

Outdoor Classroom Activities and its Effect on Secondary School Students Behaviors

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Abstract

Critical thinking skills in children will not only sharpen brain but it will also help us in finding practical solutions to any type of problems that might occur in the course of life. Classroom activities do help us in developing the critical thinking skills. However, numerous activities are outdoor classroom in nature. This paper investigated seven kinds of outdoor classroom activities which have most influences on learning environments practices; School library activates, Newspaper, Touring, Science club, Life Skills, Sports, and Drama activates. The purpose of this study is to answer the question; to what extent that the outdoor classroom activities effect the secondary school students behaviors? A questionnaire has been used to collect the data form 2012-2013 Karari district secondary school teachers at the Khartoum. The study conclude that outdoor classroom activities can benefit student's behaviors of all ages and can be successful in a variety of settings.

Keywords

Outdoor classroom Activities, School library activates, Newspaper activates, Touring activates, Science club, Life Skills activates, Sports activates, Drama activates.

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1- Introduction

Education has a fundamental role to play in personal, social, economical and political development. While education is an ongoing process of improving knowledge and skills, it is also a means of bringing about personal development and positive relationship among individuals, groups and nations and reducing power and wealth disparities both within and among countries. Basic education is recognized as a fundamental cornerstone for the development of less-developed countries though investment in higher education.

Outdoor learning is a vital element in a young person's development and educational experience. It is a wide term that includes such things as outdoor play in the early years, environmental education, expeditions, field trips, and so on. Outdoor learning is about releasing teaching and learning from the constraints of the classroom walls. ICT can be of real assistance by providing highly mobile and easy-to-use ways of exploring, recording, and reviewing outdoor learning.

Rickinson, Dillon, et,al, (2004) mentioned that the best outdoor learning research review produced to date by a federal education agency. Argues that due to increased concerns about risk and liability and increasing full school curricula, outdoor learning is increasingly difficult to organize, with fewer opportunities available to students and that policy makers need to respond pro-actively. The outdoors classroom has always been a crucial part of the schools which help teachers to realize that it can be a very powerful learning environment as well as a place for exercise and play.

2- Literature Review

House of Commons (2005) argue that like all educational processes, the benefits of education outside the classroom should be rigorously researched, documented and communicated. Positive and reliable evidence of the benefits of outdoor activities would help schools determine the priority to afford to such work. Outdoor learning studies are categorized as focusing on field work, outdoor adventure, and school grounds/community programs. Finds that there is generally good support that outdoor learning has positive impacts on school students. Makes useful recommendations for theory/research, policy and practice (Rickinson, Dillon, etal, (2004). The outdoor classroom is a world full of opportunities for learning, creating and exploring.

The outdoor classroom ties in to curriculum, supports state academic standards, and provides real-world application for standardized tests and textbooks. Engaging with other professionals, teachers can plan to teach outdoors, smoothly integrating the outdoor classroom into each day, week, month,

or season (PWLC). Educators have used the outdoors for teaching, gardening, and physical education for more than 100 years. Outdoor learning will begin to seem as strange as the never used "indoor learning Cheryl Wagner and Douglas Gordon, Hon. AIA (2010). And as St. Vincent's Family Service Center (2009) they mentioned that the new outdoor classroom gives our children a place to commune with nature.

3- Methodology

The method used in this study is the descriptive analytical method to describe the outdoor classroom activities and its effect on secondary school student's behaviors, and questionnaires have been distributed for sample of (121) 2013-2014 Karari districts secondary schools teachers at Khartoum the capital city of Sudan. After finishing collecting the data the researcher has analyzed it using the SPSS program, finding mean, standard deviation, valuation, -Test, and the Indication level at 0.05.

4- Findings

4-1- School library Activities

The following table present and discuss the school library activities result and explain the teachers responding for the questionnaire items.

Table NO (1)

<i>Items</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>S.D</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>T-Test</i>	<i>Indication level at 0.05</i>	<i>Deduction</i>
<i>1. Improving Students reading understanding</i>	2.6500	.74516	.01	3.901	mark	<i>Agree</i>
<i>2. Language level enhancement</i>	2.7000	.73270	.01	4.273	mark	<i>agree</i>
<i>3. Attitudes and values creation</i>	2.3000	.97872	.186	1.371	Non-mark	<i>Agree</i>
<i>4. help student gaining reading skills</i>	2.6500	.74516	.01	3.901	mark	<i>Agree</i>
<i>5. improve speaking skills</i>	2.5000	.88852	.021	2.517	mark	<i>Agree</i>

From the above table (1) we notice that the school library is very active in the educational process by helping Improving Students reading understanding, Language level enhancement, help student gaining reading skills, and improve speaking skills. And all get agree from the respondents,

it's also clear that the school library help to increase the attitude and value creation has got non mark.

