

NOISE POLLUTION AWARENESS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL: EVALUATION OF NOISE POLLUTION AWARENESS

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Nowadays, noise pollution is a major issue that needs to be taken care of especially in educational settings as it is important to have a conducive environment for teachers and students for learning and teaching purposes. For an appropriate environment in a classroom, the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) has endorsed guidelines stating that for a better acoustical environment, noise in occupied classrooms and unoccupied classrooms must not exceed 62 dB A and 32 dB A respectively. This study was carried out to compare the noise in occupied classrooms in secondary schools with the recommendation by ASHA.

Methods: The noise measurement was taken in a random classroom and the procedure for noise measurement was adapted from the study by Crandell, Smaldino & Flexer (1995). A set of questionnaires were also distributed to the teachers and students to evaluate the effect of noise pollution in the classroom.

Results: The analyzed results clearly show that the reverberation time and noise in occupied classrooms were higher than the recommended level, which is 1.88s and 74.8 dB A respectively. It was also found that teachers and students were aware of this problem.

Conclusions: These results were higher than the recommended level as stated by ASHA and ANSI S12.60-2002.23. Although the noise level was not met the requirement by ASHA, this study showed that noise measurement recorded in occupied classrooms was higher due to the activities conducted in the classroom, which ranged from silent activities to group work activities that require movement of students.

Keywords: noise, noise pollution, awareness, occupied classroom.

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