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A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ACADEMIC INFRASTRUCTURES OF THE HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS OF UKHRUL DISTRICT OF MANIPUR AND ITS IMPACT ON STUDENTS' ACADEMIC PERFORMANCES

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ABSTRACT:

Learning and acquiring knowledge is a never ending process. There are huge dimension of learning in this complex modern society with varying culture and tradition. Primary education enlightens and ignites the sparks of initial learning stage. High school studies elevate and broaden the understanding of different fields. After high school each student is potentially considered to have explored the taste of different fields of studies and believed that a student has exposed to variety of subjects to decide the area of interest to move forward for the next stage either in the field of science or arts or commerce etc. So, higher secondary is the stage where each student is filtered out either to study science or arts or commerce etc. This stage is vital, because it is going to decide ones career. This paper studies the impact of academic performances of higher secondary schools of Ukhrul district, Manipur against the infrastructure provided by each school.

Keywords: ***academic performance, Ukhrul higher secondary, school infrastructure.***

INTRODUCTION

Personality and level of intelligence are much incorporated with the environment at which the individual is exposed to and mostly inherited genetically. In order to elevate and expound the in-born qualities of an individual, school plays the biggest role in developing each individual's personality, the spirit of thinking new ideas, exploring knowledge, it also creates an environment to question and compete with its counterpart. Higher secondary stage of education is imparted to those children who have completed their high school and it is a stage of preparing a student for the next level called a higher education. This stage of education is expected to develop the self-learning ability of the individual and increase the level of interest of the concern subject and knows the path of his or her career. The objective of the secondary education in India as recommended by the Secondary Education Commission 1952, it is stated as:

1. Development of democratic citizenship – Higher secondary schools performs the function of providing the opportunities to develop the qualities of cooperation tolerance, social sensitivity, accountability, responsibility etc. which are essential for every citizen in a democratic country like India.
2. Improvement of Vocational efficiency – To enable students to get employment after completing secondary schooling, various schemes are developed which are based on employment or occupation like educating people for specific trades or crafts or technicians etc. It also creates a platform for choosing and deciding a right course to become professionals like engineers or doctors or nurses or architecture or pharmacy or law etc.
3. Development of personality – Higher secondary education is enforced to foster all round development of each individual's personality. In order to develop constructive talents and artistic ideas, various extra-curricular activities such as games, sports, debates, group discussion, excursion, cultural events and activities are performed.
4. Lastly, for development of qualities of leadership – Another aim of secondary education is to teach students to acquire leadership qualities in the fields of social, political, cultural, technical and industrial domains.

Higher secondary board of Manipur has more specific objectives for secondary education and they are as follows:

1. Acquisitions of skills and maximize learning is various subjects.
2. Acquisition of the broad based general education consisting of science and literature or arts and mathematics or commerce with computers etc.
3. Development of self-learning and increase perception and expand the spark of creativity.
4. Developing of healthy living through proper understanding of personal and environmental hygiene and sanitation.
5. Developing knowledge through observation and experimentations in the areas of social and natural sciences.
6. Finally, it also aims in developing the spirit of oneness and unity in diversity in school and community at large.

Ukhrul district is about 70 Kms away from the Imphal city the capital of Manipur state. Despite being a district the infrastructures provided for schools and colleges are not state of the art. Most of the primary and high schools are run by the Manipur state government and few others are administered by private sectors. There are altogether

nine higher secondary schools in Ukhrul district, among which five are private and the rest are government schools. The performance of the private schools are miles better than the government run higher secondary schools in Ukhrul district. Private owned higher secondary school like Sacred Heart is at par with any best schools of the Manipur state. Due to heavy competition among the schools particularly the private run schools, the ones which are more renowned tend to have brighter students as compared with the average raking schools. In order to have consistency in the study conducted, two similar government higher secondary schools in terms of facilities are selected; one is located at the heart of the Ukhrul town and the other one which is comparatively located at a more rural area.

