



A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY ON CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT AND STUDENT LEARNING

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Abstract

Classroom environment is an important factor in the learning process of students. It includes physical conditions, teacher behaviour, student interaction, classroom discipline, emotional climate, teaching methods, and availability of learning resources. A positive classroom environment helps students feel safe, motivated, confident, and interested in learning. On the other hand, a poor classroom environment may create fear, disturbance, lack of attention, and low academic participation. The present descriptive study focuses on classroom environment and student learning. It describes how different aspects of the classroom, such as seating arrangement, teacher-student relationship, peer interaction, classroom management, teaching aids, and emotional support, influence students' learning experiences. The study is descriptive in nature because it explains the existing condition of classroom environment and its role in student learning. This topic is important because effective learning does not depend only on textbooks and examinations. It also depends on how students experience the classroom daily. A supportive, disciplined, and student-friendly classroom can improve participation, attention, academic confidence, and overall learning outcomes.

Keywords

Classroom environment, student learning, classroom climate, teacher-student relationship, peer interaction, classroom management, academic development

1. Introduction

Classroom environment is one of the most important parts of the teaching-learning process. It refers to the total atmosphere of the classroom in which students learn, interact, participate, and develop their academic behaviour. A classroom is not only a physical place where students sit and listen to the teacher. It is also a social and psychological space where students feel encouraged, supported, disciplined, respected, or sometimes ignored. The quality of the classroom environment affects how students think, behave, communicate, and learn. A classroom with proper discipline, friendly teacher behaviour, good seating arrangement, useful teaching aids, and active student participation can create better conditions for learning.

Student learning does not depend only on intelligence or textbooks. It is also influenced by the environment in which learning takes place. When the classroom environment is positive, students feel more comfortable in asking questions, sharing ideas, completing activities, and participating in discussions. When students feel safe and respected, they are more likely to express their doubts and take interest in learning. Research on learning environments shows that classroom conditions are connected with students' achievement, attitudes, and learning experiences.

In many classrooms, students face difficulties not because they are weak in studies, but because the classroom environment is not supportive. A noisy classroom, harsh teacher behaviour, poor seating arrangement, lack of teaching aids, discrimination among students, and weak classroom management can reduce students' attention and motivation. Such conditions may affect learning negatively. On the other hand, a classroom where the teacher is helpful, students cooperate with each other, and learning activities are interesting can improve academic performance and confidence. Classroom environment includes both physical and psychological factors. Physical factors include classroom size, ventilation, lighting, seating arrangement, blackboard visibility, cleanliness, availability of teaching materials, and use of technology. Psychological factors include teacher support, peer relationship, discipline, motivation, emotional safety, equality, respect, and freedom to ask questions. Both types of factors are important because learning happens best when students are physically comfortable and emotionally secure.

The present descriptive study focuses on classroom environment and student learning. It aims to describe the major components of classroom environment and explain how they influence students' learning habits, classroom participation, attention, motivation, and academic development. The study is important because improvement in classroom environment can help teachers create better learning situations for students.

2. Meaning of Classroom Environment



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Classroom environment means the total condition of the classroom in which teaching and learning take place. It includes physical, social, emotional, and academic conditions. The physical condition includes space, seating, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, and teaching materials. The social condition includes relationship among students and between teacher and students. The emotional condition includes feelings of safety, confidence, respect, and encouragement. The academic condition includes teaching methods, classroom activities, learning resources, and assessment practices. In simple words, classroom environment means everything that affects students inside the classroom. It is the atmosphere created by the teacher, students, rules, resources, and learning activities. A positive classroom environment is one where students feel comfortable, disciplined, motivated, and interested in learning. A negative classroom environment is one where students feel afraid, bored, disturbed, or unsupported.

Classroom environment is important because learning is not only a mental process. It is also connected with feelings, behaviour, and social interaction. If students feel respected and supported, they learn with more interest. If they feel insulted or ignored, they may lose confidence. Therefore, classroom environment should be planned carefully so that every student gets a fair chance to learn.

