

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: SAFE, SUPPORTIVE & LEARNING

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Abstract:

In recent decade, scholars, researchers around the world have more and more acknowledged the importance and role of school environment in student's life and learning. As student spends his most of the time and life in school the environment of school is majorly accountable for shaping student's future and developing good values in him/her. We all know that this new generation who are in school are the backbone of the nation, so providing them with good, hospitable school environment is a basic necessity of each school principal, teacher and other working staff. In this article we will be discussing how student's growth is affected by school environment.

Introduction:

School environment is a foremost aspect in describing student's academic excellence & performance. Effective tutoring and learning is the outcome of group efforts done by school staff and the seriousness shown by the students towards the learning. There are far more other aspects in school which play important role in student's journey of learning. School climate refers to social characteristics of a school in terms of relationships among students and staff/teachers, learning and teaching emphasis, values and norms, and shared approaches and practices.¹ Measures to enhance school environment in regards to support, safety and learning are not individual efforts. These should be implemented throughout the school as one thing. The focus of this article is how these three are intertwined into each other and the policies which can be followed at best to ensure students get a comprehensive school environment. The children need safe, healthy and stimulating environment in which they grow and learn.² In upcoming paragraphs we will be discussing school's environment construct and its relationship with students and teachers.

COMBINING LEARNING, SAFETY AND SUPPORT

Though school's three most important aspects Learning, Safety and Student Support are considered separately but they are complementary to each other. Without one you cannot imagine the other. If for example students are concerned about their safety than they cannot concentrate on their studies which means Learning will suffer. In the same way without the Support of school staff safety of child cannot be achieved and thus damaged learning. According to Mick Zais (2011), "School Environment means the extent to which school settings promote student safety and student health, which may include topics such as the physical plant, the academic environment, available physical and mental health supports and services, and the fairness and adequacy of disciplinary procedures, as supported by relevant research and an assessment of validity."³

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: SAFE

Maslow,1970 said "A safe environment is a prerequisite for productive learning".⁴ Students feeling unsafe in schools likely to skip classes or may even stop attending school this may decrease students overall performance. Transforming how students consider regarding security during school is unlikely to be a straightforward task. This adjustment requires sensible groundwork regarding how all staff members reacts to infelicitous student physical and verbal conduct whereas emphasizing on school-wide framework of favorable conduct that supports and aligns with every dimension of school operations. Studies indicate that safe schools streamline administration, learning, school-wide framework, and overall development with elevated expectancies for everyone. Study furthermore reveals that these schools moreover build a sound intellect of society, improve interaction among staff, function in collaboration with parents and the society, and use research to guide findings to create a circle of constant improvement. As per the Victoria B.C. Ministry of Education "Safe Schools are schools in which members of the school community are free of the fear of harm, including potential threats from inside or outside the school".⁵ In the words of Butcher and Manning P56 "one in which the total school climate allows students, teachers, administrators, staff, and

visitors to interact in a positive, non-threatening manner that reflects the educational mission of the school while fostering positive relationships and personal growth”.⁶ Every student requires and entitled to feel valued and free from any abuse physical or mental, threats, aggravation, and harassment. To guarantee a healthy learning environment, school authorities look into all dimension of day to day activity in schools. They ascertain safety of children at playgrounds or bus stops, along with in common-rooms, wash-rooms, hallways and classrooms. “Some research indicates that students are more likely to feel safe at school when they are informed of school safety measures⁷”. “Schools practices, like having clearly defined rules, safety drills, and have procedures in case of emergency also perform a role in student understanding of safety.”^{8,9} “Moreover, the response and approach of staff members are of the absolute significance in building an environment beneficial to safety and learning.”^{8,9,10,11}

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: SUPPORTIVE

This part focuses on the supportive school environment have on student path for academic excellence-like encouragements, goals, academic viewpoint, and engagement. The assets which are included on school environment are:-

- A caring school environment.
- Parental involvement in schooling.
- Clear rules and regulation in school and Family.
- High Expectations from everyone.

