

THE EFFECT OF SCHOOL BUILDING DESIGN ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

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ABSTRACT

Research has produced a corpus of studies dealing with the relationship between school building condition and scholar achievement while reporting fine results. Yet, other studies have been executed that record no substantial difference in success scores from college students in buildings in bad and good condition. The variations in lookup findings may lie in the methodology employed. The most necessary difference is in how the constructing is assessed and the instrument utilized. An instrument that reviews those constructing elements that have a direct research tie to scholar overall performance affords more accurate statistics on the proper learning circumstance of a school building, resulting in more sizeable findings.

Key words: educational facilities, primary methodology, school facilities, school building design, student achievements, room environments, environment effects.

INTRODUCTION

At a recent meeting of the Technical Writers Group of the new Educational Facilities Clearinghouse, the dialog in the end turned to the discussion of the relationship between college constructing prerequisites and student performance. The crew seemed to be knowledgeable about the lookup that had been conducted investigating this viable relationship and agreed that there was once proof to indicate there was a nice correlation. This would suggest that college students in structures rated as being in negative circumstance do now not operate on well known measures of overall performance as well as students in constructions rated as being in exact condition. One of the members, however, asked if there used to be a definitive statement to that effect, in which human beings could trust and understand. In other words, is there a announcement that would, besides any doubt, inform the reader that college buildings do have an effect on scholar learning? The genuine definition of a definitive declaration was no longer asked, but the man or woman was once informed by way of the group that there was once enough research proof that faculty building stipulations do in fact have an impact on pupil performance. It is in all likelihood a rely of private preference, greater than something else, as to whether or now not an person

accepts research findings as being illustrative of knowledge. Obviously, some human beings do no longer take delivery of that lookup findings lead to knowledge, mainly when a non-public bias is evident. Nevertheless, research in all areas of human exercise shed mild on viable relationships, which sooner or later leads to a theory and an eventual knowledge base. In most instances, a assessment of research, a synthesis of research, a meta-analysis of research findings, or even a meta analytic synthesis of research should be used to produce a definitive declaration and/or spotlight legitimate research results. At the very least, such efforts could produce conclusive statements and supply some fundamental know-how of the difficulty area. Action or beliefs based totally upon such syntheses of findings manifest through a secure basis of knowledge. In the case of lookup on the difficulty of the relationship between faculty building stipulations and pupil achievement, a corpus of studies have been achieved in the past.

This article critiques the differences in lookup findings in studies that have a look at the equal phenomenon and ascertains why researchers have developed one of a kind conclusions, given the same primary methodology used across studies. For instance, some researchers who have examined the relationship between school constructing condition and pupil achievement have found sizeable variations in achievement rankings of college students in college structures rated as being in suitable and bad condition, whereas other researchers have no longer found such differences. This brings the methodology used for these unique research into question. If the premise of the find out about is to discover out if the circumstance of the building influences scholar performance, then a measurement of each the condition of the college building and the achievement of the college students in that building has to be made.

If the statistical evaluation of the information produces differing results, there should be some motive for this, and it would possibly nicely be in the source of the facts utilized, the statistics that is gathered, and/or in the method(s) used in treating the data. The synthesis of lookup findings in the location of college services began in the late 1970's when Weinstein (1979) reviewed finished research on school facilities. Her overview of research blanketed a large vary of subjects referring to to school facilities. The research she blanketed in her review, which had been concerned with the relationship between facility conditions and scholar achievement, have been limited due to a lack of accessible lookup all through that time period. In the early 1980's, McGuffey (1982) reviewed a physique of lookup in the identical regularly occurring information area. He reviewed a whole of 98 lookup studies, some of which dealt with the impact of study room environments on pupil behavior, attitudes, and achievement. McGuffey's analysis of these studies led to the finding that positive factors of a constructing do have an impact on scholar achievement. For instance, he determined that, a "lack of suited manipulate of the thermal environment effects in inefficient [student] work patterns and self-discipline problems" (McGuffey, p. 285). His