Table 1: Major Components of Classroom Environment

Component	Meaning
Physical environment	Seating, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, space
Teacher behaviour	Support, fairness, patience, encouragement
Peer interaction	Cooperation, group work, respect among students
Classroom discipline	Rules, order, time management, behaviour control
Teaching methods	Lecture, discussion, activity-based learning, questioning
Emotional climate	Safety, confidence, motivation, freedom to ask doubts

3. Importance of Classroom Environment in Student Learning

Classroom environment is important because it directly affects students' attention and participation. When the classroom is peaceful, organised, and supportive, students can focus on the lesson. They listen carefully, take notes, ask questions, and complete class activities. A disturbed classroom reduces concentration and creates confusion. Therefore, the classroom environment must support learning. A positive classroom environment also increases motivation. Students feel motivated when teachers encourage them, appreciate their efforts, and give them opportunities to participate. Motivation is important because students learn better when they are interested in the topic. If students feel that their ideas are valued, they become more active in learning.

Classroom environment also affects academic confidence. Some students hesitate to ask questions because they fear criticism or laughter from classmates. If the teacher creates a respectful environment, students feel safe to express doubts. This improves understanding and reduces fear. A respectful classroom helps even shy students participate slowly. The classroom environment also develops social skills. Students learn cooperation, patience, listening, sharing, and respect through classroom interaction. Group activities and discussions help students learn from one another. In this way, classroom environment supports both academic and social development.

4. Physical Environment of the Classroom

The physical environment of the classroom includes seating arrangement, classroom size, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, wall displays, blackboard visibility, and availability of teaching resources. These factors may look simple, but they have a strong effect on learning. If students cannot see the board clearly or hear the teacher properly, their learning is affected. Seating arrangement is an important part of the physical environment. Traditional rows may be useful for lectures, but group seating may be better for discussion and activity-based learning. The arrangement should depend on the type of lesson. If the teacher wants students to discuss and work together, flexible seating is helpful. Lighting and ventilation also affect students' attention. A dark, hot, or overcrowded classroom can make students uncomfortable and sleepy. A clean and well-ventilated classroom improves comfort and concentration. Cleanliness also creates a healthy and disciplined learning atmosphere.

Teaching materials are also part of the physical classroom environment. Charts, maps, models, blackboards, smart



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boards, projectors, and subject-related displays make learning more interesting. Visual materials help students understand difficult concepts more easily.

5. Teacher-Student Relationship

Teacher-student relationship is one of the most important factors in classroom environment. Students learn better when they feel that their teacher is supportive, fair, and approachable. A good teacher-student relationship creates trust and respect. When students trust the teacher, they feel free to ask questions and share their difficulties. A teacher's behaviour can increase or decrease students' interest in learning. If the teacher explains clearly, listens patiently, and encourages students, the classroom becomes positive. If the teacher uses harsh language, ignores weak students, or shows partiality, students may lose interest and confidence. Teacher-student relationship has been identified as an important influence within classroom climate and student achievement research.

A good teacher also understands that students have different learning speeds. Some students learn quickly, while others need more explanation. A supportive teacher gives extra help to slow learners and encourages bright students to improve further. This balanced approach makes the classroom inclusive. The teacher should also treat students equally. Equality in the classroom means that every student should get a chance to answer, participate, and receive guidance. When students feel that the teacher is fair, they become more confident and disciplined.

6. Peer Interaction and Classroom Learning

Peer interaction means the relationship and communication among students inside the classroom. Students do not learn only from the teacher. They also learn from classmates through discussion, group work, sharing notes, and helping each other. A classroom with positive peer interaction creates a cooperative learning atmosphere. Good peer interaction helps students understand lessons better. Sometimes students feel shy to ask the teacher, but they can discuss doubts with friends. Group activities also help students learn teamwork and communication. When students explain concepts to each other, their own understanding also improves.

However, peer interaction can also become negative if there is teasing, bullying, groupism, or lack of cooperation. Such behaviour creates fear and discomfort. Students who are teased or ignored may stop participating in class. Therefore, the teacher must ensure that peer interaction remains respectful and supportive. A positive classroom climate includes healthy relationships among students. Respect, cooperation, and acceptance among classmates help create a safe learning environment. Such an environment supports both academic learning and emotional well-being.

