

# STRUCTURING THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

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## ABSTRACT

*The main objective of this research paper is to generate information in terms of structuring of the school environmental conditions. In order to achieve academic goals and objectives and enhance the overall system of early childhood education, it is vital for the members of the schools to work in co-ordination towards structuring of the school environmental conditions. The number of factors that need to be taken into consideration in structuring of the school environmental conditions include, infrastructure, civic amenities, technologies, tools, materials, equipment, classrooms, playground, libraries, sports and physical activities, and overall environmental conditions. It needs to be ensured that these factors are in a well-developed state. Within the period of time, the members of the schools need to ensure that improvements are brought about in them. In order to bring about improvements and ensure that they prove to be advantageous to the overall system of education, the three types of resources, i.e. human, financial and technical needs to be utilized appropriately. The main areas that have been taken into account in this research paper include, significance of measures to improve the school environmental conditions, measures to structure the school environmental conditions, and significance of promoting structuring of school environmental conditions.*

**Keywords:** Education, Environmental Conditions, Improvements, Measures, Schools, Structure

In order to carry out one's job duties in a well-organized manner, improve student learning, incur job satisfaction, achieve desired goals and bring about improvements in the overall system of education, it is necessary for the members of the schools to focus upon the environmental conditions. School environmental conditions is a comprehensive concept. There are number of factors that need to be taken into consideration in structuring the school environmental conditions. These include, infrastructure, civic amenities, technologies, tools, materials, equipment, classrooms, playground, libraries, sports and physical activities, and overall environmental conditions. The administrators of the schools, particularly the ones, who are in leadership positions are vested with the authority and have the responsibility that these factors, which structure the school environmental conditions are appropriately managed. They should be suitable and favourable to all the members of the school and help them in performing their job duties well and achieving their goals.

When the administrators are required to carry out the job duties of structuring of the school environmental conditions, they need to plan the resources. The three types of resources are human resources, financial resources and technical resources. When any measures need to be formulated to bring about improvements or new technologies, equipment and materials need to be brought about, it is essential to plan financial resources. When there will be sufficient finances, then one can implement changes and bring about improvements. Human resources is referred to the personnel. It

is vital for the human resources to augment their competencies and abilities, so they are able to implement the strategies to structure the school environmental conditions. Technical resources are referred to the technologies, methods and procedures that need to be put into operation to carry out the tasks and activities appropriately and achieve the desired outcomes. Therefore, it can be stated that management of resources is regarded to be of utmost significance in the structuring of school environmental conditions.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

It is necessary for the members to formulate measures in terms various factors that comprise the school environmental conditions and training and well-being of students. The members of the schools, particularly the administrators and educators are required to organize discussion meetings, where they exchange ideas and perspectives that would lead to formulation of measures. The measures need to be formulated in terms of various aspects, such as, teaching-learning methods, instructional strategies, teaching-learning materials, communication among members, extra-curricular and creative activities, health and well-being of students, physical environmental conditions and dealing with students. After the measures have been formulated, it is necessary for the members to abide by them. They need to augment their understanding in terms of the measures that would enable them to carry out their job duties well, incur job satisfaction and enrich the overall system of education.

The physical school environmental conditions have a strong influence upon learning and health conditions of the students. The environment is regarded as one of the primary determinants of the health of students. For instance, within the school environment, it is necessary to make provision of clean drinking water. But it needs to be ensured that the water is clean, as contaminated water can cause number of health problems and illnesses. Research has indicated that in nursery schools, students are more susceptible to the adverse health effects of chemical, physical and biological hazards. The students are in the critical developmental stages. Relative to their body weight, they breathe more, consume more food and drink more water as compared to adults. Students spend much of their day in nursery schools, therefore, it is necessary to pay attention towards structuring of the school environmental conditions (The Physical School Environment, n.d.).

