

**IC - (20857) - THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STUDENT'S PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

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**Background and objectives**

Research has demonstrated the impact of a range of environmental variables on students within learning environments. However, studies focusing on the impact of the 'whole school environment' are relatively rare. At the same time, education research has demonstrated the importance of variables such as socioeconomic status, gender and school attendance as predictors of educational achievement. There has been little (if any) research that examines the relative contribution of the school environment and sociodemographic variables on academic achievement.

**Process and methods (for empirical research)**

This study marks the conclusion of a large scale, longitudinal study examining the impact of new secondary school buildings in Scotland. In this paper, we explore how academic achievement relates to students' perceptions of their new school in comparison with established variables such as school attendance and level of socioeconomic deprivation. In addition, we also examined a range of other important variables that could be potential mediating factors between environmental perceptions and academic achievement. These additional variables include: "within school behaviour", learning goals and self-esteem. S5 students (age 15-16) from four different secondary schools completed a questionnaire that measured their perceptions (ratings) of their school environment, their behaviour in school, their learning goals and self-esteem. In addition data on student academic achievement, attendance and level of deprivation was provided by the local Authority. Data for all variables was available for 441 students

**Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)**

A preliminary regression analysis indicates that environmental perception, attendance, deprivation level and gender are all significant predictors of academic achievement

**Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution**

Understanding students' subjective perceptions of their school environment and how these relate to other variables, is important for explaining and enhancing academic achievement. This has rarely been done at the 'whole school environment' level.

**Palavras-chave : School environment, educational achievement**