



The effect of kindergarten buildings in providing an environment supportive of health security for kindergarten children

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Abstract

The study aimed to identify the impact of kindergarten buildings in providing an environment supportive of health security for the kindergarten child. The study population and sample consisted of (120) kindergarten teachers in the city of Najran, Saudi Arabia, who were chosen from government kindergarten institutions in a random manner. The study was conducted during the first semester of the university year (2023/2024). The descriptive approach was used in the study, and a questionnaire was constructed directed to kindergarten teachers to determine the impact of kindergarten buildings in providing an environment supportive of health security for kindergarten children. The questionnaire included 22 items distributed over three areas. The first field included "The reality of kindergarten educational buildings in providing health security for children," the second "Conditions for educational buildings in kindergartens to provide health security for children," and the third "Proposals for providing an environment supportive of health security for kindergarten children in kindergarten buildings." The researchers sought help from previous studies. And specialized experience in the field of child education in building tools, and the results were processed using the SPSS program, and the study resulted in the following results: The reality of kindergarten educational buildings in providing an environment supportive of child health security from the point of view of kindergarten teachers was to a large degree in general, and the study concluded To some suggestions and visions for improving the appropriate equipment in kindergarten institutions to provide a supportive and protective environment for the health security of kindergarten children.

Keywords: health security, supportive environment, kindergarten child, kindergarten buildings.

Introduction

Kindergarten buildings are considered supportive environments for the child, especially with regard to providing health security, in terms of paying attention to the health, safety and security elements of the child. This also lies in providing a place for the child to enjoy his rights and making a safe and supportive environment for his healthy development psychologically, emotionally and cognitively. This environment can be taken care of by providing the necessary components and tools, as well as by qualifying teachers and the administrative structure through education in health aspects and providing appropriate courses in cooperation with health care providers for children in the early childhood stage.

Etman defines kindergarten institutions as an educational institution that carries out recreational activities that work to learn, raise, and care for a pre-school child, aiming to help the child to self-learn, become self-reliant, bear responsibility, and understand that there are rights for others, in addition to developing the child's personality by directing his inclinations, desires, tendencies, and concepts in a constructive manner. In addition, positivity helps him become a useful member of society and includes the age stage from three to 6 years (Etman, 2004). Qenawi also defined it as an educational developmental institution that raises the child, and that its role is an extension of the role of the home and prepares him for regular school, where it provides him with health care, satisfies his needs in an equal way, and provides him with various opportunities for play so that he discovers himself, knows his abilities, and absorbs the culture of his society (Qenawi, 1993, p. 30). Fawzia is the institution that a child who has completed four years of age but not more than six years old joins, and it provides many purposeful activities that seek to achieve the integrated development of the child educationally, psychologically, physically, and socially, and also aims to prepare him for the primary stage (Saeed, 1994, p. 15), while Jad believes It is the social educational institution in which the child spends part of the day in a variety of activities that help him achieve comprehensive development during the age stage approximately between (4-6 years) (Gad, 1988, p. 120). According to the text of the law, an educational system achieves comprehensive and integrated development for children. Pre-basic education cycle (age 4-6 years) and preparing them to join it (Law No. 12 of 1996, 1997, p. 23).

Paying attention to the health security of the child in the early childhood stage is considered one of the axes of development plans of various social, economic and cultural types. The modern era has witnessed the expansion of the map of types of diseases and their spread, and specialists attribute this mainly to new lifestyle patterns and wrong habits, in addition to wrong professional life patterns, which is what It highlights the importance of healthy culture for preventing diseases, promoting health, and improving individuals, by providing them with the information and knowledge necessary to face life's problems, as well as changing their wrong behaviors (Grimes, Al-Bujairi, 2014, p. 283).

Many educators, led by Froebel, called for the importance of green spaces and gardens for children is learning and providing appropriate activities for them, and thus many of the philosophers and educators who succeeded him followed his philosophy and approach. UNESCO emphasized the importance of the appropriate building in which all-learning centers; educational facilities and equipment necessary for the child's learning are available. The presence of appropriate educational corners in kindergarten educational buildings, which contain various appropriate games and activities that help the child acquire various knowledge and skills, and ways of self-learning, is an educational necessity and is required to provide a safe environment for the child that helps him enjoy his rights and develop his various skills.

