and peer interactions as well as the overall sense of community within the school. This social dynamics of a school can significantly influence student's learning. It reflects the quality of relationships between students and teachers and peers as well.

The psychological environment pertains to the emotional and cognitive climate within the school. This includes the nature of teacher-student interaction, the presence of mutual respect; support and the overall psychological safety. A positive psychological environment is crucial for fostering motivation, encouragement and support student's emotional well being. It influences student's mental state and behavior.

Understanding the impact of these three dimensions of school environment on student's learning is of utmost important for the educators and policy makers as the school environment plays a very crucial role in shaping student's learning experience. As educational systems worldwide strive to improve student's learning outcome and academic performance, it is essential to recognize and address the multifaceted influences of the school environment.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To study the impact of physical environment of school on student's learning.
2. To investigate the influence of social environment of school on student's learning.
3. To ascertain the role of psychological environment of school on students learning.

HYPOTHESIS:

The overall quality of the school environment (including physical, social and psychological factors) has a significant positive impact on student's academic learning outcomes.

METHODOLOGY:

For carrying out the present study, the investigator undertook Descriptive Survey Method. This method provides up information about what exist at present by determining the nature and degree of existing condition. In the present study, under Descriptive Survey Method, a survey was done in a Senior Secondary School to know the impact of school environment on student's learning. For this purpose, total no of 30 students (out of 426) were taken as sample by using one of non-probability sampling methods i. e. Random Sampling method on the basis of available information

thought to be representative of total population. Data were collected with the help of a self-structured questionnaire schedule comprising of 20 questions comprises of two option YES and NO on the basis of the 3 objectives.

The investigator also includes certain subjective questions to analyse in details and in depth.

RESULTS:

The data gathered is carefully analysed with the help of tables and presented graphically according to the three objectives of the study.

Objective no 1: To study the impact of physical environment of the school on student's learning.

TABLE 1

STATEMENT	RESPONSE	
	YES	NO
1.Satisfaction with the availability and conditions of learning materials	80%	20%
2.Technology makes learning more engaging and interesting	93.3%	6.6%
3.Seating arrangement impacts comfort	93.3%	6.6%
4.Temperature impacts concentration	80%	20%
5.Lighting affects focus	66.6%	33.3%
6.External noise leads to disturbance in learning	76.6%	23.3%
7.Clean and organized classroom boosts productivity	100%	0%

