



JOURNAL OF SOCIAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

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ANALYSIS OF EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: A CROSS SECTIONAL SURVEY OF AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR

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KEYWORDS	ABSTRACT
Early Childhood Education, Educational Facilities, Indoor Facilities, Outdoor Facilities	<p>The study was conducted to find out educational facilities provided to early childhood education in Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Descriptive research method was used for conducting the research. In descriptive research survey method was used for the collection of data from respondents. All two hundred sixty (260) teachers working in fifty-two (52) government primary schools of AJ&K were population of study. Universal sampling technique was used to select the sample from population. A questionnaire based on five-point Likert scale was used as research instrument to collect data from teachers. Questionnaire was consisted of educational facilities i.e., the indoor and outdoor educational facilities. Mean, frequency, and percentage were used for analysis of data. It was found that ECE teachers support the specific learning tasks to be carried out there. ECE teachers helps to lay the foundation for education for rest of a child's life. It is suggested that trained teachers may be hired for ECE children to enhance quality of ECE program in AJ&K. There may be equal educational infrastructure and chances available to provide equity of learning to students across the District Kotli.</p> <p> 2022 Journal of Social Research Development</p>
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Email:	nazirshah786@gmail.com
DOI	https://doi.org/10.53664/JSRD/03-02-2022-04-160-172

INTRODUCTION

Instruction as an improvement specialist, is esteemed by all countries of the world since it has carried all out opportunity to man. It has changed man from the obliviousness and wretchedness to information and joy. It has made man helpful to himself, his age and then some. Schooling assists person with growing truly, intellectually, ethically, profoundly and sincerely by giving appropriate climate, showing him new information, perspectives and abilities that will empower him to be helpful to himself and his general public. In this

connection, the schooling at this level reinforces the student's feet to ascend instructive stepping stool to the scholarly accomplishment assuming that solid groundwork is laid (Adams, 2008). Consequently, the early childhood education as pre-school, kindergarten, nursery, Montessori and vital training from two to eight years. Early childhood education as a term incorporating formatively suitable projects that serve kid from birth through age eight, a field of study that trains understudies to work successfully with small kids Arshad and Zamir (2018).

It is currently broadly acknowledged that initial eight years of the youngster are likely the most basic in deciding singular educational encounter. Long haul perspectives and firmly established pathways of the reasoning are set down in this basic period, establishing the groundwork of a youngster's future life is to be perplexing, talented and truly dependable undertaking. Lately, there has been a rising accentuation on youth training, zeroing in on the abilities of the proficiency and numeracy as well as advancing a formal and grown-up drove teaching method (Omar, 2011). Instructive offices are those materials that improve educating/growing experience. Instructive offices mean whole extent of human, physical and social foundation gave in school to the motivation of educating/growing experience. Portrays instructive offices as actual assets which the school directors and his reference bunch tackle, allot, use and keep up with the end goal of compelling school organization that will work with educating/educational experience in learning. Instructive offices are structures and things like machines, research facility hardware, blackboard and students' apparatuses (Imran, 2010).

Instructive offices are those things which empower a talented educator to accomplish a degree of the informative targets that far surpasses what is conceivable when they are not given. The preparation and planning of instructive offices for schools, have notable impact on exhibition result of learning of understudies (Singh, Solanki and Sharma, 2021). This is undeniably evident, on grounds that conceded support of instructive offices and lacking plan of these offices can create falling apart climate like bedraggle structures, stripping paint, broken furnishings and non-working learning offices. These effects the understudies learning propensity and staff spirit (Dib, 2008). Youth schooling system in Kotli is noticed. Many kids in don't proceed with school past elementary school level and dropout in the essential level. School offices and conditions are extremely terrible as schools are without structures, power, without openness of drinking water and limit dividers. Learning results are exceptionally poor with wide provincial holes. Thusly, specialist chose to lead study on youth schooling in region Kotli Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Ahsan, 2012). The study follows the following objectives:

1. To find out the educational facilities provided by schools for the early childhood education.
2. To measure the educational facilities provided by the schools for early childhood education.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Early Childhood Education (ECE) essentially connects with early learning of small kids. Kids don't simply develop, they create, advance, dominating forever complex understandings of individuals, items and difficulties in their current circumstance (Saeed, 2005). There is an overall model or gathering for development that is legitimate for all young people. In any case, individual and nature of progress shifts starting with one youth then onto the next. The present study provides significant information through existing information about the issues under considerations in the particular context in order to generate new knowledge. ECE implies not solely to what happening inside young person, yet notwithstanding really will more often than not ponder youngster's assumptions to thrive (Kagan, Araujo, Jaimovich & Aguayo, 2016).