From this standpoint, the importance of kindergarten buildings is confirmed as an

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educational institution that takes care of children before they enter primary school, and provides them with pedagogical and educational services according to organized scientific methods that help them in normal, integrated growth and provide them with the appropriate environment for healthy and peaceful growth. The kindergarten stage is not a stage for teaching as much as it is a stage for the comprehensive development of the child's senses, inclinations and aptitudes, until the child reaches the primary stage and is ready to learn, and to acquire the experiences prepared for him at this stage. Kindertartens seek to achieve these comprehensive educational goals by creating an environment rich in activities and means distributed in educational corners, and in doing so, it aims to consolidate concepts in children, developing their senses and abilities (Al-Sharif, 2007, p. 4).

Kindergarten buildings and health security for children

The importance of early childhood is due to two considerations. The first is that the first years of children's lives are considered the cornerstone of their development and development throughout their lives. Second, the first years of a child's life constitute an essential stage in the formation of their mental abilities, personality type, and healthy behavior (Rafiq, 2014, p. 12).

Kindertartens work to provide the child with health information through his integration into the kindergarten's activities and daily programs, transferring this information to his extended environment, discussing the health information that the child acquires from his external environment, highlighting the positive information from it, developing it, and employing it in activities in order for the rest of his friends in the kindergarten to learn from it. And linking the concepts of healthy culture with the child's daily experiences and healthy behaviors through the activities and programs provided to them inside the kindergarten, and of course everything that is provided in the kindergarten relates to the availability of the material capabilities related to equipment, capabilities, and activities and the extent of their availability, as well as the extent of the availability of human capabilities. Providing a safe environment characterized by safety requires rooms. Equipped corners help the child practice various activities for research, experimentation, and exploration.

Educational buildings in kindergarten institutions need first aid, which is the initial, immediate and temporary care and attention that a child receives as a result of sudden exposure to an emergency health condition that leads to bleeding, wounds, fractures, fainting...etc., to save his life and until specialized medical care is provided to the child. It is necessary to move the doctor will go to the scene of the accident or transport him to the nearest hospital or medical clinic. The goal of performing first aid is to save the injured person's life first, and to reduce as much as possible the harmful effects of the injury while calling an ambulance at the same time to transfer the injured person as quickly as possible so that his treatment can be completed (Al-Nsour et al. (2012, p. 5), young children may be exposed to many dangers and accidents that may lead to death as a result of serious injuries, burns, drowning and poisoning. This may of course be due to the lack of appropriate material capabilities and appropriate equipment in kindertartens and the reason for the occurrence of accidents may be due to Ignorance and negligence or because of a lack of safety information among those who deal with children.

He reminds educators that the kindergarten location should be far from dangers, tensions, and problems, such as places of pollution and disturbance, such as factories, laboratories, and highways. At the same time, it is close to the children's places of residence, to make them feel reassured and safe (Al-Yateem, 2013; Masoud, 2005), and to provide health security for the children.

The child's healthy environment activities have several links to other parallel activities, such as protecting the environment in which the child is located, including school buildings, adaptation to climate and weather change, primary health care, health care in specialized hospitals, emergency response, disaster risk reduction, school activities and housing

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initiatives, and many other activities, so it became clear that attention should be given to educational buildings for kindergartens, so that problems do not occur to children (Al-Daghistani, 2010, p. 9). As Reuys, 2013 points out, the kindergarten teacher must be keen to attract children to experiment and explore and have a sense of the importance of the health of the environment surrounding them by leaving them to watch, listen, move, and develop their skills, especially fine motor skills and coordination skills (Reuys, 2013).

The study problem:

Childhood studies literature indicates the need for kindergarten buildings to be equipped with appropriate equipment to provide the child with an environment that supports health security. This includes that early childhood institutions primarily ensure freedom of movement for their children, which depends on activity and free, directed play in the learning and teaching process, and stresses the importance of developing their children's abilities. The child through individual and collective work. The presence of children at this age is an event that will not be repeated. The first years of a child's life are considered one of the most important stages of life and the most influential on a person's future. It is a formative stage in which the foundation for his personality is laid and in which he acquires his various habits and patterns of behavior. He is exposed to experiences, relationships, and interactions that have an impact on his future trends. Kindergarten is a small community in which the child lives a normal life closer to the life of a good home. He spends most of his time in free activity under the supervision of specialized supervisors, and the child is provided with opportunities to form sound, healthy, mental, and social habits. In addition, acquiring multiple experiences and different expertise (Diab, 1978, p. 11).

Therefore, the study problem can be formulated in the following question

Study questions:

- 1- What is the reality of kindergarten buildings in providing an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children?
- 2- What are the requirements for kindergarten buildings to provide an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children?
- 3- What are the proposals for developing kindergarten buildings to provide an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children?

Objectives of the study

- Identify the reality of kindergarten buildings in providing an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children.
- Identify the requirements for kindergarten buildings to provide an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children.
- Coming up with proposals to develop kindergarten buildings to provide an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children.