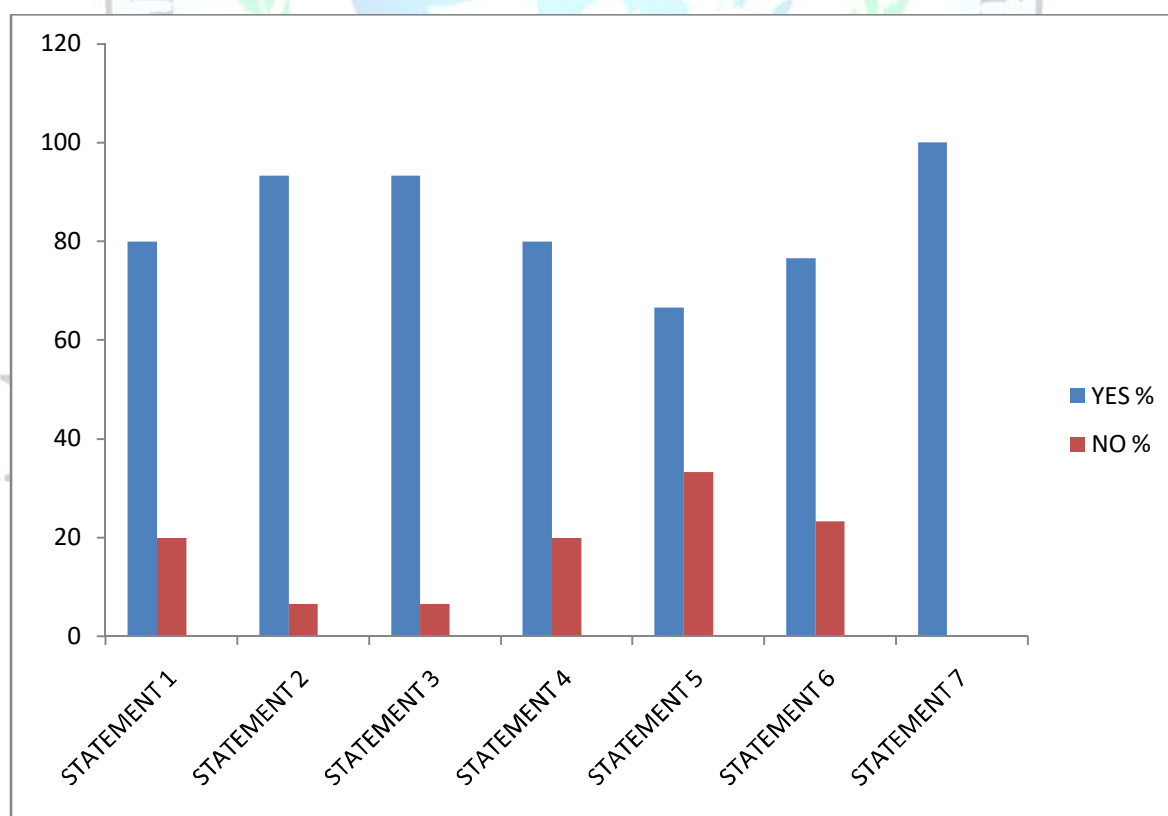


FIGURE 1: SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT'S RESPONSE

As seen in table 1, majority of the students response that the physical facilities or factors like technological facilities, learning materials, lighting conditions, temperature, noise, cleanliness etc impacts their focus, interest in learning, concentration and comfort. Notably ,all the students (100%) response ‘yes’ as they admit that cleanliness impact their productivity in classroom and lower rated physical element is temperature that may effect their concentration.

Objective no 2: To investigate the influence of Social environment of school on student’s learning.

TABLE 2

STATEMENT	RESPONSE	
	YES	NO
8.Teacher provide individual support and guidance	96.6%	3.3%
9.Positive relation with teacher can help in performing better	86.6%	13.3%
10.Peer’s support motivates to learn	86.6%	13.3%
11.Respect from teacher affects participation in class	86.6%	13.3%
12.Feels a sense of belongingness to the school community	100%	0%
13.Peer’s respect for ideas and opinions	86.6%	13.3%

Graphical representation of data-----

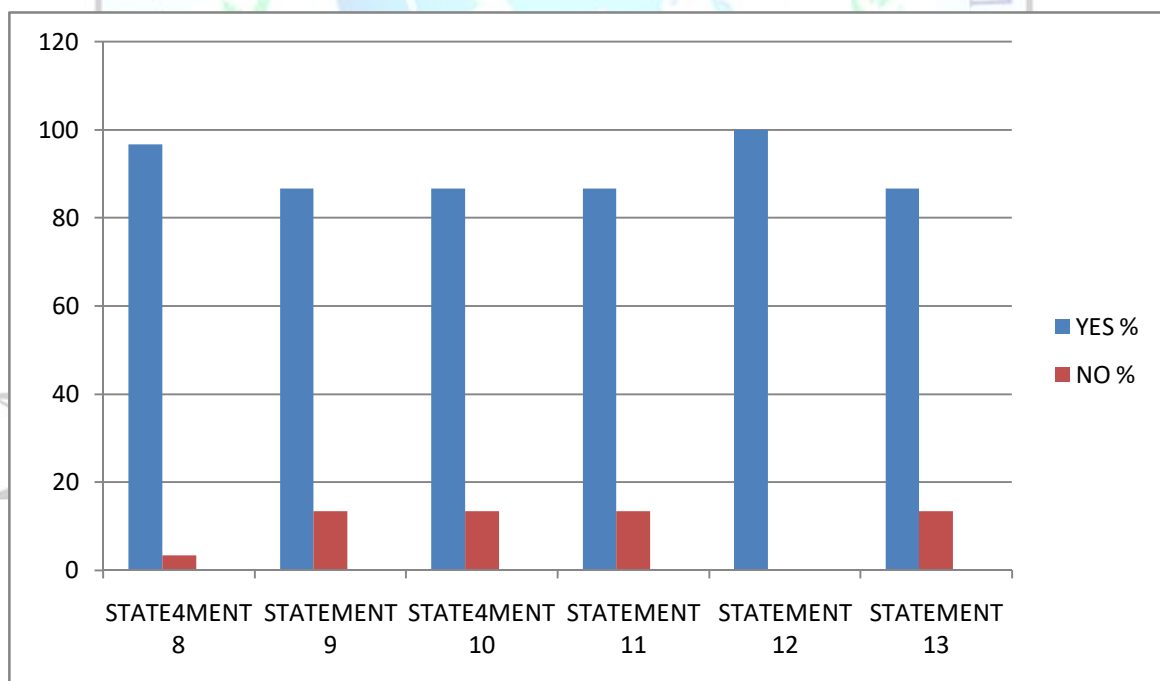


FIGURE 2: SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT’S RESPONSE

As seen in table 2, majority of the students response that the social dimensions of school such as individual guidance and support by teacher, motivation from peers, mutual respect ,a sense of belongingness impact their various aspects of learning. It clearly shows that these social dimensions

helps them to perform better academically as it boosts confidence, motivation and courage within themselves.