Educational Facilities in Early Childhood Education

Singh, Solanki and Sharma (2021) quality schooling is cycle, where very capable educators use kid driven showing approaches in a decent climate of the classrooms and do talented evaluations to work with learning for reason to lessen changes. Without quality instruction the advancement and success of any nation are hard to accomplish, and a country can contact the degree of improvement in the event that they have qualified residents with quality training. Different exploration has been led to investigate the connection between offices in school with quality training. Offices in school are the blend of various projects, arrangements, curricular and co-curricular exercises that propel understudies for the better execution in exams (Imran, 2010). Six offices affect instructive results of understudies like inside air quality, ventilation, warm solace, building age, quality, school size and quality size. Accessibility of these offices updates understudies' scholastic exhibition and could decidedly affect the instructor enrollments, responsibilities, cares and endeavors. Building condition and solidness has no bond with scholastic scores. There are various elements of actual climate that significantly affect each other as well as on the scholastic exhibition of understudies (Iqbal, 2012).

Indoor Educational Facilities

The game plan of an office is pretty much as basic as its size. Spatial insight changes with age and actual size. Kids frequently select firmly characterized spaces for play. A room that appears little to a grown-up can appear to be a lot bigger to a little kid. Kids ought to have the option to move unreservedly starting with one action then onto the next without unduly upsetting others. Movement regions ought to be partitioned with the goal that youngsters in a single region are not diverted by those in different regions. Climate ought to be alluring and bright and accommodate the presentation of kids' work and different pictures at their eye level. The utilization of normal materials will give material and visual encounters to youngsters. Unique gear ought to be consolidated in an everyday practice, useful way so youngsters with actual handicaps can do much for themselves as could be expected (Borman, 2011).

Painting Walls

The significance of painting in human development today cannot be over emphasizing. Paintings are made to beautify interior and exterior space of buildings. They are also use for protection of structures such as vehicles and architecture. Offshore structures such as ships, derricks, rigs and other oil extracting equipment are painted to avert corrosion and rusting. There are cases where paintings carry information that is educative, advertorial, therapeutic, and philosophical (Elley, 2013). Painting of structures such as buildings, cars and ships are made for safety and to add aesthetic enhancement of structure. Painting as art of making pictures or covering a surface by paint application. Painting as a process of illustration in which artist takes a picture of a scene or photograph by spreading paint on a surface like wall, paper, wood, or fabric (Greaney, 2010). Painting isn't just recording a scene, which is what one's camera does; but it is about expressing emotional response to subject and conveying something of feeling to viewer. Painting can be used in decorating wall of gardens, landscape and enlarges a given space. Main objective of wall paintings is to enhance environment. As children are attracted to colorful object, it is needed that their environment and their learning materials are designed and painted colorfully to attract them (Taylor, 2011).

AV Aids

Changing media tutoring is one of most outstanding techniques for presenting preparing where unequivocal idea is paid to the sound and visual exhibition of the subjects that is gotten through in the class on to make the youngster hold it for a more expanded period. It is in addition called as blended media-based bearing (MBE). This tremendous number of instruments are used to foster both the energies of hearing and the impression of sight for the most part improvement of a youth. Assuming that we see what's going on, the computerized world has developed determinedly and conclusively (Jack, 2013). Buzzetto (2015) stated that informational DVDs, PowerPoint, TV enlightening series, YouTube, and other web-based materials are very few models. The overall media helps don't simply help messes with developing genuine areas of fortitude for a base, but it similarly redesigns a teacher's ability to present the representation in clear, strong, and direct way. Fluctuating media material makes learning enduring since students use more than one sense. These days, the educating educational experience has changed its face with heaps of new act of spontaneities and enhancements. The most utilized general media helps are the new age brilliant classes which incorporates slides, yet they are additionally planned with course books (Kosslyn, 2011).

Art Corner & Outdoor Educational Facilities

Kids are regularly curious. From the second they manage their limbs; fluctuating media material make learning more enduring since students use more than one sense. Pictures, slides, radios, accounts, cheat sheets, toys and different other fluctuating media tools are used by tutors and enablers to educate efforts. This tremendous number of instruments

are used to foster both energies of hearing and the impression of sight for the most part improvement of young person (Suswati, 2007). Craftsmanship is a brand name movement to help this with free playing in kids. Chance to control various materials in trademark and unstructured way contemplates assessment and trial and error. These creative activities and free valuations are fun, yet instructive as well. Workmanship grants youth to practice wide extent of capacities that are useful eternally, yet moreover for learning (Anderson, 2014). While considering outside instructive offices for new/existing offices, it assists with articulating the school's instructive program prior to inspecting the particular informative goals of the individual divisions and employees. Albeit ecological training is most often connected with outside learning in the United States, there are many sorts of instructive, sporting, and interactive abilities that might be effectively educated outside. The open-air instructive offices thus incorporate play region, field excursion and clear water as examined underneath (Albert, 2007).

