

# INVESTIGATING THE DILEMMA OF NOISE WITHIN OVER-CROWDED CLASSROOM OF A PUBLIC SECTOR SCHOOL HYDERABAD, PAKISTAN

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*Abstract*

The present study is aimed to represent a current over-crowded classroom scenario in one of the public- sector schools, named Noor Muhammad High School, Hyderabad. This study is further focused to highlight one of many menaces within public-sector over-crowded classroom, which is noise. Noise is a main hindrance in smooth functioning within processes of teaching and learning. There are many different aspects of noise within classroom that contributes adversely for learners and more often to the teachers. In order to highlight this issue, 10 teachers of various subjects within public-sector institute were administered a survey questionnaire. With the results, it became validated that majority of teachers agreed for this issue. Noise problem within classroom have created the following types of distractions. They are as; lack of proper intelligible communication between instructors and its learners, mismanagement of discipline, lack to counter academically poor students within class who cannot properly understand, teacher's distraction from smooth deliver of lectures so on and forth. The suggestions to mitigate its effects within classroom setting and institutes are forwarded in the end.

*Key Words:* Classroom, Noise, Learning, Over-Crowded, Public- Sector, Teaching,

## 1. Introduction:

It has been observed that the situation of Public-sector schools in Pakistan with respect to academics is setting back with every passing day. There are various reasons that entail for this cause. It is reported annually within educational journals about lack of concern to Government on Educational Department with a sense for its proper feedback regarding regular check and balance towards the academic functioning. This results into the crucial constraints that can otherwise produce positive educational setup in terms of pupil's population. Public sector-institutions are overcrowded with limited source of economical budget.

The number of students' average range usually lies from 80 to 150. This presents many other critical dilemmas for both, instructors and classroom learners for a purpose of smooth teaching as well as learning process. There are many research studies to highlight about adverse consequences of over-crowded classes. However, less attention and work has been witnessed to deal with real problems that are beard by instructors at a particular context. So far, studies have shown that there are many adverse effects to learning, especially in classes where teaching language is concerned. It was experimented through Lab-based psychology of cognition that noise usually affects the performance to memory tasks of individuals (Salame P, Wittersheim G, 1978;30) and Poulton EC, 1978;85 ).

There are other associative studies that connect environmental noise with problems in reading (Haines MM, Stansfeld SA, Job RFS, Berglund B, Head J; Evans GW, Maxwell L, 1997) and the pre-reading skills (Maxwell LE, Evans GW, 2000; 20: 91-97).

### 1.1. Definition of the term, "class":

The term can be defined as, putting pupil to same setting in order to deliver instructions in a collective form. The pupils might have similarity in terms of their set goals, likings, capabilities and attaining tasks. However, more approximate definition of class was proposed by an Educational dictionary as: "class, taken as group of individuals that is collectively taken under same setting for an aim to present collective instructions".

### 1.2. Concept of the "Crowded- classes":

The class is meant to be described as over-crowded, when learners of the same setting do exceed a required level, which can further create causes to hinder within processes of teaching- and learning. The design of a class is based onto reflecting many subtle aspects. These aspects are important, whenever one finds a description of teaching process. These aspects include;

- a) Priorities to learn and teach,
- b) Final goals,
- c) Underlying Philosophy,
- d) Personality development and
- e) Teaching style.

The learner's behavior to learn and participate in tasks could only be advanced, when teachers can intelligently utilize a given time to create such a class environment as favorable for adolescent learners. Unfortunately, in country like Pakistan; classes are observed to be overcrowded. The Focus of this effect on our educational system is rarely made a part to research studies. This important academic issue still prevails and has become the cause of other heinous teaching dysfunctions. The benefits of effective teaching seem apparently impossible, whenever number of learners within same setting exceeds the number and can causes noise.

