

Situational Analysis Of Physical And Academic Climate In Provincialised Degree Colleges Of Kamrup District

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ABSTRACT

Present investigation was intended to study the physical and academic climate of provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district of Assam. By adopting descriptive survey method, study was conducted in 13 colleges. Data was collected by adopting College Climate Questionnaire (CCQ –GA) by Dr. Ashwani Kumar Gaur. Data was analysed by appropriate statistical techniques. It is evident from the analysis that in order to improve academic performance of students importance should be given on enhancing physical and academic climate of some of these colleges. It is found that there are some colleges which are having low and below average academic and physical climate.

Keywords : Physical climate, Academic climate.

INTRODUCTION

The institutional climate or climate of an educational institution is basic requirement of an educational institution and is the basis of positive health of an institution. The smooth functioning of an educational institution depends on the maintenance of discipline and co-ordination among the different persons such as head of the educational institution, teachers, students and other staff of the educational institution. A positive environment of a college enhances people feel socially, emotionally and physically safe in colleges. The college which is having a positive environment fosters learning to take place and while the college which has negative environment impedes learning and hence students may develop tendency of disliking subjects. Students would do better when they learn in positive environments.

A healthy and safe physical college environment promotes learning by ensuring the health and safety of students and staff. The physical college environment encompasses the college building and its contents, the land on which the college is located and the area surrounding it. The physical environment includes land, air, water, plants and animals, buildings and other infrastructure and all of the natural resources that provide our basic needs and opportunities for social and economic development. A clean, healthy environment in the institution is important for all round wellness of students.

Physical environment is related with both student achievement and student behaviour. Decent, safe and secure facilities are essential to successful educational programs. The physical environment of the college speaks to the contribution that safe, clean and comfortable surroundings make to a positive college climate in which students can learn. Physical environment of college is often mirrored by the physical environment of the surrounding neighborhoods in which they are located.

A sustainable, positive climate or environment of a college promotes students' academic and social development. It makes sense that students would do better when they learn in positive environments. Effective teachers strive to motivate and engage all their students in learning rather than simply accepting that some students cannot be engaged and are destined to do poorly. They believe every student is capable of achieving success and they can find ways of making each student successful. The principal elements that make teaching and learning possible and attainable are the teachers, the learners and a conducive learning environment. The teacher serves as the prime mover of the educational wheel. The learners are the key participants in the learning process. Student achievement measures the academic level achieved in a pre-determined targeted time. As a teacher, it is necessary to motivate students and help them recognize their strengths and weaknesses. Teachers are important role models for students and have a big impact on helping shape, create, support and establish students' strengths, goals and knowledge.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

A positive environment of any educational institution is recognized as an important target for educational reform and improving behavioral, academic and mental health for students. An educational institution with positive climates tend to have less student indiscipline. Therefore, the investigator has tried to make a study on physical and academic

climate in provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district. This study will throw light on some fundamental aspects which are important to improve all round college environment.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem selected for the present investigation is, 'Situational analysis of physical and academic climate in provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district'.

OBJECTIVES

The following objectives were formulated for the present study :

- To study the physical climate of provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district.
- To study the academic climate of provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district.

DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

1. The study is delimited to physical and academic climate prevailing in the provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district.
2. The study is delimited to vice principals /IQAC coordinators of those provincialised degree colleges.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

International Review

Brown (2004) in his book highlights the crucial issues of trust and accountability; innovation and change, professional development and academic excellence, and management and leadership. It suggests a higher education audit commission (for U.K.) as a remedy linked with accountability and improvement.

National Review

Jaganmohan, M., An Investigation into the Existing Conditions and Developmental Problems of Affiliated Colleges in Andhra University Area, (1983). The objectives of the investigation were:

- To examine the background information, staff qualifications, physical structure and facilities available in some of the affiliated colleges in rural and urban areas managed by private and government authorities under the Andhra University.
- To compare the enrolment at the degree levels (B.A., B.Sc., B. Com.) in private vs. government and rural vs. urban colleges, over a period of ten years.

Regional Review

Devi, R., (2012) worked on the topic “A Study on Institutional Planning in Colleges of Assam and its impact on Student’s Academic Achievement with special reference to the Affiliated Colleges under Gauhati University.” Some of the objectives of the study were:

- To conduct a status survey of Institutional Planning in Colleges of Assam.
- To compare Institutional Planning of Colleges situated in rural and urban areas.
- To examine the relationship between Institutional Planning of Colleges and Academic Achievements of Students.