BACKGROUND STUDY OF EDUCATION IN UKHRUL DISTRICT OF MANIPUR

The overall number of primary and middle schools available in Ukhrul district is high as compared to the number of high schools and the higher education platforms. The district has 223 pre-primary and primary schools, 64 middle schools and 42 high or higher secondary schools out of which 9 have higher secondary level. There are three professional and two colleges for general education like Arts and Science. The teacher pupil ratio is quiet high for pre-primary schools and it stands at 1:21. The teacher pupil ratio of middle school and high/higher secondary schools are 1:15 and 1:18 respectively. The qualities of the majority of the school infrastructure are quiet poor except the ones run by private organizations. Most of the school run by the government does not even have a proper class room or a proper blackboard. Most parents send their children in a schools run by private organizations, because of the fact that private schools have better infrastructure and have sincere teaching staffs that are closely monitored by the private administering body. On the other hand, the government schools are hardly renovated in terms of building infrastructure or check the cancer like lazy qualified staffs that opt for proxy employment. Most of the government schools of the districts do not have qualified mathematics and science teaching staffs in general.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This paper work as the following objectives:

1. To find out the academic performances of a government higher secondary school.
2. To study the performances of boys Vs girls of the government higher secondary schools of Ukhrul district.
3. To study the performances of three different batches of the same school where the facilities provided are similar.

4. Finally, to study the impact of the facilities provided by the schools over the academic performances of the students.

HYPOTHESIS OF THE STUDY

The following hypotheses are taken into consideration in this paper during the study of the academic performances of students of the government higher secondary of Ukhrul district, Manipur:

1. There exist difference in academic performances of the higher secondary students for the three consecutive years from 2009 to 2011 for both the science and the arts streams of both the schools.
2. There exist differences in academic performance of the students between the government higher secondary schools of Ukhrul district.
3. There exist differences in educational facilities like proper class rooms, qualified manpower, co-curricular activities, and proper laboratories for science subjects etc.

METHODOLOGY

Two government higher secondary are selected as a sample from the Ukhrul District, one is called Tuloi higher secondary and the other is called Ukhrul higher secondary school. The Tuloi higher secondary is located in a rural area, but the Ukhrul higher secondary is located in a town area. Both the Arts and the Science stream of both the selected higher secondary is taken into account in evaluating the performance of the students of each school. The performance of the students is evaluated and compared for the three consecutive years starting from the academic session of 2009 to 2011. The facilities provided by each school is also taken into account and the expected facilities of state of the art higher secondary is also noted to compare if the lack of such facilities impacted the performance of the students either be in Arts stream or in Science stream.

Compare and analyse the results of each year of the school against the preceding or the succeeding year and observe what enhances or reduces the performance of each academic session.

ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

The analysis of the data collected for the performance evaluation of the students of Tuloi government higher secondary school and Ukhrul government higher secondary school for the academic years from 2009 to 2011 is carried out in this section. The Science and Arts streams of both the schools are considered during the evaluation.

The facilities provided by the school are taken into account in order to see its impact on academic performance of the students.

Initially, the facilities in terms of infrastructure and manpower of Tuloi and Ukhrul higher secondary schools are considered. The detail facilities of both the schools are shown below in Table 1.

Sl. No.	Facility	Tuloi Higher Sec. School	Ukhrul Higher Sec School
1	Qualified teachers	√	√
2	State of the art class rooms	**X**	**X**
3	Basic Science laboratory	√	√
4	Scientific laboratory	**X**	**X**
5	Well trained technicians	**X**	**X**
6	Stationary shop	**X**	**X**
7	Computer facility	√	√
8	School library	√	√
9	Canteen/Café	**X**	√
10	Student support/welfare	**X**	**X**
11	Educational exchange	**X**	**X**
12	Recreation centre	**X**	**X**
13	Basic medical facilities	**X**	**X**
14	Drinking water	√	√
15	Toilet	√	√
16	Indoor games	√	√
17	Outdoor games	√	√
18	Parking lot	**X**	**X**

Table1. School facilities comparison of Tuloi Vs Ukhrul Higher secondary school.