4-2- Newspaper Activities

The following table (2) present the newspaper group activities items and the result of the data analysis.

Table NO (2)

<i>No</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>S.D</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>T-Test</i>	<i>Indication level at 0.05</i>	<i>Deduction</i>
1. help students to transform an information and research	2.5000	1.05131	.047	2.127	mark	Agree
2. hand writing enhancement	2.3000	1.12858	.249	1.189	Non-mark	agree
3. help students to choose meaningful topics	2.6000	.94032	.01	2.854	mark	Agree
4. help student to build good projects	2.5000	.94591	.03	2.364	mark	Agree

Form the above table (2), it is clear that the newspaper activities is very important in the educational process which can help student to transform an information and research, hand writing enhancement, help students to choose meaningfully topics, and help student to build good projects.

4-3- Touring Activities

The following table (3) present the effect of the touring activities on the students behavior from the analysis of the teachers views.

Table NO (3)

<i>No</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>S.D</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>T-Test</i>	<i>Indication level at 0.05</i>	<i>Deduction</i>
1help students to get real experiences for nature.	2.5000	1.05131	.047	2.127	mark	Agree
2work field practice for courses	2.5500	.94451	.017	2.604	mark	agree
3. students relaxation	2.3000	1.17429	.267	1.143	Non-mark	Agree
4help student to memorize knowledge	2.1500	1.22582	.591	.547	Non-mark	Undecided
5. build positive attitude toward the school	2.2500	1.20852	.367	.925	Non-mark	Agree
6. useful learning media	2.0500	1.23438	.858	.181	Non-mark	Undecided
7. help students to understand their identity	2.1500	1.22582	.591	.547	Non-mark	Undecided

Form the above table (3) it is very clear that the touring activities have a good degree on improving the educational process for students and it's important for helping students to get real experiences for the nature, work field practice for courses, students relaxation, and build positive attitude toward the school.

4-4- Science club Activities

The following table (4) identify the science club activities role on the student's behaviors, and analyze the questionnaire items.

Table NO (4)

<i>No</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>S.D</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>T-Test</i>	<i>Indication level at 0.05</i>	<i>Deduction</i>
<i>1.improving thinking skills</i>	2.4500	1.05006	.070	1.917	Non-mark	<i>Agree</i>
<i>2.improving the attitude for new discovery</i>	2.3000	1.12858	.249	1.189	Non-mark	<i>agree</i>
<i>3. help students to ask the right questions</i>	2.2000	1.05631	.408	.847	Non-mark	<i>Agree</i>
<i>4. help student to use different tools</i>	2.4000	1.09545	.119	1.633	Non-mark	<i>Agree</i>
<i>5. help them to recognize the problem</i>	2.3500	1.18210	.705	.384	Non-mark	<i>Agree</i>

From the above table (4) we notice that the science club activities have got a very high degree on the effect on the student's behaviors which can improving thinking skills, improving the attitude for new discovery, help students to ask the right questions, help student to use different tools, help them to recognize the problem. But the whole items has got non-mark which means that there have been no well use of the science club in the school activities.

4-5- Life Skills Activities

The following table (5) present the life skills activities items and its analysis according to the teacher's point of views on how it can enhance the student's behaviors.

Table NO (5)

<i>No</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>S.D</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>T-Test</i>	<i>Indication level at 0.05</i>	<i>Deduction</i>
<i>1. Improving the ability for working for others.</i>	1.23117	2.4000	.163	1.453	Non-mark	Agree
<i>2. develop students' social abilities</i>	1.26074	1.7000	.301	-1.064	Non-mark	Undecided
<i>3. Help students to serve the community activities.</i>	1.20961	1.9000	.716	-.370	Non-mark	Undecided

Form the above table (5) we notice that the life skills activities is important to help students in improving the ability for working for others. And the whole items has got non-mark which means that there have been no well use of the life skills activities in the school.

4-6- Sports Activities

The following table (6) identify the sports activities role on the student's behaviors, and analyze the questionnaire items.

Table NO (6)

<i>No</i>	<i>mean</i>	<i>S.D</i>	<i>Valuation</i>	<i>T-Test</i>	<i>Indication level at 0.05</i>	<i>Deduction</i>
<i>1. strengthening the heart</i>	2.3000	1.26074	.301	1.064	Non-mark	Agree
<i>2. healthy body and brain</i>	2.2500	1.25132	.383	.893	Non-mark	agree
<i>3. supporting the body characteristics</i>	2.3000	1.26074	.301	1.064	Non-mark	Agree
<i>4. help students to get positive attitude</i>	2.1000	1.29371	.733	.346	Non-mark	Undecided

From the above table (6) we notice that the sport activities have got a high degree on the effect on the student's behaviors which can strengthening the heart, help students to get healthy body and brain, and supporting the body characteristics. But the whole items has got non-mark which means that there have been no well use for the sport activities in the school.