conclusion, which was once based totally upon current research, was once that obsolete and inadequate facilities detract from pupil learning and that contemporary and efficient services beautify pupil overall performance (p. 287). More recently, Lemasters (1997) worked to synthesize research findings in a way that supported McGuffey's work. Lemasters reviewed over one hundred research protecting the years 1982 to 1997 to become aware of a pool of studies that addressed the relationship between college constructing situation and pupil achievement. This lookup used to be special in that all of the studies protected in the analysis dealt with the precise relationship between facility stipulations and pupil fulfillment / behavior. Out of the one hundred studies, Lemasters chose fifty three studies that addressed the unique relationship. She protected these research that especially dealt with the relationship between school constructing conditions and scholar / teacher health and productivity. A spotlight of Lemasters' work is that she constrained the studies analyzed to those that mainly dealt with the feasible relationship between college building conditions and scholar success / behavior. This was once a one-of-a-kind strategy taken - inspecting a more unique location of lookup inside the prevalent place of faculty facilities research. Lemasters' findings were greater precise than the findings in the two preceding reviews of research in that she had a pool of studies that dealt with a particular topic. She concluded that faculty services certainly have an influence upon pupil achievement. The majority of the research analyzed mentioned vast differences in scholar ratings when the students have been housed in either ample or insufficient school buildings. Students in inadequate buildings did no longer operate as nicely as college students in adequate buildings, especially in math and English success tests. A more recent assessment of lookup via Bailey (2009) sheds additional mild on the relationship between student / teacher fitness and overall performance and college buildings. This lookup supported the lookup of Lemasters (1997) and different previous work (Weinstein, 1979; McGuffey, 1982). Bailey (2009) analyzed studies on the same relationship between college constructing circumstance and pupil fulfillment between the years 1997 and 2008. Bailey reviewed 157 separate research and selected fifty four research for analysis, which especially considered the relationship between building condition and scholar achievement. Bailey asserted that the sum of the reviewed lookup indicated that a high-quality relationship exists between the condition of the school and the health and performance of college students and teachers.

The four research reviews that have been mentioned are important because the relevant research on this topic is compiled systematically and presented in a utilitarian form for other researchers and practitioners to use. Further, these studies are the only recognized studies that have reviewed research findings regarding the field of school facilities. The findings of the latter two researchers reflect a change in emphasis of research from the more generalized approach to an

investigation of a specific topic or area of study within the general area of school facility research. The Weinstein (1979) and McGuffey (1982) studies addressed research studies in the general area of school facilities and, as part of that body of research, looked at a limited number of studies that addressed the relationship between school building conditions and student achievement. Lemasters (1997) and Bailey (2009) reviewed studies that mainly addressed that very relationship. These two research reviews highlight a trail of evidence that supports the notion that there is a measurable relationship between the condition of a school building and the health and productivity of students and teachers. Evidence of this relationship has progressed through each additional research review that has been conducted. Still, doubts exist about the influence the condition of a school building may have upon student / teacher health and performance. In a meta-analytical synthesis of research studies dealing with the relationship between school building condition and student achievement, Stewart (2014) reviewed 42 studies and found only 38% of the studies (16) dealt with that relationship and reported a relationship that was significant in differences between student scores. But Stewart further reported: There was a positive relationship between the independent variable of building condition and the dependent variable student learning in 50% of the analyses found in the studies included in this meta-analysis. The researcher identified 16 specific analyses on the association between these two variables in the 42 studies that constituted the data set. Of these 16 analyses, eight revealed a positive relationship. Among the remaining analyses, six (38%) revealed no relationship between building condition while two of the analyses (12%) actually reported an inverse relationship (e.g. students in substandard buildings experienced higher achievement than students in standard or above standard buildings). It can be concluded that this meta-analysis suggests a weak association between building conditions and student learning (p. 56).

While this analysis of research is correct, genuinely counting the number of research that showed a good sized relationship and comparing that number with the wide variety of research that did not record a big relationship is now not precise or revealing, especially when the researcher blanketed solely a constrained range of studies. The range of research that are reachable that sincerely deal with the relationship between school constructing prerequisites and pupil performance is some distance increased than the 42 research in the statistics set that Stewart included and the further constrained evaluation of sixteen studies carried out in the study. A easy evaluate of the sources of any of the four primary clearing homes on instructional amenities or other dependable sources will divulge a a lot large wide variety of studies performed on this subject. Yet the 50% of studies stated with the aid of Stewart (2014) that did not disclose a full-size distinction in pupil ratings reasons some human beings

to consider there may now not be a relationship between the two variables, or at very best, a weak association. In essence, these studies have a tendency to make readers consider that the bodily surroundings does no longer have any affect upon scholar health or overall performance or else they cannot locate a distinction in student scores. When such research file that there is no relationship between college constructing circumstance and scholar achievement, readers tend to accept as true with what they examine or at least doubt current research that report the reverse.