The exposure of the students towards behaviour patterns are specifically different from adults and place them at risk from exposure to the environmental conditions that adults may not face. These behaviours include, placing fingers and other objects in the mouth, not washing hands before eating or picking up eatables from the floor and eating them (The Physical School Environment, n.d.). Hence, these are some of the behaviours, which may have unfavourable effects upon the health conditions of students. Therefore, it can be stated that contaminated environment can have an effect upon the health of the students. In structuring the school environment, it is vital to keep the environment clean. For performing the job of cleaning, custodians are hired, who need

to clean and sweep the classrooms and school on daily basis. Apart from cleanliness, it is necessary to keep the environment green. Hence, trees and plants are seen, which are maintained by gardeners and contribute in making the environmental conditions pleasant.

Most of the students get enrolled in nursery schools, irrespective of their categories and backgrounds. When the school environmental conditions will have clean drinking water, nutritious mid-day meals, clean and green environment, adequate teaching-learning methods, instructional strategies and creative and extra-curricular activities, the students will not only be able to maintain good health but also will be able to achieve academic goals. A healthy school environment will render a significant contribution in bringing about improvements in the learning of students. When the environmental conditions will be suitable and pleasant, the students will develop motivation and enthusiasm towards learning. In order to make the environmental conditions suitable for learning and enhancing the system of education, it is vital to display charts, pictures and other teaching-learning materials within the classrooms. Furthermore, schools are regarded as an example for the community. Educators, administrators, staff members and students should generate awareness in terms of recognition of the environmental health threats that may be present in schools as well as homes (The Physical School Environment, n.d.).

As members of the school community are informative in terms of environmental risks within the school environment, they in turn will put into operation the ways that would be necessary in making the environmental conditions safe and secure. In addition, the students, who generate awareness in terms of the connection between the environment and health will be able to recognize and cause reduction in the factors that may be threats within their own homes. Hence, within the school environment, it is necessary to formulate measures, which would enable the students to feel safe and secure. Research has indicated that in nursery schools in some cases, young students have been subjected to criminal and violent acts as well. These include, verbal abuse, physical abuse, sexual harassment, rape and grievous hurt. These acts have had an effect upon their physical as well as psychological health conditions. When the students experience these acts, they usually drop-out of schools. Therefore, it is necessary to formulate measures, which may enable the elimination of criminal and violent acts and promote well-being of students.

In nursery schools, major emphasis is put upon extra-curricular and creative activities. In the implementation of various extra-curricular and creative activities, for example, dancing, singing, playing musical instruments, sports or physical activities, drawing, painting, and so forth, the teachers are required to pay attention and guide the students in an appropriate manner. They need to ensure that students feel comfortable in the performance of these activities and they do not get hurt. For instance, when students are working on an artwork and are making use of colours and paints, it needs to be ensured that they clean their hands, after the completion of the job. On the other hand, when they are participating in a sport or physical activity, it needs to be ensured they do not hurt themselves. Therefore, it can be stated that when the students are participating in extra-curricular and creative activities, they need to feel contented and pleasurable. When proper measures are formulated by the educators in terms of their participation, they are able to benefit and learn well.

Therefore, it can be stated, when measures are formulated in terms of various tasks and activities within the school environment, it would be advantageous and worthwhile in structuring the school environment.

## MEASURES TO STRUCTURE THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

It is comprehensively understood that to structure the school environmental conditions or to bring about any kinds of changes, it is necessary to conduct an analysis of various aspects. After the analysis has been conducted, the educators are able to acquire information in terms of areas, which need to be improved. When these areas have been identified, measures need to be formulated to bring about improvements. The important measures which need to be put into operation to structure the school environmental conditions have been stated as follows:

*Assess the School Environment* – When formulating the measures to structure the school environmental conditions, it is necessary to assess the school environment. In the assessment of the school environment, the individuals need to take into consideration the factors, which need to be improved. In other words, areas which are deficient and are proving to be barriers within the course of up-gradation of the overall system of education need to be improved. When the task of assessment of the school environment is carried out, then what activities need to be implemented for the students to participate in are planned and on the basis of promoting effective participation of students in various tasks and activities, the assessment strategies are implemented. Therefore, assessment of the school environment is regarded as the first and foremost measure in structuring the school environmental conditions (Explore Ideas, 2001).