4-7- Drama Activities

The following table (7) present the effect of drama activities on the educational process and students behaviors from the analysis of the teacher responses.

Table NO (7)

No	mean	S.D	Valuati on	T-Test	Indication level at 0.05	Deductio n
1.help students to understand the course	2.5500	.94451	.02	2.604	mark	agree
2. .help students to build self-confidence	2.7500	.78640	.01	4.265	mark	Agree
3. improving students courage	2.9000	.44721	.01	9.000	mark	Agree

From the above table (4) we notice that the drama activities have got a very high degree for the effect on the student's behaviors which can help students to understand the courses, help them to build self-confidence, and improving student's courage.

5- Discussion

The school library has a unique responsibilities within a school. It is not a classroom, and yet it is a place where all students are required to spend time. Library club activities may be voluntary, it is very active in the educational process by helping Improving Students reading understanding, Language level enhancement, help student gaining reading skills, and improve speaking skills.

Newspaper in a classroom or home can support the child's language, literacy, critical thinking, and character development. Further, it can stimulate an interest in current events, support the development of civic understanding, stimulate independent reading, and support the pursuit of interests and hobbies. Newspapers can reinforce, enrich, and extend content taught in every subject. Finally, through the use of newspapers, students find relevance in the content that they are learning at school. The real-world connection supported by the use of newspapers helps students understand the importance of the information that they are learning. Newspapers provide wonderful resources to supplement textbooks, trade books and other instructional resources.

For students and teachers looking for an engaging and educational fun on their student tour of any places is very important for revolutionary reactions amongst students as they engage with science, engineering, technology, and mathematics. So touring activities are very helpful on improving the educational process for students, important for helping students to get real experiences for the

nature, work field practice for courses, student's relaxation, and build positive attitude toward the school.

Are your students excited to get a hands on some lab equipment and start creating chemical reactions themselves? Science club activities have got a very high degree on the effect on the student's behaviors which can improving thinking skills, improving the attitude for new discovery, help students to ask the right questions, help student to use different tools, help them to recognize the problem.

Successful adults aren't born that way. Rather, children have to be mentored into becoming proverbial "useful and productive members of society." Exercising good judgment as an adult has to start by building life skills from an early age. Parents, teachers and mentors who encourage the development of life skills will be proud when children grow up into adults who contribute to the overall good of humanity. The life skills activities is important to help students in improving the ability for working for others. For example; Adults who have a knowledge-deficit about tools can't do the simplest things such as tightening down a loose door knob because they don't know how to use a screwdriver. The only way to prevent this is by teaching tool use early in life. The antiquated stereotype of only boys knowing how to use tools is an outdated mode of thinking; tool use should be taught to both boys and girls. Obtain a tool box, and fill it with safe age-appropriate tools such as toy wrenches and screwdrivers with large nuts and bolts. Later, introduce hammers and nails. Teach children proper safety procedures, such as keeping hands away from the nail head while pounding the hammer.

Good weather draws everyone outdoors, regardless of the season. Younger children naturally adventure outside for playtime, while older children usually gravitate toward more focused activities including team and individual sports. No matter their age, it's important for children to use their imaginations and explore their interests when they spend time outside. It's also a good idea for them to make the most of their time outside by getting valuable exercise. Children can get cardiovascular exercise by walking, jogging, or running, but races add excitement and help children increase their speed and agility. So sport activities can strengthening the heart, help students to get healthy body and brain, and supporting the body characteristics.

Drama activities can help students work as team, and the teamwork activities which students can get it when they are working out of the classroom might be helpful in the classroom provide them a chance to work together and to work on their communication skills. Some of these activities also teach patience and planning. Teamwork builds trust, cooperation, and problem-solving skills. Most

importantly, it builds character, and teaching it to children at a young age makes them stronger people.

6- Conclusion

Education outside the classroom describes school curriculum learning, other than with a class of students sitting in a room with a teacher and books. It encompasses course field trips and searching for insects in the school garden, as well as indoor activities like observing stock control in a local shop, or visiting a museum. It is a concept currently enjoying a revival because of the recognition of benefits from the more active style. Outdoor education has been found more beneficial to those students who find classroom learning more challenging, and it works best where it is well integrated into school structures, in relation to both curriculum and logistics (for example, the organization of timetables and supply cover where necessary). Outdoor classroom activities can benefit students' behaviors of all ages and can be successful in a variety of settings. So much activity goes on here all year round and the secondary schools students can get involved as much as they want.

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