Another reason for now not finding a relationship between constructing circumstance and pupil success would possibly live in how the researchers set up the faculty constructing populations for contrast purposes. Normally, the achievement test ratings of students in buildings assessed as being in bad circumstance are in contrast with check rankings of college students in excellent colleges to decide any great differences. Therefore, all of the school structures in the populace need to be assessed to decide their condition, as some distance as being either accurate or poor. The faculty structures assessed in each find out about normally incorporate a numerical rating that is assigned to every constructing as a end result of the ranking instrument. This would possibly be a composite score of the assessment instrument or a summative rating of the circumstance of the faculty building. The rating of every building is then arrayed in an ordinal scale numbering from 0 to 100 or whatever the pinnacle range is. The evaluation ranking range of each college constructing is commonly a rank ordinal variety in a scale. The constructing numbers are the key to figuring out desirable and poor constructions for determining the two organizations of colleges to be used in the evaluation of student scores. The researcher have to then divide the faculties in the listing into two categories depending upon the rating of the building. This determines whether the building is considered in bad or good condition. This gives a trouble for the researcher as to the place to draw the line between the two sorts of buildings. By dividing the team of faculty buildings into two equal parts, backside and top, there may now not be enough of a distinction in constructing circumstance to produce giant differences in scholar scores. There is surely very little distinction in the condition of a constructing that is numbered forty nine and a building that is numbered 50 on an ordinal scale numbering from zero to 100 or whatever the pinnacle range is. The evaluation ranking number of each faculty constructing is usually a rank ordinal number in a scale. The constructing numbers are the key to deciding appropriate and poor buildings for figuring out the two agencies of faculties to be used in the evaluation of scholar scores. The researcher need to then divide the schools in the list into two categories relying upon the score of the building. This determines whether or not the constructing is viewed in terrible or accurate condition. This gives a trouble for the researcher as to where to draw the line between the two kinds of buildings. By dividing the team of college constructions into two equal parts, bottom and top, there may no

longer be adequate of a distinction in constructing condition to produce extensive variations in student scores.

CONCLUSION

Human beings instinctively believe that the bodily surroundings influences their conduct as well as their thinking. A building's physical shape can mainly influence these living within the building. As Hartenberger (2011) noted, Winston Churchill is mentioned to have said, "We shape our buildings; thereafter they shape us." However, making an attempt to measure how our buildings influence their users is very difficult. Perhaps the purpose is that the available facts for researchers is variable and limited. This hassle vicinity illuminates the situation with social science research, which is less specific than the hard sciences. How individuals perceive the physical surroundings is both personal and malleable in nature. Yet, first rate lookup has indicated the situation of a faculty building can impact the performance of students and teachers. Both college students and instructors spend great time inside the college building, and because of that, the constructing can be influential. In addition, college students are young and impressionable, and therefore, the influence may additionally be more pronounced. For many decades, researchers have investigated the possible relationship between college building prerequisites and pupil and instructor fitness and productivity. A substantial variety of researchers have located a statistically massive difference in scholar achievement ratings between college students in constructions assessed as being in appropriate and terrible condition. These researchers document that there is a 3%-10% difference in scholar ratings of college students in structures in accurate and negative condition. That percentage might also appear small at the outset, however when in contrast with the variance in scholar learning that can be attributed to faculty influence, these percentages are of importance. At least these percentages symbolize an area in which school authorities have control. There are some researchers who have now not been in a position to find any full-size difference in scholar scores when the college students are enrolled in buildings assessed in true and negative condition. This does no longer mean there is no relationship between college constructing condition and scholar and instructor fitness and performance. It honestly capacity that such facts did no longer exhibit any big differences in student scores. The historical saying that "absence of proof is no longer always evidence of absence" holds genuine in these cases (Burl, 2007, p.194). The use of engineering type contraptions in assessing a college constructing for research purposes can also no longer be the most gorgeous outlet. Assessment contraptions that include research-based items have produced greater robust findings in comparison to engineering instruments. The cause given is that engineering-based devices measure a number of factors that are not without delay associated to pupil learning, which can also marginalize these items that do have a direct relationship on student learning. The character who does the real assessment of

a school constructing condition is very essential for correct data results. Research has indicated that the main is the individual who has the most expertise of the academic adequacy of a building. This has been verified via research findings and excessive inter-rater reliability (in contrast to other assessors). The division of the assessed faculty constructions into two agencies for evaluating scholar ratings is indispensable in acquiring massive differences.

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