7. Classroom Discipline and Management

Classroom discipline is necessary for effective learning. Discipline does not mean strict control or fear. It means maintaining order, respect, and responsibility in the classroom. A disciplined classroom allows the teacher to teach properly and students to learn without disturbance. Classroom management includes making rules, giving clear instructions, managing time, controlling noise, arranging activities, and handling student behaviour. A well-managed classroom saves time and increases learning. When students know what is expected from them, they behave more responsibly.

Poor classroom management creates confusion. If students talk continuously, move unnecessarily, or disturb others, learning becomes difficult. The teacher may spend more time controlling students than teaching the lesson. Therefore, classroom management is very important for student learning. Effective discipline should be positive. Teachers should explain rules clearly and apply them fairly. Appreciation, encouragement, and constructive correction are better than punishment. Positive discipline helps students develop self-control and responsibility.

8. Teaching Methods and Classroom Environment

Teaching methods are an important part of classroom environment. If the teacher uses only lecture method every day, students may become passive and bored. Different teaching methods such as discussion, questioning, demonstration, group work, project work, storytelling, and activity-based learning can make the classroom more interesting. Student learning improves when teaching methods match students' needs. Some students learn better through listening, some through seeing, and some through doing. Therefore, teachers should use a variety of methods. This makes learning more inclusive and effective.

Questioning is also an important teaching method. When teachers ask questions, students think actively. Questions help students recall previous knowledge, understand new ideas, and develop reasoning ability. However, the teacher



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should give students enough time to answer and should not insult them for wrong answers. Teaching methods should also connect classroom learning with real life. When students understand the practical use of knowledge, they become more interested. Real-life examples, activities, and discussions make learning meaningful.

9. Emotional Climate of the Classroom

The emotional climate of the classroom refers to the feelings students experience while learning. A positive emotional climate includes safety, respect, confidence, encouragement, and belongingness. Students should feel that the classroom is a safe place where they can learn without fear. Emotional safety is very important for student learning. If students are afraid of being insulted, punished, or laughed at, they may not participate. Fear reduces confidence and creativity. On the other hand, encouragement helps students take interest in learning and try again after mistakes.

The teacher plays a major role in creating emotional climate. A polite tone, patient explanation, appreciation, and respectful correction can make the classroom emotionally positive. Students should be corrected, but correction should not damage their confidence. A healthy emotional climate also supports students' mental well-being. Students who feel accepted and supported in class are more likely to attend regularly and participate actively. Recent studies also connect positive classroom climate with emotional well-being and learning development ([PMC](#)).

10. Classroom Participation and Student Learning

Classroom participation is an important sign of active learning. When students participate in discussions, answer questions, ask doubts, and take part in activities, they learn more deeply. Participation helps students move from passive listening to active understanding. A positive classroom environment encourages participation. Students participate when they feel confident and respected. If the teacher appreciates effort and does not make fun of mistakes, more students take part in classroom activities. Participation is especially important for developing communication skills and critical thinking.

Some students may be shy or slow in responding. The teacher should not force them harshly but should encourage them gradually. Small opportunities such as reading aloud, answering simple questions, working in pairs, or presenting group work can help shy students become confident. Classroom participation also helps teachers understand students' learning level. When students ask questions or give answers, teachers can identify whether the lesson is clear or not. Therefore, participation benefits both students and teachers.

11. Classroom Environment and Academic Achievement

Classroom environment has an important relationship with academic achievement. Students who learn in a supportive, organised, and motivating classroom are more likely to perform better. They understand lessons clearly, complete work on time, and remain interested in studies. Academic achievement is not influenced by teaching alone. It is also affected by classroom discipline, teacher support, peer cooperation, learning resources, and emotional comfort. A student may have ability, but if the classroom environment is negative, the student may not perform well.