The importance of studying

The importance of the study comes from the fact that the buildings in kindergartens are considered among the environments that support the health security of the kindergarten child in terms of providing security and safety conditions, as well as its presentation of educational proposals in the field of health security in kindergartens, and an attempt to consolidate the concepts of health security for the kindergarten child so that he is able to distinguish between healthy behaviors. Positive and negative, and the proper choice between them, and an attempt to intensify efforts that allow kindergartens to participate with the family to develop health awareness and its great impact on raising a kindergarten child. This study helps kindergartens in activating participation between the family and kindergartens in order to overcome the problems that our children face in developing concepts Health security, as many people interested in early childhood can benefit from the

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results of this study in planning to activate kindergarten programs in the health fields and organize them administratively.

Study Justifications:

- Describe practical practices for developing health security concepts.
- Identifying the attitudes of female teachers regarding the process of their assessment of the building in kindergartens and its role in developing the child's health security, and also educating children about the concepts of health culture with the aim of identifying and strengthening areas of strength and areas of weakness and addressing them, as the success of learning and teaching the concepts of health culture to a kindergarten child depends on the ability and skill of the kindergarten teacher and the extent of The attention that the child receives in terms of guidance and education at this early age.

The limits of the study

The limits of the study are as follows:

Objective limit: Educational buildings for kindergartens and their role in providing a supportive environment for preschool children from the point of view of teacher's awareness for kindergarten children

Spatial limits: Najran city, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Time limits: First semester 2023-2024

Human limits: Kindergarten teachers in the city of Najran

Terminology of study:

Role:

Terminologically: The concept of role refers to a pattern of expected action. It is originally a term borrowed by many sciences through theatre, and it means the mask that an actor wears to perform a role. It is also defined as a pattern of behavior expected of an individual in a specific situation that is determined by the activity he must perform in light of... The prevailing culture in the social entity (Barian, 1425, p. 37) and it is also known as a set of usual methods for doing certain things and accomplishing specific functions in a given social situation (Al-Sharif, 2007, p. 10).

Kindergarten:

There have been many definitions of the concept of kindergartens. Salama believes that they are those educational institutions that are attended by those who have completed four years of age and not more than six years old, as they are provided with many purposeful activities that seek to achieve the integrated development of the child educationally, psychologically, socially, and physically. It also aims to prepare the child for reading. And writing and preparing it for the primary stage (Salama, 1993, p. 50), and Abdel Fattah said that it is the social educational institution in which the child spends part of the day in a diverse activity that helps comprehensive development in the age stage from approximately 4 to 6 years (Abdel Fattah, 1989, p. 20), as Rafiqa defines it as an educational institution that accepts children from three to five years of age, which is a stage that differs from other educational stages and helps the child prepare him to enter the primary stage (Rafiqa, 2014, p. 11), and Hammond mentions that it is: a place that enjoys It has children's time and its activities are fully connected to the core of children's lives and not just a place for routine work.

Health:

Is a noun whose definition in the language, as stated in the Intermediate Dictionary, is derived from (saha) something, saha, saha, and sahaha: that is, innocent of every defect or doubt, and health in the body: a natural state with which its actions take place in the natural course. There is no agreement on a unified definition of health. Some may consider it a person's freedom from diseases and his enjoyment of good health, while others see it as a

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person's compatibility with the surrounding environment, or as a state of integration between the individual's physical and psychological functions, but everyone agrees on its necessity for the individual. And society (Abu Shukair, 2006, p. 23), and the definition of health as stated in the World Health Organization: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity" (World Health Organization 2016 AD,).

Previous studies

- A study (Bendt & Erler, 2013) concluded that the interior design of the kindergarten affects the meaning of the educational process for children by providing equipment for classrooms, open spaces, exploration rooms, safe sanitary facilities, and playrooms, with the need for the kindergarten to be safe.

- Al-Osaimi's study (2016) revealed the level of health literacy among female students of the College of Applied Sciences at Umm Al-Qura University and its relationship to their health attitudes. To achieve that goal, the researcher formulated a set of hypotheses that were tested and verified by preparing two tools to collect data: a test of health concepts, a measure of health attitudes, and The application was carried out on a sample of (519) female students from the College of Applied Sciences at Umm Al-Qura University. One of the most important results that the study reached was the decline in the general level of health literacy among the study sample in the main areas of health concepts. There are statistically significant differences between the averages of achievement of female college students. Applied sciences in the total score of the health literacy test. The study reached a set of recommendations, the most important of which was making use of various media to spread health awareness among segments of society.