## **2. Review of the Previous Contributions:**

According to (Shah and Inamullah, 2012) they have found within their collective studies that the issue of over-crowding within classrooms can have far reaching impacts onto the learners' learning. This can be a result to poor performance in learning by the affected learners', which could have been expected to meet the required standard mark. Even the teachers do have to bear many challenges that may be difficult in many cases. The challenges are in shape of learners' behavior, individual care of learner's to face optimum range of voice, discipline and high rates of drop-outs. These all are stressful for instructors. Similarly, in one of the study conducted earlier by (Carlson, 2000) have reported about a quality in learning. According to Carlson, the learning and teaching processes within classroom seems to lack quality with huge number of learners that creates over-crowding in small packed classrooms. For this, he tried to visit many schools and cited their names. Two of the most important in his study were "Unidad Divina school" (Florida), "Taltas' Escuela Hogar" (Santiago). According to him in these classes, more than 40 (forty) learners were enrolled in a classroom that lacked a capacity to accommodate 35 (thirty-five) learners. They were found in a difficult situation because of seating management which confined them too close with each other. (Ijaiya, 1999) have found that there is a positive but weak correlation amongst the opinions that were shared by instructors and learners. According to (Ijaiya, 1999) findings, the over-crowded classes seemed to mitigate quality of teaching as well as learning that further states critical implications towards attaining various academic goals. This shows that the phenomenon of over-crowdedness is a Universal dilemma that requires a critical attention. One of the recent studies done in this context was by (Phillips, 2011). According to this report, the teachers went for a presentation of union that verified about a large number of over-crowded classrooms within a New York state. The practice of over-crowded classes was in vogue since last ten years. The union of teachers reported that around 256,000 students have spent their less time due to over-crowded situations within limited classrooms. Even the result gave us a new impetus that trained teachers do fail in their best in large classroom settings. (Nemrah, 2006) wanted to state as a result of conducted study that instructors need to tackle varied number of students that do not belong to same group that are learning within same classroom setting. Learners are classified on basis of their competence level in participating amongst classmates. Many are those who feel to suffer in their conducting tasks and showdown their personalities. Many falter to learn and require more time to acquire things as compared to their colleagues. The learners are even set to be characterized by their apparent traits. Some may include issues within their expression, lack in comprehending the lecture, memorizing or associating the abstract ideas and weak to pay attention etc. These traits are commonly observed to be avoided by instructors within overcrowded classrooms.

### ***2.1. Findings from previous studies:***

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From the above discussed studies, it has been acknowledged that phenomenon of noise is marked within broad academic aspects. It indirectly interferes in learning as well as teaching processes to infer meaningful information from communicative lecturers. The various studies have acknowledged about direct influence of noise as one of real issues within dense classrooms. It principally tries to interfere within the meaningful sharing of communicative speeches that result into lack of intelligible turn taking talks amongst learners and so creates distraction.

### **3. Objectives and aim of Study:**

#### **3.1. Objectives:**

- a) To highlight the problem of noise for a teacher within an over-crowded classroom.
- b) To forward better options for mitigating the issue of noise within over-crowded classrooms.

#### **3.2. Aim:**

The study was aimed to highlight noise problem within an over-crowded public sector classroom of Hyderabad district, Sindh. Suggestions for this are proposed in the end.

#### **3.3. Significance of the Study:**

There is a hope that the following study will help to know about the principle problems that have been faced by public-sector schools of Hyderabad, Sindh. With this, the study will further narrow down to particularize an issue of noise that creates mismanagement within over-crowded classroom. The study can work as a preamble source for the future scholars, who can take various other subtle adverse aspects that are related to over-crowded classrooms within Sindh region of Pakistan.

### **4. Research Methodology:**

#### **4.1. Design:**

This study is descriptive in nature that tries to highlight an issue of noise within over-crowded classroom. This further carries to relate the impact of noise to discipline mismanagement.

#### **4.2. Population:**

The study focused to highlight one of a public-sector school of Hyderabad. The name of school was Noor Muhammad high school.

##### **4.2.1. Sample:**

The sample included 10 subject teachers of one over-crowded classroom. The class comprised of 75 students that can approximately accommodate around 30 students.

#### **4.3. Research Instruments:**

**4.3.1. Primary data collection:**

A close-ended questionnaire was administered towards 10 subject teachers.

**4.3.2. Secondary data collection:**

The secondary sources for collecting data were review of relevant literature from various sources; Research articles and documents.