*Formation of a Health-Protective Public Policy* – The formation of the health-protective public policy has the main objective of focusing on the health care needs of the students. In order to promote good health, there are various factors that need to be taken into consideration. These include, diet and nutrition, participation in sports and physical activities, obtaining medical check-ups in case of any health problems and illnesses, and overcoming psychological problems of stress, and anxiety. The health-protective public policy imparts information to the educators in terms of measures and approaches that need to be implemented to promote good health and well-being among students. Apart from health and well-being of students, it also focuses on bringing about improvements in the overall school environmental conditions.

*Development of Supportive Environments* – In the development of supportive environments, it is vital for the members of the school to understand that they need to work in co-ordination and integration with each other in order to achieve the desired goals and objectives and enhance the overall system of education. The teachers need to generate awareness in terms of the fact that in order to acquire an efficient understanding of the academic concepts and achieve educational goals, they will require support from teachers as well as fellow students. Therefore, in order to develop a supportive environment, it is necessary to promote interaction among fellow students. Therefore, it

can be stated that development of the supportive environment is essential in promoting student learning and in structuring the school environments.

*Reorientation of Health Services* – Within nursery schools, when there is not provision of clean drinking water or when mid-day meals are not adequately prepared and when the overall environmental conditions are not clean, it has an effect upon the health conditions of students. Therefore, it is of utmost significance to pay attention towards these factors. Apart from these factors, it needs to be ensured that teachers do not put any pressure upon students to complete their assignments. They should be allowed sufficient time to complete the assignments in class as well as homework and prepare for tests. As lack of sufficient time may enable them to feel stressed and pressurised and thus impose unfavourable effects upon their health. Therefore, reorientation of health services are regarded as crucial in promoting good health and structuring the school environmental conditions.

*Development of Personal Skills* – The development of personal skills is essential for the individuals to not only enrich one's overall quality of lives, but also achieve personal and professional goals and bring about transformations in the environmental conditions. In the development of personal skills, there are various traits that need to be taken into consideration. These include, communication skills, behavioural traits, personal appearance, body language and conduct. The teachers should not only focus upon the development of personal skills among students, but they also need to focus upon development of these skills among themselves. Therefore, it can be stated, the development of personal skills will enable the members of the school to carry out their tasks and activities satisfactorily as well as structure the school environment.

*Mobilize Community Action* – This measure highlights the actions that need to be taken by the school and community together in order to promote a healthy environment. It also takes into consideration the ways that need to be put into operation that would facilitate the working of the school with the community. Collaboration between school and community can render a significant contributing in generating awareness in terms of measures and approaches that are necessary in the structuring of the school environment. The teachers and students also participate in planning and working with the school and community representatives, representing upon the information and ensuring consideration upon the preferences and viewpoints to put into operation the most practical and sustainable improvements within the school environments (The Physical School Environment, n.d.).

*Achievement of Goals and Objectives* – Nursery schools have certain goals and objectives to achieve. Therefore, it is vital to structure the school environmental conditions regarding the goals and objectives, which are to be achieved. One of the primary goals is to put into practice the teaching-learning methods and instructional strategies in such a manner that would augment student learning and enable them to acquire an efficient understanding of the academic concepts. In order to achieve this objective, it is necessary to implement effective teaching-learning methods and instructional strategies. The implementation of appropriate teaching-learning methods and instructional strategies require the educators to structure the school environment. Therefore, it can

be stated that achievement of goals and objectives is an important measure necessary in structuring the school environment.

*Recognition of the Significance of School Environment* – Research has indicated that in some cases, the educators and administrators are primarily focusing upon augmenting their understanding in terms of factors that are necessary in performing their job duties well. But they do not pay much attention towards the school environmental conditions. This factor is considered significant particularly in the case of small schools. In small nursery schools, which are opened in houses, make provision of some teaching-learning materials, and focus upon impartment of basic concepts. In other words, the instructional strategies and teaching-learning materials are not in a well-developed state. Therefore, it is vital for the members of the schools to realize that they need to structure the school environment in order to implement one's job duties well and generate the desired outcomes.

