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RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AND CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE

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Keywords	Abstract
School Environment, Classroom Discipline, Learning Environment, Educational Environment and Discipline Management.	The school environment plays a significant role in shaping students' behaviour, attitudes, and learning experiences. A positive and supportive school environment contributes to the maintenance of effective classroom discipline, which is essential for successful teaching-learning processes. The present study aims to examine the relationship between school environment and classroom discipline among secondary school students. The study focuses on various dimensions of school environment such as physical facilities, teacher-student relationships, administrative support, peer interaction, and overall school climate, and how these factors influence classroom discipline. A descriptive survey method was employed for the study. Data were collected from students and teachers of secondary schools through standardized questionnaires related to school environment and classroom discipline. The sample consisted of students selected through random sampling techniques from urban and rural schools. Statistical techniques such as mean, standard deviation, and correlation analysis were used to analyze the data. The findings of the study indicate that a healthy and positive school environment significantly contributes to better



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	classroom discipline. Schools with supportive teachers, adequate infrastructure, democratic administration, and cooperative peer groups were found to have fewer disciplinary problems. The study also reveals that students studying in positive school climates demonstrate higher levels of self-control, responsibility, and participation in classroom activities. The study highlights the importance of creating a conducive school environment for promoting discipline and improving educational outcomes. The findings may help school administrators, teachers, and policymakers in developing effective strategies for maintaining classroom discipline and enhancing the overall quality of education.
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Introduction

Education is one of the most important instruments for the development of society and the nation. Schools serve as formal institutions where students acquire knowledge, values, skills, and social behaviours. The effectiveness of educational processes largely depends upon the nature of the school environment and the level of discipline maintained in classrooms. A positive school environment encourages students to participate actively in learning activities, whereas an unhealthy environment may lead to behavioural problems and academic difficulties.

The school environment includes physical, social, emotional, and academic dimensions of the school. It encompasses classroom conditions, teacher behaviour, peer relationships, administrative practices, infrastructure, safety, and organizational culture. Classroom discipline refers to the maintenance of order, respect, cooperation, and appropriate behaviour among students during teaching-learning activities. Discipline is essential for creating a conducive learning atmosphere.

In recent years, increasing concerns have been observed regarding indiscipline among students, classroom disruptions, absenteeism, aggression, and lack of attention toward studies. Researchers and educators believe that these issues are closely associated with the quality of school environment. A supportive and democratic school climate helps students develop self-discipline, responsibility, and positive social attitudes.

The relationship between school environment and classroom discipline has gained significant importance in educational research because both directly influence students' academic achievement and personality development. Understanding this relationship can help teachers and administrators create better educational settings that support both learning and discipline.

School Environment

School environment refers to the overall atmosphere, conditions, and influences existing within a school that affect students' learning and behaviour. It includes physical infrastructure, emotional climate, interpersonal relationships, teaching practices, and institutional policies.

According to educational psychologists, school environment consists of both tangible and intangible elements. Tangible elements include classrooms, furniture, laboratories, libraries, sanitation, and



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playgrounds. Intangible elements include teacher attitudes, peer interactions, school culture, values, and emotional support.

A positive school environment is characterized by:

- Safe and secure surroundings
- Friendly teacher-student relationships
- Equal learning opportunities
- Democratic administration
- Clean and healthy infrastructure
- Emotional support and inclusion
- Cooperation and mutual respect

Such environments motivate students to learn effectively and behave responsibly.

Classroom Discipline

Classroom discipline refers to the management of students' behaviour to ensure an orderly and productive teaching-learning environment. Discipline helps maintain attention, respect, cooperation, punctuality, and adherence to classroom rules.

Modern educational philosophy views discipline not merely as punishment but as self-control and responsible behaviour. Effective discipline develops moral values, social responsibility, and emotional maturity among students.

Classroom discipline includes:

- Regular attendance
- Respect for teachers and peers
- Obedience to classroom rules
- Active participation in learning
- Emotional control
- Positive interaction

Well-disciplined classrooms create better opportunities for academic achievement and personality development.

Components of School Environment

1. Physical Environment: The physical environment includes school buildings, classrooms, lighting, ventilation, furniture, sanitation, playgrounds, and learning resources. Proper infrastructure creates comfort and enhances students' concentration and discipline.



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2. Social Environment: The social environment involves relationships among students, teachers, administrators, and parents. Positive social interactions encourage cooperation and reduce conflicts.

3. Emotional Environment: An emotionally supportive school atmosphere promotes confidence, emotional security, and self-esteem among students. Students who feel emotionally safe are less likely to engage in disruptive behaviour.

4. Academic Environment: Academic practices such as teaching methods, evaluation systems, curriculum implementation, and classroom participation also shape students' discipline and engagement.

5. Administrative Environment: School leadership and management policies influence discipline through rule implementation, communication systems, and teacher support.

Concept of Classroom Discipline in Modern Education

Traditional concepts of discipline emphasized strict control and punishment. However, modern education promotes democratic and positive discipline. Teachers are expected to guide students through encouragement, counselling, participation, and mutual respect rather than fear and punishment.