Play Area

The school jungle gym gives a protected outside climate inside school that invigorates youngsters to involve their imaginative energy in solid communications with each other. The most captivating schools generally have huge, open jungle gyms with fascinating play gear that leaves numerous choices for innovativeness. Kids sit at their study hall work area for a long time every day. They are given in the middle between where they go outside to the jungle gym. The way in to these jungle gyms is decision: utilize play gear, run on the field, work out with rope, play b-ball, or make another game to challenge companions. A decent jungle gym will be huge with various surfaces (blacktop, grass, sand, and so forth) to invigorate decision and leave choices open (Martin, 2011). The jungle gyms should be open and outside, however they should likewise be disconnected so the youngsters (and their folks) have a good sense of reassurance and don't need to think about the rest of the world. A decent jungle gym will consider anybody on the jungle gym to see all that is continuing yet won't have any associations or perceivability to the road or any area off school grounds.

Simultaneously, it ought to appear to be open and roomy. In this regard, few high dividers are fundamental, however involving the school structures as limits too can save the open sensation of the jungle gym (Story, 2006). Schools give an indispensable setting to the advancement of active work through numerous roads including actual training classes, extra-curricular games, break, supporting local area drives and declaring fitting strategies. A very much planned field outing can unite everything: join at least two subjects while offering assortment of learning styles and insights, incorporate human expression, boost low-pay and English language student understudies to make associations between local area assets and valuable open doors and their family and culture. Recognized requirement for proper active work arrangements, hardships in execution are obvious. In spite of fact that reviews have shown that school action strategies truly do impact actual work levels,

scarcely any inspections have used objective strategy for actual work evaluation or actual wellness (Lee, 2007).

Field Trip

Field trips are being dispensed with from school locale's spending plans. Educators are confined by the tensions from regions to show curricular outcomes and to cover content in study halls allowing for out-of-school journeys. The operations of test plans, finding a substitute instructor, transport and fuel expense and offsetting educational program needs with involved exercises frequently leaves educators. Field trips are many times seen as extra-curricular exercises and accordingly, are simple details to cut (Berkely, 2014). Thus, educators and understudy's promoter and review demonstrate that field trips are a vital part of school guidance; they widen the instructive experience and make the subject more significant. Understudies may be great at recollecting the things yet they frequently don't make the association except if they experience it firsthand. Field trips associate spots for understudies by giving genuine encounters linked with every substance region (Jeynes, 2010). Thus, field trips enhance and grow the educational program, reinforce perception abilities by submerging youngsters into tactile exercises, increment kids' information in the specific branch of knowledge and information to extend youngsters' consciousness of their own local area.

Furthermore, everybody you talk with has field trip memory. An emphasis on expressions mixes and venture-based learning trains understudies to investigate certifiable issues and difficulties. Dynamic and drawn in learning moves understudies to get a more profound information regarding matters they are considering and permits them to perceive how thoughts are associated. Showing in such a logical way advances coordinated effort, and information maintenance (Stobart, 2012). The best field outings can bring two apparently inconsequential universes together. Kids from enormous urban communities not grasp a numerical statement about animals, crops, and different staples of the rustic experience on the grounds that the understudies center around the jargon, get befuddled, and skirt the inquiry. Tram stops, tolls, lifts, these often-utilized terms put in numerical test question can obstruct the principal thought and keep an understudy from replying (Arabaci, 2009). These encounters permit all taking part to accomplish scholarly exhibition in all branches of data not simply human expression. Kids need indispensable part of school guidance, while perhaps not exclusively to further develop test scores, yet to feel, see, contact, and even taste this present reality around them. What's more, that is rather you can get from a field trip (Raffe, 2013).

