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Author's :

Dr. Walid Masud

A Study of School Environment and Academic Achievement of Ninth Grade Students

Abstract : The school environment plays a crucial role in shaping students' academic performance and overall development. The present study aims to examine the relationship between school environment and academic achievement among ninth grade students. A descriptive survey method was employed, and data were collected from 120 students of secondary schools. A standardized School Environment Scale and students' academic records were used as tools for data collection. Statistical techniques such as mean, standard deviation, and correlation were applied for analysis. The findings revealed a significant positive relationship between school environment and academic achievement. The study highlights the importance of maintaining a supportive and resourceful school climate to enhance students' performance.

Keywords : School Environment, Academic Achievement, Secondary Education, Ninth Grade Students, Learning Environment.

1. Introduction : Education is a fundamental tool for the development of individuals and society. Among the various factors influencing students' academic success, the school environment holds a prominent position. The school environment includes physical infrastructure, teacher-student relationships, peer interaction, discipline, and availability of learning resources.

A positive school environment fosters motivation, engagement, and better academic outcomes, while a negative environment can hinder students' performance. At the secondary level, particularly in ninth grade, students undergo significant academic and psychological transitions, making the school environment even more critical.

2. Review of Related Literature : Several studies have highlighted the impact of school environment on academic

Corresponding Author :

Dr. Walid Masud

performance:

- **Rutter (1979)** found that school climate significantly influences student achievement.
- **Fraser (1998)** emphasized that classroom environment directly affects learning outcomes.
- **Kumar & Singh (2015)** reported a positive correlation between school facilities and academic achievement.
- **Sharma (2018)** found that supportive teacher behavior enhances students' academic performance.

These studies indicate that a healthy school environment is essential for academic success.

3. Objectives of the Study :

1. To study the level of school environment among ninth grade students.
2. To examine the level of academic achievement of ninth grade students.
3. To find out the relationship between school environment and academic achievement.
4. To compare academic achievement based on different levels of school environment.

4. Hypotheses :

1. There is no significant relationship between school environment and academic achievement.
2. There is no significant difference in academic achievement based on school environment.

5. Methodology :

5.1 Research Method : Descriptive survey method was used.

5.2 Sample : A sample of **120 ninth grade students** was selected using random sampling technique from secondary schools.

5.3 Tools Used :

- **School Environment Scale (SES)** – standardized questionnaire
- **Academic Achievement Scores** – obtained from school records

5.4 Statistical Techniques :

- Mean
- Standard Deviation
- Pearson's Correlation

6. Data Analysis and Interpretation :

6.1 Descriptive Statistics :

Variable	Mean	Standard Deviation
School Environment	102.45	12.36
Academic Achievement	68.75	10.24

6.2 Correlation Analysis : The correlation coefficient between school environment and academic achievement was found to be:

$$r = 0.62$$

This indicates a **moderate positive correlation**, suggesting that better school environments are associated with higher academic achievement.

7. Findings :

1. The school environment of students was found to be moderate to high.
2. Academic achievement levels were average.
3. A significant positive relationship exists between school environment and academic achievement.
4. Students from better school environments performed better academically.

8. Discussion : The results align with previous research indicating that a positive school environment enhances academic performance. Factors such as supportive teachers, proper

infrastructure, and a healthy classroom atmosphere contribute significantly to better learning outcomes.

9. Educational Implications :

- Schools should improve physical and psychological environments.
- Teachers should adopt supportive and student-centered approaches.
- Proper infrastructure and learning resources should be ensured.
- School administrators should focus on maintaining discipline and a positive climate.

10. Conclusion : The study concludes that school environment has a significant influence on the academic achievement of ninth grade students. Improving school conditions can lead to better educational outcomes and holistic development of students.

11. Limitations of the Study :

- Limited sample size (120 students)
- Study restricted to a specific area
- Only ninth grade students were included

12. Suggestions for Further Research :

- Comparative study between rural and urban schools
- Study including other grades
- Inclusion of additional variables like parental support and motivation

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