-The study (Brandt, 2016) also confirmed the importance of training children in hygiene tasks in kindergartens, as the study aimed to educate children about diseases that may arise through the child's use of the toilet. The study concluded that it is necessary to train children to use the toilet in an atmosphere where flexibility prevails. There should be effective participation between the family and kindergartens, and the study recommended that adults should provide the necessary support to children to develop their knowledge and skills in this health aspect, so that there are effective programs designed to accelerate the success of children learning good health habits.

Study population and sample:

The study population consisted of kindergarten teachers in kindergarten institutions in the city of Najran. The study was implemented during the first semester of the academic year 2023/2024, and consisted of a random sample of kindergarten teachers, numbering (120) teachers.

Study Approach:

The study followed the descriptive analytical approach, which is the approach that is concerned with collecting accurate scientific descriptions of the studied phenomenon, describing the current reality and its interpretations, as well as identifying common practices and determining opinions, beliefs, and trends among individuals and groups. And methods of its growth and development. It also aims to study the relationships existing between different phenomena (Abdel Hafeez, 2000). , s. 84). This is through the kindergarten teachers' evaluation of the kindergarten buildings and their role in providing a supportive environment for the kindergarten child.

Study tools:

The researchers developed the study tools (questionnaire) after reviewing the information related to them and related studies, and based on the information available to the researchers; they prepared the questionnaire in its final form. The number of paragraphs in

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it reached (22) paragraphs, and the extent of its suitability was taken into account in constructing the questionnaire. Since the study is descriptive, the researcher tried to diversify the method of statistical treatment, as the researcher used the SPSS program to convert the non-parametric values (yes - no) into parametric values that can be compared. He calculated the range of the mean, the standard deviation, and the degree of practice. The average range from 1 to 1.66 is weak in practice. As for the average from 1.67 to 2.32, its practice is actually achieved as moderate, while the average from 2.33 to 3 is calculated as great practice. To answer the study questions, arithmetic means, standard deviations for each item of the scale, and percentages were extracted.

Stability of study tools:

Table No. (1) shows the significance of the reliability of the study tool (questionnaire for kindergarten teachers) regarding the evaluation of the kindergarten building and its course in providing health security for the kindergarten child, and the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was used. Data derived from the total sample were used, and the following are data for reliability coefficients:

Aspects of the questionnaire	Number of items	Number of participants	Reliability coefficient
		Kindergarten teachers	Kindergarten teachers
The reality of kindergarten buildings in providing an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children	8	120	0.847
Requirements for kindergarten buildings to provide an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children	7	120	0.744
Proposals to develop kindergarten buildings to provide an environment supportive of health security for kindergarten children	7	120	0.885

Table one before shows that values of Alpha- Cronbach indicate a high degree of internal consistency, which, in turn proves that the scale contains high degrees of reliability significance.

Statistical treatment

Since the study was descriptive, the researcher tried to vary in the ways of statistical treatments. He used SPSS program to change non- parametric values (yes- no) into parametric ones that could be compared and contrasted. He worked out the mean's range and the practice degree. For example the practice whose mean ranged from 1.00 – 1.66 was described weak, the practice whose mean ranged from 1.67- 2.32 was considered moderate, whereas the practice whose mean was between 2.33 and 3.00 was classified very strong. Finally, to answer the questions of the study mean scores, percentages, and standard deviations for all items of the study scale were worked out separately.

Results of the study

Table 2: means and standard deviations of the reality of kindergarten buildings in providing an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children

The reality of kindergarten buildings in providing an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children	Responses of kindergarten teachers teacher (N.=120)		
	Mean	Std.	Rank Practice degree
1. Security and safety conditions are met in the kindergarten buildings for children	2.42	0.915	high
2. Kindergarten buildings are designed for child safety and preservation	1.75	0.821	Moderate
3. The kindergarten building is very suitable for children and the sun enters it	2.48	0.882	High

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4.	Toilets are cleaned constantly to maintain the health of the child	2.39	0.929	High
5.	The kindergarten has comfortable halls to maintain the child's health	2.48	0.882	High
6.	The size of the halls is suitable for the number of children and provides them with a suitable space to play	1.81	0.989	Moderate
7.	The location of the kindergarten building is suitable and provides fresh air	2.44	0.928	High
8.	The building is designed for kindergarten children to play and discover	2.46	0.929	High

Looking at Table No. (2), we find that the weighted arithmetic averages of the sample members' responses to the items in this field ranged between (2.48-1.81), which is a moderate to large arithmetic average. Which indicates that the equipment of kindergarten buildings is necessary and important to maintain the health security of the child in the kindergarten, both in the design of the building and that these things are actually currently practiced inside the kindergarten buildings in terms of the integrated equipment of the rooms, spaces, gardens, and cleanliness of the bathrooms, as well as the location of the kindergarten and the extent of access of the sun and fresh air. In kindergarten many of the answers to the questionnaire items came with a high degree of verification, which means that the kindergarten buildings in the city of Najran are fully equipped with the equipment and material capabilities they contain that contribute to the development of the child's health security. Then the rest of the items presented arithmetic averages to different degrees. Table 3: means and standard deviations Requirements for the kindergarten buildings to provide an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children.