Clean Water

There are two kinds of wellsprings of the drinking water for schools for example improved and unchanged. The improved are "channeled water sources" and does not really derive wellbeing. The superior sources used as a piece of schools are channeled water structures,

motor siphons/ass siphons and hand siphons. Water siphons used as a piece of schools could be motorized or hand siphons. Automated siphons integrate; turbine siphons and spiral siphons (usually called borehole). These siphons are restored with power (Greene, 2012). Designing used as piece of hand siphons is fast debilitating from schools where power is open because it's a shallow profundity development (presented at a profundity of 20-40 feet) and likewise the water is overall sullied and changes taste. Hand siphons are simply presented as the choice wellspring of water. For schools with typical enrolment of 250 students hand siphon is certainly not pragmatic wellspring of water. Wellspring of water in primary schools should preferably be improved/got source fitted with motorized siphon and the partition from the source to the ordinary reason for use should ideally not be long (Sorenson, 2011).

The genuine measure of water required will depend upon different factors, for instance, environment, kind of water use workplaces and neighborhood water use drills. Drinking water should be open all through the school day and kids asked to drink it, since even parchedness diminishes young people's ability to think and may hurt their prosperity in long stretch. In schools without a protected drinking source, youngsters and staff might have to pass their drinking water with them on to school. The fundamental measure of water that should be open for day schools should be 5 liters for each student for each day for all students and staff. Extra measures of water that should be open for day schools for flush latrines should be 10 to 20 liters for each person for each day for flush latrines, while for unfortunate flush can should be 1.5 to 3 liters (Sibley, 2013). Availability of framework doesn't personal that it is fittingly working or used by the objective recipients except if it is really worked and kept up. Reasons behind non-working of water workplaces in schools might consolidate nonappearance of an upkeep game plan, perpetual power outage with no care power supply to electric siphons, excess of clients for few taps, blasted taps and so on (Sawyers, 2014).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The aim of this study was to analyze the educational facilities provided to early childhood education in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K). The present research study was descriptive in nature and quantitative in approach and survey method was applied to conduct the study on early childhood education in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K). All the two hundred sixty (260) teachers working in the government primary schools of the Kotli, Azad Jammu and Kashmir were the population of the study. The researcher used Universal sampling technique for the selection of the sample because the sample size was quite manageable that is why the researcher used this sampling technique. A questionnaire was used as a research instrument to collect data from the primary school teachers of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K). Five-point Likert scale was used for obtaining the response from the respondents.

The questionnaire was validated from three educational experts of the Department of Education, University of Kotli AJ&K. The researcher conducted pilot testing to check the accuracy and usability of the instrument. Thus, for pilot study, researcher distributed the questionnaire among 20 female primary school teachers. The researcher incorporated at the points raised by the participants of pilot testing. The reliability of the instrument was checked by Cronbach's alpha statistical technique. The reliability of the instrument was found 0.89 which means that the questionnaire was appropriate and can be used for conducting the final survey. The researcher collected the data personally from the nearest areas of AJ&K and for the collection of data from far flung areas the researcher got the help from colleagues and fellows. researcher used Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) for analysis of data. The researcher applied mean, frequency, and percentage for the analysis of data.

RESULTS OF STUDY

Indoor Educational Facilities

Table 1 Analysis of Painting Walls

SN	Statements	N	Mean
1	Painting walls promote the creativity of children	260	3.73
2	Painting walls help the children to explore color	260	3.95
3	Painting walls help the children to express their emotion	260	4.15

Table 1 shows mean scores of painting walls. The table further described that mean score of Painting walls promote the creativity of children; N=260, M=3.73, Painting walls help the children to explore color; N=260, M=3.95 and Painting walls help children to express their emotion; N=260, M=4.15. Furthermore, results directed that Painting walls help the children to express their emotion has the highest mean score in indoor education facilities provided to ECE education.

Table 2 Analysis of AV Aids

SN	Statements	N	Mean
1	AV aids helps children to remember concept for longer period	260	4.00
2	AV aids develop attention of students to focus in learning	260	4.06
3	AV aids provides opportunities for effective communication	260	3.96

Table 2 shows the mean scores of AV aids. The table further illustrated that mean score of AV aids helps children to remember concept for longer period; N=260, M=4.00, AV aids develop care of students to focus in learning; N=260, M=4.06 & AV aids offer chances for effective communication; N=260, M=3.96. Besides, results specified that AV aids provides opportunities for effective communication has highest mean score in indoor education facilities provided to ECE education.

Table 3 Analysis of Art Corner

SN	Statements	N	Mean
1	Art develops motor skills in the children	260	4.06
2	Art builds the children's self-esteem	260	4.12
3	Art increases the children's artistic knowledge	260	4.29

Table 3 shows the mean scores of art corner. The table further described that mean score of Art develops motor skills in the children; N=260, M=4.06, Art builds the children's self-esteem; N=260, M=4.12 and Art increase children's artistic knowledge; N=260, M=4.29. Furthermore, the results showed that Art increase the children's artistic knowledge has the highest mean score in indoor education facilities provided to ECE education as per results of current study.