Saikia, I., (2013) conducted a study on “A study of the problems and prospects of the provincialised colleges of Assam under Dibrugarh University.” Some of the objectives were:

- To identify the problems related to financial management and utilization of resources of the colleges.
- To identify the strength and weaknesses of the colleges in relation to academic practices.
- To identify the limitations of the colleges related to scholastic and co-scholastic activities.
- To identify the prospects of provincialised colleges.

METHODOLOGY

Keeping in mind the nature of the study it is felt that the descriptive survey method of research is the most appropriate and hence it is being adapted in this study.

SAMPLE

In the present study, simple random sampling technique has been adopted in selecting sample colleges by the researcher. The sample consisted of 13 degree colleges of Kamrup

district. The researcher collected the sample from the provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district.

STATISTICAL TECHNIQUES

In the present study, the following statistical techniques have been applied for interpreting and analyzing the collected data :

- Tabulation of data
- Frequency and percentage
- Graphical representation

DATA GATHERING TOOL

In order to achieve the objectives of the present study the following tool has been adopted:

- College Climate Questionnaire (CCQ-GA) by Dr. Ashwani Kumar Gaur.

ANALYSIS OF THE STUDY

To study the first objective, physical climate of provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district, the following statuses are considered as - High Climate, Above Average Climate, Average Climate, Below Average Climate and Low Climate.

The physical climate of provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district in terms of percentage is tabulated in the following table-

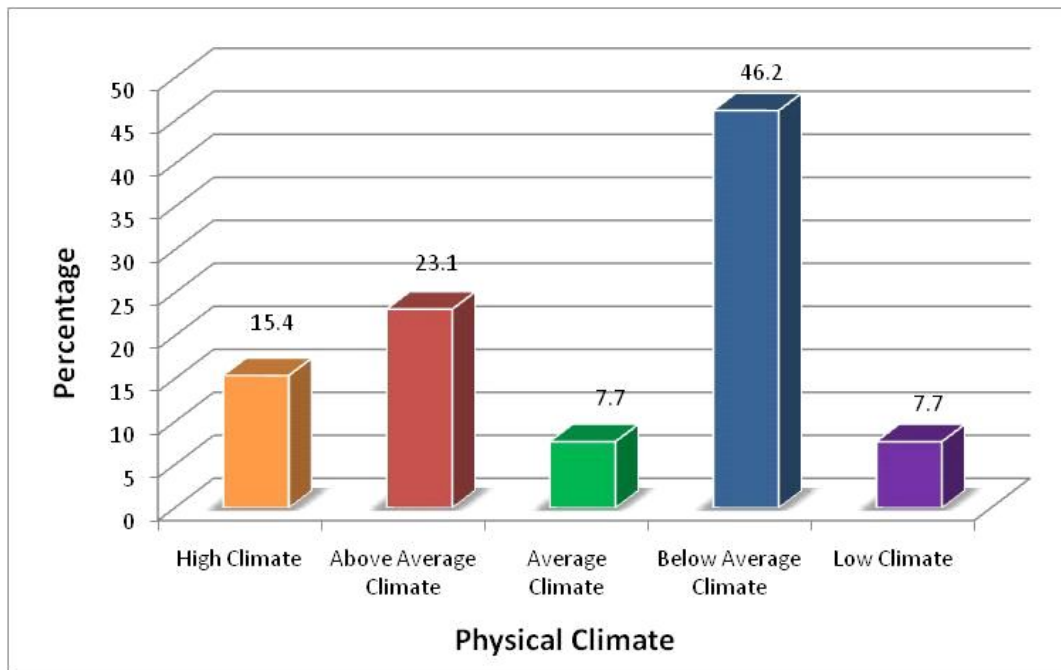
Table No. 1

Physical Climate

College Climate Status	Frequency	Percentage
High Climate	2	15.4%
Above Average Climate	3	23.1%
Average Climate	1	7.7%
Below Average Climate	6	46.2%
Low Climate	1	7.7%
Total	13	100.0%

From the above table, it is found that 15.4% have high physical climate, 23.1% have above average physical climate, 7.7% have average physical climate, 46.2% have below average physical climate and 7.7% have low physical climate.

The percentage is illustrated through bar diagram.



Objective no-2

- To study the academic climate of provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district.

To study this objective, the following statuses are considered as - High Climate, Above Average Climate, Average Climate, Below Average Climate and Low Climate.