Positive discipline focuses on:

- Self-regulation
- Moral development
- Student participation
- Emotional understanding
- Behavioural guidance

Modern classrooms emphasize interactive learning, cooperation, and emotional well-being. Therefore, discipline must be maintained through supportive relationships and engaging teaching methods.

Relationship between School Environment and Classroom Discipline

School environment and classroom discipline are closely interconnected. The quality of school atmosphere directly affects students' behaviour, attitudes, and learning engagement.

Positive School Environment and Discipline

A healthy school environment promotes discipline in the following ways:

1. Teacher-Student Relationship: Supportive teachers develop trust and respect among students. When students feel valued and understood, they are more likely to follow classroom rules and participate positively.



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2. Safe and Inclusive Atmosphere: Students who feel emotionally and physically safe exhibit fewer behavioural problems. Inclusive classrooms reduce discrimination and conflicts among learners.

3. Student Motivation: Positive school environments increase motivation and academic interest, reducing boredom and disruptive behaviour.

4. Peer Cooperation: Healthy peer relationships encourage teamwork, respect, and social adjustment, which contribute to discipline.

5. Effective Leadership: Democratic school administration promotes fairness, communication, and accountability, which positively influence discipline.

Factors Affecting Classroom Discipline

1. Poor Infrastructure: Overcrowded classrooms, inadequate seating, poor lighting, and lack of facilities create discomfort and increase indiscipline.

2. Negative Teacher Behaviour: Harsh treatment, discrimination, and lack of empathy may create frustration and resistance among students.

3. Lack of Student Engagement: Monotonous teaching methods reduce interest and increase disruptive behaviour.

4. Family and Social Background: Home environment and social influences also affect students' classroom behaviour.

5. Peer Pressure: Negative peer groups may encourage indiscipline and misconduct.

Importance of Positive School Environment

1. Academic Achievement: Students learn better in disciplined and supportive classrooms. Positive environments improve concentration and academic performance.

2. Personality Development: Healthy school climates help students develop confidence, responsibility, cooperation, and leadership qualities.

3. Mental Health: Emotionally supportive schools reduce stress, anxiety, and behavioural problems among students.

4. Social Adjustment: Positive environments promote respect, empathy, and social harmony.

5. Teacher Effectiveness: Teachers perform more effectively in organized and disciplined school settings.

Strategies for Maintaining Classroom Discipline

1. Democratic Classroom Management: Teachers should involve students in rule-making and decision-making processes.



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2. Positive Reinforcement: Appreciation and encouragement motivate students toward responsible behaviour.

3. Interactive Teaching Methods: Activity-based and student-centered learning reduces boredom and indiscipline.

4. Counselling and Guidance: Guidance services help students manage emotional and behavioural issues.

5. Parent-Teacher Cooperation: Strong collaboration between parents and teachers supports student discipline.

6. Inclusive Education: Equal opportunities and respect for diversity reduce conflicts and discrimination.

Role of Teachers in Creating Positive School Environment

Teachers are central to maintaining discipline and creating healthy school climates. Their attitudes, communication styles, and teaching methods significantly influence students' behaviour.

Effective teachers:

- Show empathy and fairness
- Encourage participation
- Maintain consistency in rules
- Promote mutual respect
- Use constructive feedback
- Build positive relationships

Teachers who establish emotional connections with student's experience fewer disciplinary issues.

Role of School Administration

School administrators play an important role in establishing school discipline policies and maintaining supportive environments.

Administrators should:

- Ensure proper infrastructure
- Promote teacher development
- Encourage student participation
- Maintain transparent rules
- Support counselling services



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- Foster inclusive school culture

Effective leadership contributes to better discipline and school performance.

Challenges in Maintaining Classroom Discipline

Despite various efforts, schools face several disciplinary challenges:

- Increasing use of digital distractions
- Behavioural issues among adolescents
- Academic pressure and stress
- Family conflicts
- Lack of parental involvement
- Social media influence
- Overcrowded classrooms

These challenges require collaborative and holistic solutions.

Educational Implications

The findings of the study have important implications for educators and policymakers.

1. Schools should focus on creating emotionally supportive learning environments.
2. Teacher training programs should include classroom management and counselling skills.
3. Educational policies should promote inclusive and democratic school climates.
4. Schools should strengthen parent-school cooperation.
5. Counselling and mental health services should be integrated into school systems.

Conclusion

The present study concludes that school environment and classroom discipline are deeply interconnected. A positive school environment significantly contributes to effective classroom discipline by promoting emotional security, motivation, cooperation, and responsible behavior among students. Supportive teacher-student relationships, democratic administration, inclusive practices, and proper infrastructure play important roles in maintaining discipline.

Classroom discipline should not be viewed merely as control or punishment but as the development of self-regulation and social responsibility among learners. Schools must adopt holistic approaches that integrate emotional support, student participation, counselling, and positive teaching methods.

In the modern educational context, maintaining discipline requires cooperation among teachers, parents, administrators, and students. Creating healthy school environments will not only improve



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discipline but also enhance academic achievement, mental well-being, and overall personality development of learners.

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