*Organize Classroom Improvement Meetings and Implement Changes* – Structuring the classroom environmental conditions is an indispensable area, which needs to be focused upon. The reason being, classroom is the place where knowledge is imparted to the students in terms of lesson plans through the use of appropriate teaching-learning methods and instructional strategies. In nursery schools, the classroom environments are different. It is necessary for the educators to implement the measures and approaches that are necessary to bring about improvements in the classroom environment. When they are to implement measures, they need to organize discussion meetings. These discussion meetings enable them to exchange ideas and perspectives, so effective decisions can be made. The educators and students collaborate with each other to structure the classroom environment (5 Ways to Improve Your School's Culture, 2017). When changes are to be brought about, it is necessary to ensure that they prove to be favourable to the students and help them in acquiring an efficient understanding of the academic concepts.

*Preventing and Resolving Environmental Issues* – In the school environmental conditions, there are number of issues that may take place in terms of various aspects. These include, teaching-learning methods, teaching-learning materials, instructional strategies, infrastructure, amenities, equipment, materials, technologies, tools, classrooms, playgrounds, resources, human, technical and financial, extra-curricular and creative activities, and so forth. When the issues prove to be impediments within the course of achievement of desired goals and objectives, they need to be prevented and resolved. In preventing and resolving environmental issues, the members need to work towards structuring of the school environment. In preventing and resolving of environmental issues, one of the important aspects is implementation of student-friendly methods. The implementation of student-friendly methods and development of the student friendly environment is regarded as significant in structuring of the school environmental conditions (Improving School/Classroom Environment, 2019). Furthermore, this is also regarded as one of the ways of preventing and resolving the issues, which may take place in the school environmental conditions.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF PROMOTING STRUCTURING OF SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

The school is regarded as the most dynamic institution for particularly young students (Chapter I. Introduction, n.d.). When they get enrolled in school, they develop various viewpoints and perspectives. In some cases, they feel vulnerable, in some cases, they arouse curiosity, whereas in some cases, they feel pleasurable that they have been given the opportunity to learn new concepts and augment their competencies and abilities. It is vital for the educators to ensure that the school environmental conditions are sociable and pleasant. They should make the students feel comfortable and develop motivation towards learning. Apart from learning academic concepts and participating in creative activities in schools, the school environmental conditions should develop knowledge, competencies, aptitude and capabilities among students. Schools have mission and goals to achieve. In order to achieve the goals and objectives, it is vital to structure the school environmental conditions. In the structuring of school environmental conditions, there are various factors, which need to be taken into consideration:

*School Objectives* – The school objectives are regarded as one of the most important factors in structuring of the school environmental conditions. When the establishment of schools takes place, the formulation of objectives is regarded as one of the crucial aspects. After the objectives have been formulated, then tasks and activities are put into operation, which would lead to achievement of these objectives in a well-organized and efficient manner. The environmental conditions need to be structured on the basis of school objectives. For example, when the objective is to make use of technologies in teaching and learning, then there will be provision of technologies in all classrooms. Therefore, it can be stated that achievement of objectives lead to bringing about changes in the school environmental conditions.

*Safe and Well-Organized Learning Environment* – In schools, it is of utmost significance to make sure that the environment is safe and well-organized. Research studies have indicated that in nursery schools, students feel vulnerable in schools, particularly in the initial stage. But when they find that teachers are friendly and they are treated with kindness, they feel safe within the school environment. In order to create a safe and well-organized learning environment, it is necessary to take into account various factors. These include, treating students with kindness and courtesy, not putting any kind of pressure on them in terms of completion of assignments, providing equal opportunities, and not discriminating on the basis of any factors, such as caste, creed, race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, and socio-economic background. Furthermore, the teaching-learning methods need to be implemented in accordance to the grade levels, subjects and concepts and academic goals. It needs to be ensured that teaching-learning methods prove to be beneficial to them in acquiring an efficient understanding of academic concepts and achieving academic goals.