The condition of both the Tuloi and Ukhrul higher secondary schools in terms of facilities are similar except for the availability of canteen/café in regards to Ukhrul higher secondary school which is missing in Tuloi higher secondary school.

Some of the main components of teaching learning facilities are not available in both the higher secondary schools. A state of the art class room is a must in order to provide an ideal environment for the students to learn and for the teachers to teach and this facility is missing in both the schools. Scientific laboratory is very important for science students to learn and to provoke their young minds, it is not sufficient to excel by providing a simple microscope and a few test tubes with some chemicals. Providing computers and basic labs are not sufficient

unless good technicians and expert instructors are made available for the students. Such vital elements were not available in both the schools. A recreation centre also plays an important role to refresh and relax one's mind and basic medical facilities are required in schools where students work in risky laboratories. In both the school where the study is conducted, such facilities are unavailable. Another factor contributing in enhancing the performance of students is not only teaching conducted by qualified teachers, but by qualified, experienced and trained teachers and this factor cannot be omitted. In both the schools only the basic facilities are provided and due to which the overall performance of the students of both the schools over the years are at stall. In the following sections, the performances of both the higher secondary schools are conducted and performance for each year is evaluated within the available facilities of the schools. In Ukhrul district, private schools performs much better than the government schools, so most of the good students and any parents who do not have any financial constraints send their children in private schools.

Analysis of student performance of Tuloi higher secondary school: The following Table 2 and Table 3 show the academic performance of Tuloi higher secondary school with respect to Arts stream and Science stream respectively.

Year	Total Student Appeared	1st Class		2nd Class		3rd Class		Total Pass %
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
2009	57	1	0	3	2	7	6	33.33
2010	42	5	3	0	2	3	4	40.50
2011	60	2	1	5	0	1	9	30.00

Table 2. Academic performance of Arts students of Tuloi higher secondary school of the academic sessions from 2009-2011.

Table 2. provides the academic performance of the Arts students of Tuloi higher secondary school for the academic years from 2009 to 2011. The result of the three consecutive years clearly shows that when the number of students in the class increases the overall performance of the class goes down. And the number of first class students is also high when the number of students in the class is lower. This indicates that the teacher pupil ratio plays a very important role in boosting the performance of the entire class. Interaction and one-to-one focus of the teacher with the students is inversely proportional to the number of students attending the class, so higher the number of students, lesser is the interaction and so is the focus. The pass percentage of the year 2010 goes above 40% with nearly 12% of the class in first class when the total number of students in the class is just 42, but when the class size goes beyond 57 and above, the total pass percentage drops to only around 33% and the total number of first class is reduced by upto 80%. In order to improve the overall pass percentage of the Arts students the

facilities which are not made available to the students listed in Table 1 needs to be instituted and provided. Moreover, the teacher pupil ratio must be reduced either by recruiting more teachers and divining the class into smaller sections or admit only limited number of students if the number of teachers is less in the school. It is also vital for the teachers to update their knowledge and get trained when and where necessary to be fully equipped with the state of the art teaching methodologies.

Year	Total Student Appeared	1st Class		2nd Class		3rd Class		Total Pass %
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
2009	13	0	0	2	0	1	3	46.15
2010	17	0	0	1	0	3	2	35.30
2011	10	0	1	2	1	1	0	50.00

Table 3. Academic performance of Science students of Tuloi higher secondary school of the academic sessions from 2009-2011.

The academic performances of the science students of Tuloi higher secondary school for the academic sessions from 2009 to 2011 is given in Table 3. Unfortunately, none of the students could pass in first class for the two academic years in continuous from 2009 to 2010, but one girl student manage to pass in 1st class in 2011. It has a similar pattern where the pass percentage is the highest when the number of students in the class is the least. As compared to the Arts students of the Tuloi higher secondary school, the class size is relatively small in the case of the Science students of the same school. So, the issue of poor performance is not only due to the size of a class, but it can be due to lack of good lab facilities because, in science subjects one can best understand when it is demonstrated or tested. Moreover the poor performance of the students can also be contributed by the lack of experienced and well trained technicians and teachers. At the worst case, the reason for poor performances of the science students of Tuloi higher secondary school can be looked as due to unavailability of average or above average students at this school. In fact the school also lack in attracting new and fresh minds in the following academic years which could have replenish the loss reputation of the school. This clearly directs that the school lacks even the basic infrastructure and manpower to run the show.