Outdoor Educational Facilities

Play Area

Table 4 Analysis of Art Corner

SN	Statements	N	Mean
1	Play area encourage creativity in children	260	3.79
2	Play area facilitates physical exercise for children	260	4.19
3	Art increases the children's artistic knowledge	260	4.11

Table 4 shows mean scores of art corner. The table further represented that mean score of Play area encourage creativity in children; N=260, M=3.79, Play area facilitates physical exercise for children; N=260, M=4.12 and Play area decrease the stress of children; N=260, M=4.11. Furthermore, the results directed that Play area facilitates the physical exercise for children has the highest mean score in the indoor education facilities provided to the ECE education.

Table 5 Analysis of Clean Water

SN	Statements	N	Mean
1	The access of clean water is easy for all children	260	3.25
2	Clean water is vital nutrient that keeps children mind strong	260	4.46
3	Clean water maintains the hydration of children	260	4.07

Table 5 shows mean scores of Clean Water. The table further illustrated that mean score of the access of clean water is easy for all children; N=260, M=3.25, Clean water is important nutrient that keeps children's mind strong; N=260, M=4.46 and clean water maintains the hydration of children; N=260, M=4.11. The results indicated that clean water is important

nutrient that keeps children’s mind strong has highest mean score in the indoor education facilities provided to ECE education.

Table 6 Analysis of Field Trip

SN	Statements	N	Mean
1	Field trip strengthen the observation skills of children	260	4.28
2	Field trip expand children's awareness of own community	260	3.83
3	Field trip improve the fitness of children	260	4.30

Table 6 shows the mean scores of art corner. The table further demonstrated that mean score of Field trip strengthen the observation skills of children; N=260, M=3.79, Field trip expand the children's awareness of their own community; N=260, M=3.83 and Play area decrease stress of children; N=260, M=4.11. Furthermore, the results revealed that Field trip improve the fitness of children has highest mean score in indoor education facilities provided to ECE education.

DISCUSSION

The major aim of the study was to examine the educational facilities provided to early childhood education in Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K). The result of study was found that painting walls with diverse colors enhance the esthetical sense of children. Moreover, use of AV aids in ECE classroom attract children towards learning. Similar study by [Borman \(2011\)](#) found that use of modern technologies at ECE level promote the learning abilities and interest in the children. In this linking, the result of another study presented by [Suswati \(2014\)](#) revealed that the use of digital devices in ECE classrooms enhance learning capacity of the students. The result of the current study also indicated that the co-curricular activities and field trips motivate the children towards learning. In this connection, [Omar \(2011\)](#) found that field trips for the children of ECE level are very helpful to develop the creativity in the learners.

In addition to this he also found that co-curricular activities provide healthy environment with respect to physical health of students and to create interest level in children. Another study conducted by [Kosslyn and Carano \(2016\)](#) comparable to the result of the current study. He found that educational facilities like the provision of AV aids, field trips and co-curricular activities makes significant effect on academic achievement of early childhood level children. Another study led by [Nazir, Shah and Zamir \(2021\)](#), stated that academic facilities, sports facilities and learning environment are vital in early childhood education. [Bano, Akhter and Anjum \(2013\)](#) conducted study and concluded that satisfaction level of early childhood students about educational facilities and opportunities provided at schools was bit less than average. This shows that needs of early childhood students are neglected at the school level.

CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that painting walls promote the creativity of children, help the children to explore color, express their emotion and to remember the concept for longer period. Also, AV aids develop attention of students to focus in learning and provides chances for effective communication. Additionally, art develops motor skills, self-esteem and increase the children's artistic knowledge. Thus, the present study provides significant information in attaining the answers of the research questions and reaching the desired conclusion. It is concluded that play area encourage creativity in children, facilitates physical exercise for children and decrease the stress of children. Field trip strengthen the observation skills of children, expand the children's awareness of their own community and improve fitness of children. It is concluded that the access of clean water is easy for all children. Moreover, the clean water is important nutrient that keeps children's mind strong and maintains the hydration of children.

Recommendations

1. Trained teachers may be hired for ECE children to enhance the quality of the ECE program in AJ&K. Trained teachers for early childhood education may develop their skills through training and skills.
2. Teachers may practice transitioning between two different seating arrangements so students can make a quick change to better meet needs of the learning experience. By mixing and matching the arrangements may find a way to meet the needs of all students.
3. Educational leadership may be aware of the government providing missing facilities in public and private school. Special teams of educational experts may be formed to make surprise visits of both private and public schools.

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