Objective no 3: To ascertain the role of Psychological environment of school on student's learning

TABLE 3

STATEMENT	RESPONSE	
	YES	NO
14.Encouraged to express feelings	70%	30%
15.Emotional support from teacher affects academic achievement	86.6%	13.3%
16.Feedback impacts academic performance	93.3%	6.6%
17.Positive school environment boosts motivation and engagement	96.6%	3.3%
18.Bullying negatively impacts learning	93.3%	6.6%
19.Classroom anxiety disrupts ability to learn	93.3%	6.6%
20.supportive class environment helps in participation	93.3%	6.6%

Graphical representation of data-----

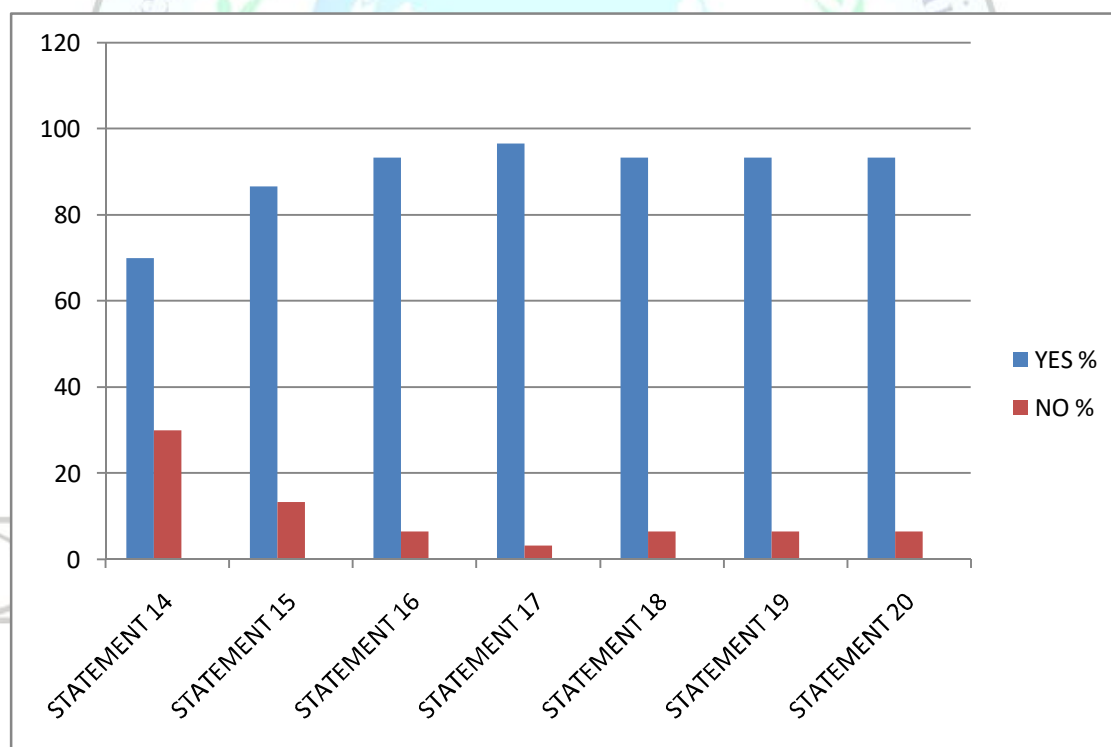


FIGURE 3: SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT'S RESPONSE

It can be clearly observed from table 3 that the psychological environment of a school plays a very crucial role in students learning. It influences student's motivation level, engagement in classroom, boosting confidence and self esteem. A safe and supportive school environment climate impacts student's academic performance and achievement.

DISCUSSION:

From the present study, it has been found that the school environment has a significant impact on student's learning. The major findings are discussed below-

1. Impact of physical environment on learning:

I) Availability and conditions of learning materials: From results, it has been found that the majority of the students (80%) are satisfied with the availability and conditions of the learning materials. It indicates that the institution under the study provides the necessary learning materials so that their learning becomes more effective.