Student’s or School staff assets are:-

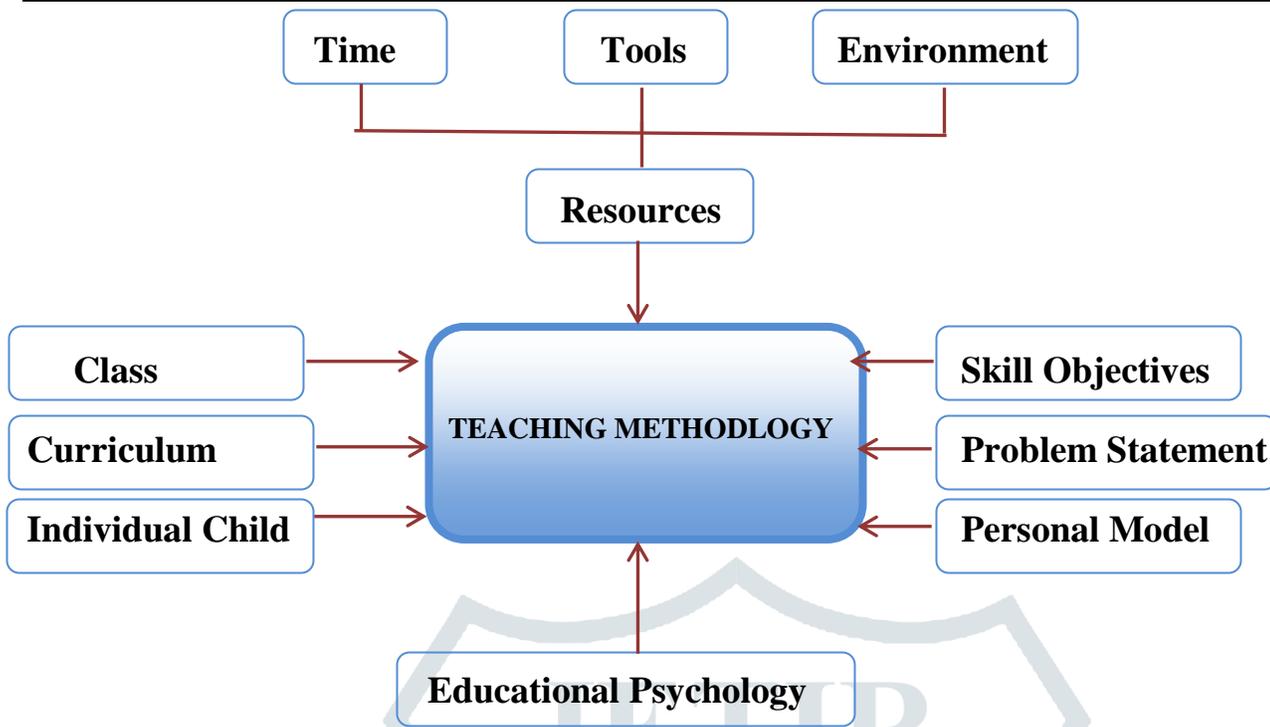
- Desire to succeed.
- School Involvement.
- Relationship with School.

“Students upon finding their school staff and environment caring and supportive that unlikely become part of molestation, disturbance, and other ill conducts.”¹² “Presumably the students they develop positive attitude towards school, there school mates, and other society members.”¹³ School environment helps students to evolve compassion, kindness for everyone; it also develops their social understanding and behaviours. If not addressed properly, a school

can be set up in a way that suppresses inspiration or does not encourage a constructive learning environment.

SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT: LEARNING

The initial studies on the relationship and importance of school environment on learning was carried out by Moos(1979), Bronfenbrenner(1981) and Steele in 1973. They examine the influence of the environment on learning and its outcomes. The school layout or design (Architecture) predicts its culture, values and they method of teaching. Teaching and Learning is complex job and if the setting of environment is not perfect than this task gets even more complex. The teachers had to display many forms during the same instructional period like a motivator, good speaker or a counselor. Researches based on learning environment of school, researchers have emphasized on capability, relating teaching behavior and learning environment personality or conditions with student results. In the first instance the learning environment is highly affected by teachers and their teaching capabilities. The task of the teacher is that of a trainer who support students in their learning and growth and who craft learning contexts in which students are urged to participate in constant journey. Emmer, Evertson, and Worsham (2003) suggested “Organized classroom environments with settled schedules are required for student progress because they enable students to have a feeling of control in their learning experiences. As per Finnish National Board of Education, 2004, “A learning environment is a learning atmosphere which includes physical environment, psychological factors and social relationships.” Pedagogical techniques are required by teachers to cultivate crucial practical knowledge, for instance resolving issues, teamwork and unity, and spirit to learn. That is why perfect setup which makes learning environment conducive which also includes teaching technique which is dependent on several factors which is shown in figure below.



CONCLUSION

The above findings clearly demonstrate that school environment plays important role in student's educational achievement. The surroundings, principal, teachers and other schoolmate behaviour also directs students emotional and career path. Therefore need of adequate staff, perfect safety measures and supportive environment helps student strive towards learning to learn. The study is especially important because provided with necessary tools, ambiance and proper attention to even a weaker student they can perform great academically.

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