Analysis of student performance of Ukhrul higher secondary school: The academic performance of Ukhrul higher secondary school of Arts students and Science students are given in Table 4 and Table 5 respectively.

Year	Total Student Appeared	1st Class		2nd Class		3rd Class		Total Pass %
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
2009	87	0	0	6	7	21	26	68.97
2010	102	0	0	13	5	22	17	55.88
2011	135	1	0	9	9	7	27	39.26

Table 4. Academic performance of Arts students of Ukhrul higher secondary school of the academic sessions from 2009-2011.

The academic performances of the Arts students of the Ukhrul higher secondary school for the academic year from 2009 to 2011 is compared in Table 4. The facilities of the school in terms of infrastructure and teaching staffs does not change over the pass recent years, but the intake of the number of students increases every year in Arts stream in Ukhrul higher secondary school since 2009. The overall pass percentage is the highest is in 2009 when the number of students in the class is the least. As the number of students of the Arts stream is increased by 17% in 2010 from 2009, the pass percentage is reduced by 13%. As the intake of the Arts students of the school further increases to 135 in 2011 from 102 in 2010 and 87 in 2009, the overall success rate of the students of the Arts stream is reduced by 14% in 2011 as compared to 2010 and reduced by 29% as compared to 2009. There is no student who passes in first class in 2009 and 2010, except one boy clear in first class in the following year. This is also a clear indication that teacher pupil ratio should not be too high else it has an adverse effect on the overall performance of the whole class. Lack of good infrastructure, lack of quantity and quality manpower has a negative impact on the performance of the students whether the school is located at a town like that of Ukhrul higher secondary school or elsewhere. The pass percentage of most of the private higher secondary schools of Ukhrul district is always well above 80%.

Year	Total Student Appeared	1st Class		2nd Class		3rd Class		Total Pass %
		Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
2009	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2010	36	1	0	13	3	1	1	52.78
2011	11	1	0	0	0	0	0	09.10

Table 5. Academic performance of Science students of Ukhrul higher secondary school of the academic sessions from 2009-2011.

The students of the Science stream of Ukhrul higher secondary school appears the final exams only from the academic session of 2010. The pass percentage of the first batch crosses only 52%. In the following academic session 2011 hardly any new students get admitted in the Science stream in the Ukhrul higher secondary school,

most of the failed students of the previous year re-appear the exam and unfortunately only one student manage to pass the exam in 2011. This shows a complete failure of the school either in attracting and enrolling new students or maintaining the old ones. The failure in such scenario is a total collapse of the reputation of the school as well as the failure of the school authority. The only way for such school to revive is by providing all necessary facilities and a new school board by restructuring the functionaries of the school from the lowest to the highest level. If student knows that they are enlightened then wherever the school may be, best brains will always be found and best brains will always be created. For a student to be enlightened providing the best possible infrastructure is mandatory and supplying the best qualified and trained staffs become compulsory.

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTION

The study of this paper concludes that the performance of students is directly dependent on the availability of good school infrastructure, low teacher pupil ratio, qualified and trained teaching staffs irrespective of the courses taught. Average performing higher secondary schools like Tuloi and Ukhrul higher secondary schools can also excel and push the limit if good school infrastructure be provided, reduce the teacher pupil ratio especially in Arts stream and attract new students for enrolment. It is also observed from the considered sample that the students of Ukhrul district prefer Arts stream compared to the Science stream. For the Science stream the teaching learning methods needs to be reviewed and revived for both the higher secondary. The future study will be conducted on schools which have state of the art facilities and compare their improvement level with the current study and also discover the methods and degree of indulging in attracting the best brains from around the town.

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