A positive classroom environment builds regular study habits. Students become more attentive and responsible when the classroom has clear rules and supportive teaching. They also become more confident in asking doubts and preparing lessons. Classroom environment also affects long-term learning. Students do not only remember facts; they also develop attitudes toward learning. If the classroom experience is positive, students may develop interest in the subject. If it is negative, they may dislike the subject.

12. Statement of the Problem

Classroom environment plays an important role in student learning, but in many educational institutions, it is not given proper attention. Students may face problems such as poor seating arrangement, lack of teaching aids, weak classroom discipline, low participation, fear of asking questions, and lack of teacher support. These problems can reduce students' interest, confidence, and academic performance. Therefore, the present study focuses on describing the classroom environment and its role in student learning. The present study is descriptive in nature. Descriptive research is suitable because the study focuses on describing the existing classroom environment and its influence on student learning. It does not try to manipulate any variable. It only explains the present condition of classroom environment. The survey method may be used for collecting data from students. A structured questionnaire can be prepared with questions related to physical classroom conditions, teacher behaviour, peer interaction, discipline, teaching methods,



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participation, and learning experience. The responses may be collected from university or college students. The data may be analysed through simple statistical techniques such as frequency, percentage, and tables. The findings may help in understanding students' views about classroom environment and learning.

Table 2: Suggested Areas for Questionnaire

Area	Sample Focus
Physical classroom	Seating, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness
Teacher behaviour	Support, fairness, explanation, encouragement
Peer relation	Cooperation, respect, group work
Discipline	Noise control, rules, time use
Teaching method	Discussion, activity, examples, questioning
Emotional support	Confidence, safety, freedom to ask doubts

13. Problems Related to Classroom Environment

Students may face many problems in the classroom environment. One major problem is poor physical condition. If the classroom is overcrowded, dark, hot, or noisy, students cannot concentrate properly. Poor seating arrangement also creates difficulty in seeing the board or listening to the teacher. Another problem is lack of student participation. In some classrooms, only a few students answer questions, while others remain silent. This may happen because of fear, lack of confidence, or teacher-centred teaching. If students are not given opportunities to participate, learning becomes passive.

Teacher behaviour can also become a problem. If the teacher is too strict, partial, impatient, or discouraging, students may feel afraid. Such behaviour reduces classroom comfort. Students may stop asking questions even when they do not understand the lesson. Peer problems also affect learning. Teasing, disturbance, groupism, and lack of cooperation can create a negative classroom climate. Students need a respectful peer environment to feel safe and confident.

14. Suggestions for Improving Classroom Environment

Teachers should create a friendly and disciplined classroom environment. They should maintain rules but avoid unnecessary fear. Students should feel that discipline is for learning, not punishment. Rules should be clear, fair, and equally applied to all students. Classroom participation should be encouraged. Teachers should ask questions, organise discussions, use group activities, and give opportunities to all students. Shy students should be encouraged slowly and respectfully.

The physical classroom should also be improved. Proper seating, lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, blackboard visibility, and teaching aids are necessary. A comfortable classroom helps students concentrate better. Teachers should use different teaching methods. Lecture method should be supported with discussion, examples, activities, charts, and technology. This makes learning more interesting and useful.

Students should also be taught to respect one another. Peer cooperation, group learning, and mutual support should be encouraged. A classroom where students help each other becomes more positive and effective.

Conclusion

Classroom environment is an important factor in student learning. It includes physical conditions, teacher behaviour, peer interaction, discipline, teaching methods, and emotional support. A positive classroom environment helps students feel safe, motivated, confident, and interested in learning. It also improves participation, attention, communication, and academic performance. The study shows that student learning is not affected by teaching content alone. It is also influenced by how students experience the classroom. If the classroom is supportive and well-managed, students learn better. If the classroom is uncomfortable, fearful, noisy, or poorly managed, learning becomes weak. Therefore, teachers and institutions should give proper attention to classroom environment. Better seating, clean space, teacher support, fair discipline, active teaching methods, and respectful peer relationships can improve student learning. A good classroom environment helps students become active learners and confident individuals.



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