Requirements for kindergarten buildings to provide an environment that supports the health security of kindergarten children	Responses of kindergarten teacher's teacher (N.=120)		
	Mean	Std.	Practice degree
1. The building must be sound and meet health conditions.	2.42	0.915	High
2. The building must be equipped with fire extinguishing equipment.	2.49	0.882	High
3. It is necessary to obtain a certificate from the municipality proving the suitability of the building to operate as a kindergarten.	2.44	0.915	High
4. The building capacity and number of rooms must be proportional to the number of children enrolled in the kindergarten.	2.38	0.928	High
5. It is necessary to divide the spaces, play halls, and facilities in the kindergarten to provide health security for the child.	2.41	0.929	High
6. It is necessary to adhere to specific standards and standards for building design to maintain the health security of the child.	2.45	0.899	High
7. It is necessary to always maintain strict hygiene.	2.50	0.929	High

By analyzing the previous table, we find that the weighted arithmetic averages of the sample responses of female teachers in kindergarten responded to the items in this field. The average ranged between the items (2.38-2.50), which is a large arithmetic average. This indicates that the requirements are required to a great extent when designing the kindergarten building, as well as the necessity of the presence of halls, spaces, and gardens, and the commitment to daily cleanliness of the employees. This undoubtedly contributes to developing and maintaining the health security of the kindergarten child.

In light of calculating the arithmetic mean and standard deviation, it was found that there were no statistically significant differences at the level of significance ($\geq \alpha 0.05$) between the responses of the study sample members towards the phrases in this field. This explains the scores obtained by the phrases in this field and the effect of a good building with its equipment in developing health security for children. Kindergarten.

Table 4: means and standard deviations of the Proposals to develop kindergarten buildings to provide an environment supportive of health security for kindergarten children.

Proposals to develop kindergarten buildings to provide an environment supportive of health security for kindergarten children.	Responses of kindergarten teachers teacher (N.=120)		
	Mean	Std.	Rank Practice degree
1. Providing suitable indoor and outdoor environments for the child in the kindergarten building.	2.43	0.929	High
2. Providing an organized and equipped educational environment to maintain the child's health security	2.49	0.885	High
3. Promoting good health care for children in the kindergarten building.	2.42	0.928	High
4. The educational environment in the kindergarten building must be attractive and comfortable for children to develop their health awareness.	2.46	0.929	High
5. It is necessary to provide appropriate materials and educational experiences for the kindergarten child in the building.	2.48	0.882	High
6. Developing the child's emotional and social skills in the physical environment and the kindergarten building appropriately.	2.47	0.18	High
7. Providing safe spaces to explore experiences and develop their health awareness	2.44	0.928	High

It is clear from the previous table that we find that the weighted arithmetic averages of the sample members' responses to the items in this field ranged between (2.42-2.49), which is a high arithmetic average. This indicates that the proposals mentioned by kindergarten teachers and the requirements regarding the kindergarten building are important for developing the health security of the kindergarten child, as the kindergarten building is a basic foundation for developing the child's health security and the extent of his interaction with members of his group.

In light of calculating the arithmetic mean and standard deviation, it was found that there were no statistically significant differences at the level of significance ($\geq \alpha 0.05$) between the responses of the study sample members towards the statements in this field, which are the requirements required in the kindergarten building.

Conclusions:

In light of the results of the current study, results were reached that are useful in developing the kindergarten building to suit the upbringing, education and care of the kindergarten child. Among the results reached by the study:

- The role of the kindergarten building is necessary to maintain the health security of the child, in terms of the need to consider the spaces, gardens, cleanliness, equipment, supplies and educational corners appropriate for the child.
- The study demonstrated the awareness of kindergarten teachers about the importance of the kindergarten building in influencing the health security of the child.
- The study confirmed the effective role of the kindergarten building from the point of view of teachers in promoting health awareness among kindergarten children because of its positive benefits for the child by taking into account his development and growth.
- The results of the study revealed the positive role of the kindergarten building in terms of

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the presence of a natural and healthy environment that is important for children's growth.

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