



SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AS RATED BY ESTATE WORKERS' CHILDREN IN THENI AND DINDIGUL DISTRICTS

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ABSTRACT

School environment plays a crucial role in shaping the children for better education. If school environment is ideal and conducive for children's knowledge development, a great step ahead for them in education. School environment includes not only infrastructure but also teaching- learning, Evaluation and Extra-curricular activities. done that much quick easily. If this is the condition in plains what will the status quo in hilly regions. The investigator hailing from Theni district often has seen the school environment of Estates in and around Theni and Dindigul. Both districts are covered by a large chunk of areas in Tea estates, cardamom plantations, coffee plantations and other herbal varieties. There the parents are sending their children to schools. The study on school environment in the estates as rated by school children will throw more light on their plight and help the investigator to bring out samples of the problems they are facing to the world. Hence, this study has been taken. The objectives of the study were: to find out the rating of estate workers children studying IX std. on school environment and to find out significant difference in the rating of estate workers children studying IX std. for school environment in terms of gender and medium of instruction. The investigator has followed random sampling method for the present study. The investigator has collected a sample of 100 IX std. students of estate workers studying Theni and Dindigul districts. The study has revealed that majority of the children of estate workers studying IX std. are having positive opinion on school environment. Nearly 90% of them have positive opinion.



KEYWORDS: School Environment, Estate Workers' Children, Theni district, Dindigul District.

NEED FOR THE STUDY

School environment plays a crucial role in shaping the children for better education. If school environment is ideal and conducive for children's knowledge development, a great step ahead for them in education. School environment includes not only infrastructure but also teaching- learning, Evaluation and Extra-curricular activities. The physical environment of school buildings and school grounds is a key factor in the overall health and safety of students, staff, and visitors. School buildings and grounds must be designed and maintained to be free of health and safety hazards, and to promote learning. Studies have shown that student achievement can be affected either positively or negatively by the school environment. Policies and protocols must be in place to ensure food protection, sanitation, safe water supply, healthy air quality, good lighting, safe playgrounds, violence prevention, and emergency response, among other issues that relate to the physical environment of schools. We have heard about schools without proper ventilation, no toilet facility, no playground, no open space no separate rooms for girls and etc. These have become common in

the present school environment. According to Tagore Learning should occur in natural setting. If naturally all these necessary things in the school environment is not set, learning will become a remote reality. Classrooms with foul smells emanating from toilets, darkened classrooms with poor lighting and aeration will spoil the learning atmosphere. Very often we hear the voices of concern by parents and teachers about the poor school environment. The government has to make all the efforts to bring an ideal learning atmosphere in the schools. The schools in remote villages are very poor in terms of infrastructure. The village Education committee envisaged in Panchayat raj is mitigating the problems to some extent. However, all have not been done that much quick easily. If this is the condition in plains what will the status quo in hilly regions. The investigator hailing from Theni district often has seen the school environment of Estates in and around Theni and Dindigul. Both districts are covered by a large chunk of areas in Tea estates, cardamom plantations, coffee plantations and other herbal varieties. There the parents are sending their children to schools. The study on school environment in the estates as rated by school children will throw more light on their plight and help the investigator to bring out samples of the problems they are facing to the world. Hence, this study has been taken.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

School Environment - refers to atmosphere in school of Estates in Theni and Dindigul districts.

Estate Workers- refers to laborer's in tea estates, coffee plantations, cardamom plantations etc.

Theni and Dindigul Districts – refers to districts in Tamil Nadu with huge cover of hilly areas.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The study has formulated the following objectives:

1. To find out the rating of estate workers children studying IX std. on school environment.
2. To find out significant difference in the rating of estate workers children studying IX std. for school environment in terms of gender and medium of instruction.

HYPOTHESES FORMULATED FOR THE STUDY

The hypotheses have been stated in null form:

1. The children of estate workers studying IX std. do not have any idea about school environment.
2. The children of estate workers studying IX std. do not significantly differ in terms of gender.