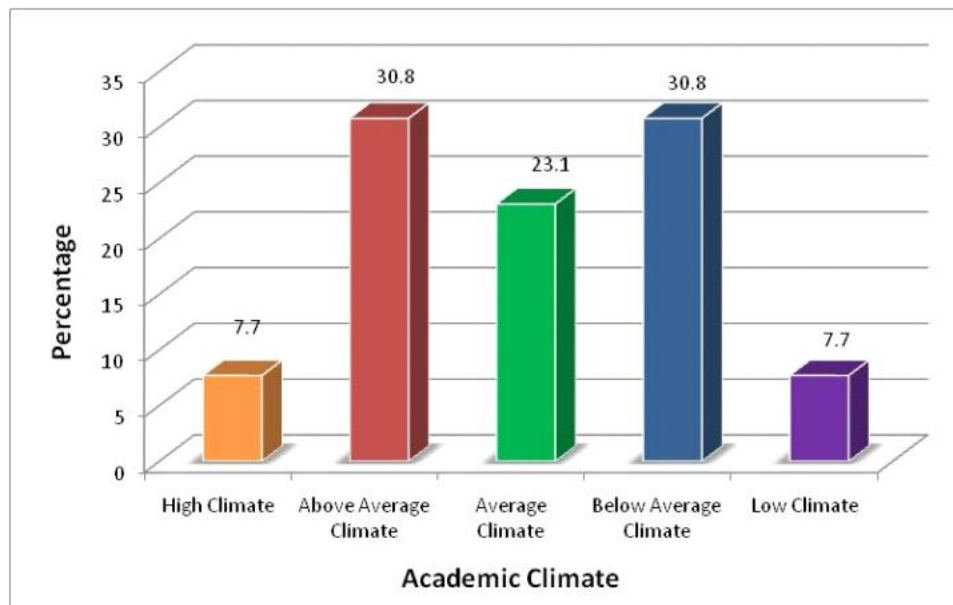
The academic climate of provincialised degree colleges of Kamrup district in terms of percentage is tabulated in the following table -

Table No. 2
Academic Climate

College Climate Status	Frequency	Percentage
High Climate	1	7.7%
Above Average Climate	4	30.8%
Average Climate	3	23.1%
Below Average Climate	4	30.8%
Low Climate	1	7.7%
Total	13	100.0%

From this table it is found that 7.7% have high academic climate, 30.8% have above average academic climate, 23.1% have average academic climate, 30.8% have below average academic climate and 7.7% have low academic climate.

The percentage is illustrated through bar diagram



FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

It is revealed in this study that though some colleges are having high and above average physical and academic climate, there are still some colleges which are having average, below average and low physical as well as academic climate.

SUGGESTIONS

A sustainable, positive environment of a college fosters youth development and learning necessary for a productive, contributing and satisfying life in a democratic society. This climate includes: norms, values and expectations that support people feeling socially, emotionally and physically safe.

Teachers are an essential part of fostering the type of learning environment in the classroom that supports student success. Educators need professional development opportunities and training to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of students to create a positive learning environment. Some appropriate strategies for creating a positive college climate and atmosphere are mentioned below:

- Building effective communication within the college/institution.

- Catering for individual needs.
- Creating a health promoting physical environment.
- Developing democratic processes.
- Enhancing self esteem.
- Fostering respect for diversity.

Effective teachers are the most important factor contributing to student achievement. Although curricula, reduced class size, family and community involvement all contribute to student achievement, the most influential factor is the teacher. As behaviour academic outcomes relate to negative situations and poor actions by students, the classroom environment becomes less positive and teachers can struggle to provide the best education to the entire class. Positive changes to the behaviour of students can improve the academic outcomes at any grade level. A teacher can adopt strategies for building a productive and positive learning environment as –

- Making learning relevant and meaningful.
- Employing effective curriculum.
- Helping students to develop intrinsic motivation.
- Reinforcing positive behaviours of students.
- Responding with positivity.

CONCLUSION

Physical environment of any educational institution is important for students all round development and success. The prime importance of physical environment lies in the fact that it enhances the level and ability to learn. Educational institutions of the country are facing challenges in creating safe and supportive learning environments. Positive climate and conditions for learning contribute to improve test scores, attendance, grade promotion and graduation rates. The climate of any educational institution is important factor for students' success and learning. As teachers interact with their students while providing instruction, they play an important role in developing supportive learning environment. Positive teacher-student relationships also have long lasting effects in the social, emotional and academic

development of students. In order to improve academic performance of students importance should be given on improving the existing academic and physical climate of educational institutions.

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