**4.4. Research Techniques to analyze the data of study:**

The quantitative data analyzing procedure was adopted in this study. Data with the help of SPSS software was tabulated for a purpose to analyze its findings.

**5. Findings and Discussion:**

After analyzing a given data of study, it showed that 7 out of 10 teachers agreed to the issue of over-crowded classroom. It nearly represented around 75(%) of a respondent. They complained to face various problems, when it comes to tackle the issue of over-crowdedness.

The data even shows that about 60(%) of respondents from various subject teachers validated about noise issue as a great hurdle to teach and simultaneously in learning process.

The data have represented about noise disturbances within classroom that overall teachers agreed to following issues.

6 out of 10 teachers, representing around 60(%) agreed to a statement that “Noise create a hindrance to deliver meaningful communication between instructors and their learners”.

5 out of 10 teachers, that represented of 50(%) in respondents have viewed to opine that “The issue of Noise within classroom contributes to mismanagement of discipline”.

Similarly 5 out of 10 teachers (50%) agreed to a statement that “It is really difficult for an individual teacher to pay heed towards academically poor students due to high voices of learners while taking feedback”.

The issue of noise within over-crowded classroom fails to identify real culprit that assures to create disturbance for others. 4 out of 10 teachers (40%) agreed to this fact.

The issue of Noise mainly contributes to detract a teacher from his/her prepared lesson for class. The follow of ideas derail within mind of a teacher, when s/he is surrounded by high decibel noises. 7 out of 10 teachers agreed to this fact, which shows that it is an important aspect for teachers to get disinterested to teach over-crowded classes.

The statement that; “lectures based on instructing the rules to conduct an activity, test or assignments are not clearly delivered to learners because of various noises within classrooms” was agreed by majority of teachers. 8 out of 10 teachers (80%) agreed to this fact.

From the above data it was analyzed through a descriptive design of study that it tended to represent issue of noise as truly great source for failure in academics within public-sector over-crowded classrooms. Therefore, the figure of effective teaching suffers within these schools as it seemed impossible to eradicate issues related to discipline, instructions and evaluation by overnight.

***5.1. Suggestions forwarded with a hope to lesson effects of Noise within Over-Crowded Classrooms.***

- a) With the commencement of technological era, it can be confidently stated that teachers should adopt new teaching methodologies based on (Audio-Video Aids) AVAIDS. It can sufficiently counter the irrelevant noises of learners within overcrowded classroom. The required needs for a learner to understand lecture can be fulfilled.
- b) If the problem is concerned with number of students within an each class, then it should limit further enrollment.
- c) The option of second shifts can be the best for a teacher. It can not only help to provide teachers a bit comfort in dividing their load of work. Even the recruitment of teachers could be increased.
- d) The role of Government is set very crucial in this respect. Government should design a draft based on fixed rules and regulations in order to give admission to students within any institute.
- e) The policies should be revised by Government that shall satisfy optimum range of population within an institute and its apportioned classroom. It shall envisage regulation of budget to educational department that could improve facilities within public-sector academic institutes.
- f) Proper training programs shall be organized for teachers that could specifically focus on imparting education to tackle issue of over-crowdedness within public-sector schools and colleges.
- g) Government Educational officials of Sindh need to visit the public-sector schools and colleges once in two to three months for observing an overall situation within over-crowded classrooms.
- h) There should be a proper planning to control over-population within Pakistan. It is because the over-population leads as main factor of noise within classrooms.

- i) There is a need to list an issue of less public-sector schools within far distant areas. There is an urgent course to install academic institutes so that poor people can take admissions there.

## 6. Conclusion:

It has been made clear from various studies that the problem of noise is set critical to handle which requires a proper attention. The solution in answer should need to incorporate different ways towards for handling different sources of noise within classroom. However, it shall also be kept in mind that every context within school is different and so requires various understandings to counter the real issue of noise within classroom surroundings. Teachers need to deal with this menace after analyzing the overall situation. Recently, a great deal of work has been done to invest research for improvising the focus on understanding speech with over-crowded classroom. Therefore, for the proper understanding of noise problem in a relation to academics needs to deal with multitude aspects for clear understanding of present educational scenario. It will definitely help to launch constructive programs within an institute that can satisfy present condition for better future outcome.

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