

Few Aspects of Government Primary School Environment at Hathazari Upazilla of Chittagong

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Abstract

School health environment is very important for school students. To observe existing school environment we conducted the study. A total of 11 government primary school of hathazari upazilla were studied to observe about few aspects of school environment. The study was conducted during first week of May, 2012. Purposively selected primary schools were physically surveyed by the investigators. The result was as follows: Average students 373, average teachers 8.73 and average staffs were 0.45. Average school area was 23 decimal and average floor space was 2230 sft. 82% schools were provided with tube wells and 100% school had toilet facilities. Only 18% schools provided mid-day meal. Electricity was connected with all schools. Cleanliness was satisfactory in 55% schools and 82% schools were found fenced. There was gap between standard and existing facilities. So, it should be minimized.

Key words: Health environment; health program; comprehensive health care.

INTRODUCTION

School environment is one of the important components of school health program. Main objective of school health program is to provide comprehensive health care to school students in order to prepare them for entry into adulthood¹. Other components are screening and periodic check up of students, training of school teachers and staffs etc.

Environment is the centre point of health and disease. Students stay at school for 6-8 hours in a day. So, school environment deserves utmost importance in context of health and disease of school students. To observe into the matter we had under taken the subject.

This study will be able to focus into the problems of school environment so that competent authority can take effective measures to solve the problems and thus health of school students will be significantly improved.

MATERIALS & METHODS

It was a cross sectional type of observational study. 11 government primary schools were purposively selected. A pre-tested check list was used to collect data. Trained medical students collected data. Data was managed manually. Managed data was presented with tables.

Observation and presentation

The results were as follows: Average students 373 (range 192-665), average teachers 8.73 (range 6-12) and average staffs were 0.45 (range 0-2). Average school area was 23 decimal (range 22-33 decimals) and average floor space was 2230 square foot (sft) (range 1800- 3200 sft). Mid-day meal was provided in 18% schools only. Eighty two percent schools were provided with tube wells and 100% school had toilet facilities. Electricity was connected with all schools. Cleanliness was satisfactory in 55% schools and 82% schools were found fenced.

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Table 1: Few aspects of primary school environment at hathazari upazilla

Aspects	Quantity
Average students	373
Average teachers	8.73
Average staffs	0.45
Average school area	23 decimals
Average floor space	2230 sft.
Mid-day meal	18%
Availability of tube well	82%
Availability of toilets	100%
Electricity connection	100%
Fencing	82%
Satisfactory cleanliness	55%

Source: survey report, 2012

DISCUSSION

Uniformity was absent in different aspects of school environment. Teacher, student and staffs were not proportionate. In some schools there was gross disparity between teacher student ratios. Average teacher student ratio was 1:43. No auxiliary staff (MLSS) was found in 45% of schools. Playground was found significantly small. It was average $\frac{1}{3}$ of the minimum requirement i.e 16 decimals. Playground should be $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 acre. Safe drinking water is a dire need but 18% schools were lacking of safe source. Toilet facilities were found disproportionate in respect of student number. All schools were connected with electricity but load shedding was observed in 45% schools. General cleanliness was not satisfactory in 45% schools. No auxiliary staff was there. Fencing must be there in every school particularly main road side schools though 18% schools were lacking of fencing. Due to scarcity of recent study on school environment we could not validate our study results.

CONCLUSION

Good environment is the prime factor for good health. So, it should be according to the standard one. Competent authority should take necessary measures to solve the existing problems of school environment.

DISCLOSURE

All the authors declared no competing interest.

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