*Expectation for Success* – Research has indicated that in nursery schools, the students do understand the significance of education. When their parents and teachers convey to them the viewpoint that acquisition of education will prove to be beneficial to them in enriching their lives,

they do understand and develop interest and enthusiasm towards learning. When these students develop motivation towards learning and understanding academic concepts, they also feel that hard work and dedication will enable them to be successful in achieving the desired goals and objectives. On the other hand, when the teachers have an expectation for success, they structure the school environmental conditions accordingly. Therefore expectation of success is also regarded as an important factor that helps in structuring of the school environmental conditions.

*Organization of Seminars and Workshops* – The organization of seminars and workshops are not only regarded as significant in formal schools and in higher educational institutions, but they are also regarded as significant in the field of early childhood education as well. In seminars and workshops, major emphasis is put upon the concepts in terms of which students need to up-grade their knowledge. In most cases, principals, educators, researchers, and guest speakers are invited from other schools as well. These individuals give speeches and presentations. When they impart information and generate awareness among the individuals in terms of measures and approaches that need to be put into operation to bring about improvements, then the members of the schools are able to augment their knowledge and understanding in terms of factors, which need to be improved. Therefore, it can be stated that organization of seminars and workshops are regarded as significant in bringing about improvements and structuring the school environment.

*Making Visits to Other Schools* – When the educators are focused towards structuring of the school environment. One of the important factors is making visits to other schools. When the educators make visits to other schools, they not only get engaged into discussion with the other individuals, but they also observe the environmental conditions. By observing the school environmental conditions, the individuals are able to generate awareness in terms of teaching-learning methods that are implemented and the lesson plans and academic concepts that are taught to the students. When the educators find the environmental conditions worthwhile and favourable to learning, they create such kinds of environmental conditions in their own schools. Therefore, it can be stated that making visits to other schools is regarded as one of the important factors in structuring the school environment.

*Classroom Interaction* – The teachers need to implement the teaching-learning methods and instructional strategies in such a manner that would promote interaction among students within the classroom. When interaction has to be encouraged among students, then more emphasis is put upon the instructional strategies. The teachers need to ensure that through effective interaction, the students are able to acquire an efficient understanding of academic concepts. Within the classroom, in order to make sure, interaction takes place in an effective manner, it is necessary to ensure that proper infrastructural facilities are made available. These include, heating and cooling equipment in accordance to the weather conditions, furniture and environmental conditions with the classroom should be sociable. When the students will feel comfortable within the classroom, only then they will be able to interact with others in a well-ordered manner, and learn and understand appropriately.

*Skills and Abilities* – The members of the schools are required to possess the essential skills and abilities that are required in the up-gradation of the school environmental conditions. Some of these skills are needed in terms of various aspects such as, management of human resources, management of financial and technical resources, analytical skills, time management skills, conflict resolution skills, decision making skills and communication skills. These skills are regarded as significant in carrying out various tasks and activities within schools. When the members of the schools, particularly the educators and administrators are putting into operation these skills and abilities, they are not only able to structure the environmental conditions, but also are able to contribute in the up-gradation of the overall system of education. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention towards up-gradation of these skills on regular basis.

*Leadership Skills* – In order to lead to up-gradation of the school environmental conditions and facilitate student learning, it is vital for the teachers to possess the leadership skills. The possession and implementation of leadership skills in an effective manner will enable the teachers to not only contribute efficiently in promoting student learning, but they are also able to create a sociable environment within classrooms and schools. The implementation of leadership skills are regarded as meaningful in number of ways. These include, guiding and leading students in the right direction, making provision of facilities and materials, which would augment student learning and facilitate in the achievement of goals, implement conflict resolution methods, adequately coping with problems and challenges and helping the students to acquire an efficient understanding of the lesson plans, so they can achieve academic goals. Therefore, it can be stated that leadership skills are stated to be rendering a significant contribution in structuring the school environmental conditions.