INSTRUMENTATION

The investigator developed and validated a rating scale on School environment. The ratings were: Strongly Agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree, Strongly Disagree.

ESTABLISHING VALIDITY OF THE TOOL:

The investigator has consulted assistant professors in the department of education in Madurai Kamaraj University to check the content in the rating scale. The opinions of them were carried out in the tool. It ensures face and content validity of the inventory.

According, to Garret, H.E (1967, P, 365) the index of reliability is sometimes taken as a measure of validity.

ESTABLISHMENT RELIABILITY OF THE TOOL:

TEST AND RETEST METHOD:

The inventory was administrated among the 40 IX std. students of estate workers in Tehni district as a try out and re-administrated among the same 40 IX std. students after a gap of 15 days. The rank order correlation was used to find out the correlation between first and second administration of the rating scale. The correlation between the two responses was 0.87. It is high correlation. Hence, it is assumed that it has reliability.

SCORING:

The no. of responses for each item is counted and percentage worked out. For ranking each student’s ranking was given frequency and counted.

SAMPLE DESIGN

The investigator has followed random sampling method for the present study. The investigator has collected a sample of 100IX std. students of estate workers studying Theni and Dinndigul districts.

ANALYSIS

HYPOTHESIS 1.

The children of estate workers studying IX std. do not have any idea about school environment.

The details regarding the responses of children of estate workers studying in IX std. for the rating on school environment part played by newspaper for promoting Tamil are presented in the following Table 1.

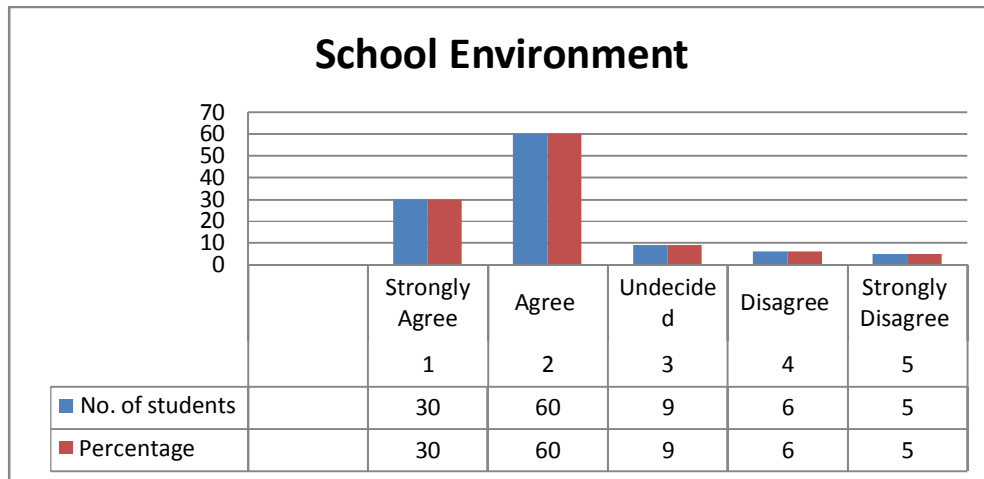
TABLE 1. PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN OF ESTATE WORKERS STUDYING IX STD. FOR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Sl.No.	School Environment	No. of students	Percentage
1.	Strongly Agree	30	30
2.	Agree	60	60
3.	Undecided	9	9
4.	Disagree	6	6
5.	Strongly Disagree	5	5
	Total	100	100

It is evident from Table 1 that the children of estate workers 30 % of them have rated as Strongly Agree for the positive school environment. 60 % of them have rated as Agree for the positive school environment. 3 % of them have rated as Undecided. 4 % of them have rated as Disagree and 5 % of them as Strongly Disagree.