II) Technological Infrastructure: The present study also assist us in knowing that the technological infrastructure also impact student's learning as majority of the surveyed students (93.3%) said that they find technology makes their learning more engaging and interesting. This indicates that a well equipped classroom with technological elements increases the rate of student's engagement in the classroom and makes the lesson more interesting.

III) Seating arrangement: The result shows us that the majority of the surveyed students (93.3%) said that their seating arrangement of the class impact their comfort during learning, while only 6.6% students don't feel the same. That indicates that a flexible seating arrangement is necessary for maintaining the comfort level of the students.

IV) Lighting conditions: From the results, it has been found that maximum of the students (80%) said that the extreme temperature of the classroom affect their concentration during lesson and only 20% students don't think the same. So the temperature of the classroom is also an important factor that influences student's learning.

V) Noise level: From the present study, it has been found majority of the surveyed students (76.6%) are negatively affected by the noise from other's classroom or outside sources as it disrupt their learning. On the other hand, only 23.3% students are not affected by the noise level.

V) Cleanliness and maintenance: The present study shows us that all the students (100%) feel more productive in a clean and organized classroom.

So the present study found the physical environment as a crucial factor that highly influences student's learning. It includes various physical elements like technological infrastructure, lighting conditions, temperature, cleanliness, availability of learning materials, noise level and seating arrangement which influence various aspects of learner's learning such as their focus, concentration, comfort level and productivity.

2. Impact of social environment on learning:

I) Teacher-student relationship: In this present study, it has been found that the majority of the students (96.6%) are provided individualized support and guidance while only 3.3% are not. Again most of the surveyed students (86.6%) students believe that appositve relationship with the teacher

helps them to perform academically better. Moreover, majority of the students (86.6%) feel respected by their teacher and it effects their participation in the class. That indicates that the more they feel respected by the teacher the more they will participate.

II) Peer relationship: This study found that the majority of the students (86.6%) feel valued and respected by their peer who respect each other ideas and opinions and that indicates a positive peer relationship. Moreover, in the present study, it is also found that the majority of the students (93.3%) feel motivated to learn when their peer supports them.

So, the present study examined the role of social environment of school in shaping students learning experiences. The findings reveal that a positive and inclusive social atmosphere strongly supports better academic performance.

3. Impact of psychological environment on learning:

I) Emotional safety and support: Findings indicate that most of the surveyed students (70%) are always encouraged to express their feeling openly in the classroom while only a few students don't feel the same. Again majority of the students (86.6%) agreed that their teacher provide them emotional support and it effects their academic achievement. Moreover, 93.3% of the surveyed students said that a supportive class environment help them participate more in discussion.

II) Impact of feedback: It has been found that the majority of the students (93.3%) said that the feedback provided by their teacher impact their academic performance. It can be both positive and negative.

III) Motivation: In the present study, it has been found that 96.6% of the surveyed students believe that a positive school environment influences their motivation level as well as engagement in learning while only a few students don't feel the same.

IV) Bullying and anxiety in classroom as a barrier to supportive learning and psychological threat: The findings show us that majority of the students (93.3%) reported that bullying in school negatively impact their learning while only a few students don't feel it. Also majority of the students (93.3%) reported that anxiety in classroom effect their ability to learn while only a few students denied it.

So the study examines the overall impact of school environment including physical facilities, social relationships and psychological climate on student's learning. The results supported the hypothesis, indicating that students who experienced a more positive school environment tended to achieve higher academic outcomes.

CONCLUSION:

From the findings of the study, it can be concluded that the school environment significantly influence student's learning. The study reveals that the school environment comprising physical, social and psychological dimensions play a critical role in influencing student's learning. The

findings demonstrate that the physical, social and psychological dimensions of the school environment are deeply interconnected and collectively shape how students engage with their education. A safe, clean and well equipped physical environment supports concentration and comfort while a socially inclusive atmosphere fosters positive relationship and a sense of belongingness. A psychologically supportive environment is equally important. When all three elements are positively aligned, students are more likely to thrive both academically and personally.

Therefore, improving the school environment should be seen as a central strategies aimed at enhancing student learning. Interventions must be holistic, addressing both structural needs and the socio- emotional climate of school. These insights underscore the need for schools to adopt a holistic approach to create an environment that supports the whole child not just academic achievement.

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