*Monitoring of Student Progress* – It is essential for the teachers to monitor the progress of the students in order to find out how much they have learned and understood. To find out how much the students have learned and understood, it is essential to structure the school environmental conditions. Within the school, the educators need to make use of resources to bring about progression within the environmental conditions. For example, when extra-curricular and creative activities are focused upon, the educators need to have space in organization of competitions, where the students can display their talents. For this purpose, there may be construction of an auditorium. When they are to be evaluated on the basis of academic performance, then the teachers would have to make use of computers with an internet connection in the preparation of worksheets. For this purpose, there will have to be provision of computers within the staff room for teachers to work on. Therefore, it can be stated that to monitor student progress, it is necessary to structure the school environmental conditions.

*Collaboration between Parents and Teachers* – In nursery schools, the teachers need to organize discussion meetings with the parents of all students, irrespective of their categories and backgrounds. As it is comprehensively understood that all the students are different from each other in terms of personality traits, learning abilities and other factors. When the students perform well and meet the class expectations, then the discussion between parents and teachers is focused upon

how to reinforce the skills and abilities of the students and enable them to maintain their good performance. On the other hand, when the students experience setbacks in their performance and are unable to adjust within the school environment, then the parents and teachers need to discuss the factors that are necessary in helping to overcome the problems and challenges. Therefore, it can be stated that collaboration between parents and teachers are effectual and worthwhile in helping the students adjust to the school environmental conditions.

*Infrastructure and Amenities* – In the school environmental conditions, it is necessary to ensure that infrastructure and amenities are appropriately developed. The school buildings need to be well-maintained, and the roads, playgrounds and other factors in the school environmental conditions need to be developed satisfactorily. Within the classrooms, there should be proper furniture and heating and cooling equipment in accordance to the weather conditions. Apart from these, there should be provision of restrooms and clean drinking water. When the schools are making provision of mid-day meals to the students, it needs to be ensured that meals are nutritious and are adequately prepared in clean hygienic environment. When these factors are taken into consideration, the students as well as the other members of the school feel comfortable within the school environment. Therefore, it can be stated that infrastructure and amenities are regarded as important factors within the school environment.

*Technologies and Materials* – The utilization of technologies and other materials are stated to be rendering a significant contribution in promoting student learning and in enhancing the overall system of education. The technologies that are used in nursery schools are primarily computers and lap-tops. The teachers and other staff members make use of these technologies in augmenting their understanding in terms of the concepts, so they are able to carry out their job duties in a well-organized manner. Whereas, materials are referred to the teaching-learning materials that are put into operation to promote student learning. These include, textbooks, notebooks, pictures, charts, flashcards, colours, pencils and other craft materials. Therefore, it can be stated that within the classrooms, it is necessary to make provision of technologies and materials to enhance the environmental conditions and to make them suitable for learning.

## CONCLUSION

Structuring the school environmental conditions is regarded as important in order to carry out one's job duties in a well-organized manner, improve student learning, incur job satisfaction, achieve desired goals and bring about improvements in the overall system of education. Furthermore, it is necessary for the members to formulate measures in terms various factors that comprise the school environmental conditions and learning and well-being of students. The measures which need to be put into operation to structure the school environmental conditions are, assess the school environment, formation of a health-protective public policy, development of supportive environments, reorientation of health services, development of personal skills, mobilize community action, achievement of goals and objectives, recognition of the significance of school

environment, organize classroom improvement meetings and implement changes and preventing and resolving environmental issues.

In the structuring of school environmental conditions, the various factors, which need to be taken into consideration are, school objectives, safe and well-organized learning environment, expectation for success, organization of seminars and workshops, making visits to other schools, classroom interaction, skills and abilities, leadership skills, monitoring of student progress, collaboration between parents and teachers, infrastructure and amenities, and technologies and materials. When the administrators and educators are wholeheartedly determined that they need to structure the school environmental conditions in order to lead to effective growth and development of students and to augment the overall system of education, then they conduct research in terms of factors that are necessary to bring about improvements. Finally, it can be stated that members of the schools need to work in collaboration with each other and augment their understanding in terms of measures that are necessary in structuring the school environmental conditions.

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