It may be concluded from the above table that 30 % of them have rated as Strongly Agree for the positive school environment. 60 % of them have rated as Agree for the positive school environment. 3 % of them have rated as Undecided. 4 % of them have rated as Disagree and 5 % of them as Strongly Disagree.

FIGURE 1. PERCENTAGE ANALYSIS OF CHILDREN OF ESTATE WORKERS STUDYING IX STD. FOR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT



HYPOTHESIS 2.

The children of estate workers studying IX std. do not significantly differ in the rating on school environment in terms of gender.

The details regarding the significant difference in the rating of children of estate workers studying in IX std. for school environment in terms of gender are presented in the following Table 2.

TABLE: 4 SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE RATING OF CHILDREN OF ESTATE WORKERS STUDYING IN IX STD. FOR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN TERMS OF GENDER

S.No	Sub groups	N	M	S.D	"t"	Critical value	Level of significance
1.	Male	52	230.243	4.487	1.349	1.960 for difference of 98 at 0.05 level	N.S
2.	Female	48	231.111	4.615			

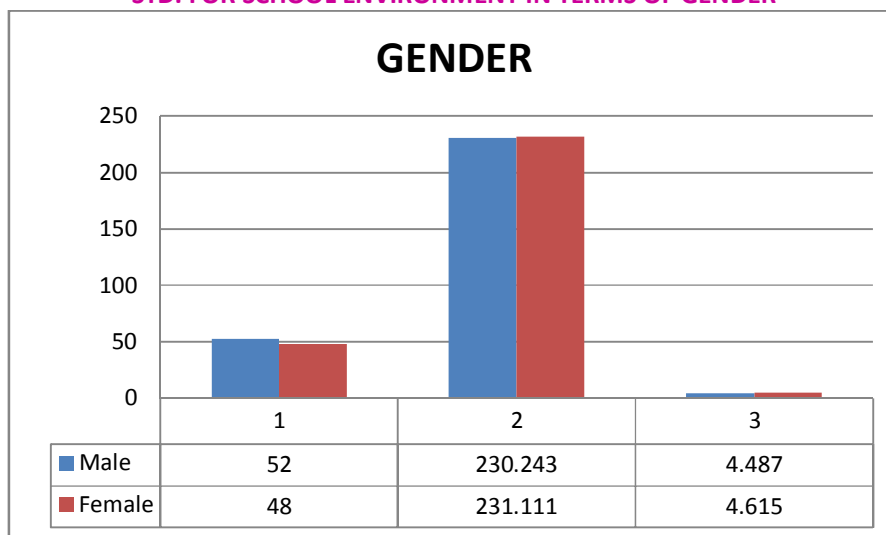
S-Significance

NS- No significance

It is evident from Table 2 that the obtained 't' value is 1.349. It is lower than the critical value of 1.960 for difference of 98 at 0.05 levels. There is no significant difference in the rating of children of estate workers studying IX std. in terms of gender. Hence, the null hypothesis 2 stated is accepted.

It is concluded that the children of estate workers studying IX std. do not differ in terms of gender.

FIGURE 2. SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN THE RATING OF CHILDREN OF ESTATE WORKERS STUDYING IN IX STD. FOR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT IN TERMS OF GENDER

**FINDINGS OF THE STUDY**

- The study has revealed that the children of estate workers studying IX std. are having positive opinion on school environment. It is evident that 30 % of them have rated as Strongly Agree for the positive school environment. 60 % of them have rated as Agree for the positive school environment. 3 % of them have rated as Undecided. 4 % of them have rated as Disagree and 5 % of them as Strongly Disagree.
- In terms of differential studies, the children of estate workers studying IX std. do not differ in terms of gender.

EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study has revealed that majority of the children of estate workers studying IX std. are having positive opinion on school environment. Nearly 90% of them have positive opinion. However, in terms of gender there is no significant difference in their rating on school environment. It is true that the hill areas there may not be much difference between male and female students. It has been reflected in the study. The school environment is good as far as children's rating is concerned.

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