

## The Effect of Class Size on Achievement of English students

Hanan Hassan Al Sarraf

Mozah Alhammad

The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training || The higher Institute for Administration Services || Kuwait

**Abstract:** The aim of the research was to study the study to identify the effect of the size of the classroom on the achievement of English language students after secondary school in Kuwait. The researcher used a descriptive approach. The tool was in a questionnaire to measure the degree of practice, which was applied to 50 post-secondary students in Kuwait. The main results of this study were:

- English students receive more individual attention and interact more with the teacher.
- Teachers have more flexibility to use different teaching methods in language proficiency.
- Fewer students are less distracted to each other than a large group of students.
- Teachers have more time to teach English because of fewer discipline problems.
- English students are likely to participate in class and become more involved.

**Keywords:** Classroom size, English, influence.

## تأثير حجم الفصل على تحصيل طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية

موزة الحماد

حنان حسن الصراف

الهيئة العامة للتعليم التطبيقي || المعهد العالي للخدمات الإدارية || الكويت

الملخص: هدف البحث إلى التعرف على تأثير حجم الفصل على تحصيل طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية بالمرحلة بعد الثانوية في دولة الكويت. واستخدم الباحثان المنهج الوصفي. وتمثلت الأداة في استبانة لقياس درجة الممارسة، تم تطبيقها على 50 طالباً من طلاب المرحلة ما بعد الثانوية في دولة الكويت. وكان من أهم نتائج هذه الدراسة الآتي:

- يتلقى طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية المزيد من الاهتمام الفردي ويتفاعلون أكثر مع المعلم.
  - يتمتع المعلمون بمزيد من المرونة في استخدام طرق التدريس المختلفة في إجادة اللغة.
  - أقل عددًا من الطلاب يصرف انتباههم عن بعضهم البعض عن مجموعة كبيرة من الطلاب.
  - يتمتع المعلمون بمزيد من الوقت لتدريس اللغة الإنجليزية بسبب عدد أقل من مشاكل الانضباط.
  - من المحتمل أن يشارك طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية في الفصل ويصبحون أكثر مشاركة.
- الكلمات المفتاحية: تأثير. حجم الفصل الدراسي. تحصيل. طلاب اللغة الإنجليزية.

## INTRODUCTION

The issue of classroom size is a time-consuming issue in the field of education over recent years (Biddle & Berliner, 2002; Glass & Smith, 1979). Where educational institutions in determining the size of the

classroom, according to the local school districts in the study areas, and there are many schools that provide services to students in the appropriate size of the classroom and find this service is available to large income-earners who put their children in their own schools, while there Many public schools today suffer from overcrowding of students, which negatively affects the educational process and creates potentially harmful effects on student learning. (American Educational Research Association, AERA, 2003)

There are many challenges teachers face in the classroom in the first semester, in addition to teaching the curriculum, given a large number of residents of these schools that consist of low-income families. Donnelly (1987) reported that these challenges include a lack of educational support from home, which puts schoolchildren at risk of failure or drop-out. The size of the class is considered one of the main reasons for the low academic achievement of the students. In this sense, the study is interested in the knowledge of the effect of the size of the class on the achievement of English students

### **Study Problem**

It is assumed that the number of students in a class does not exceed 25 students, With the emphasis that in private schools the number of students per class does not exceed 20 students, because of the fewer students in the class, the better the quality of education and the better performance of the teacher. contrary to Dealing With a large slice with individual capacities of varying greatly difficult to deal with them as required.

There are a number of difficulties that the teacher suffers from a large number of students in one class is the chaos and inability to adjust the row in addition to the suffering in correcting the number of student books and activities and choices and examinations accurately, which is a burden and effort and a considerable time deducted from the teacher, unlike if the number of students from 20 to 25 students only, not to mention his inability to deliver information to everyone with different individual differences. As the burden does not fall on the teacher only the student is affected by the excessive number in one row, where chaos prevails and disturbances and other problems in the classroom as a result of the teacher's inability to adjust this number.

The increase in the number of students in one row affects both the student and the teacher at the same time, making the teacher less interested in all students may not distinguish the teacher level of students only through their results in tests and examinations and not the scale of participation and interaction and it is difficult for the teacher, therefore, creativity in teaching methods such as the adoption of competitions and other encouraging Because of the number of students and the lack of class as the student is unable to focus with the teacher because of the number of students and their movements and their collective participation.

Based on the above, and the importance of addressing the impact of the size of the semester on the achievement of English students in Kuwait, so the search seeks to reveal the reality of the impact of the size of the semester on the achievement dimension of students from the perspective of students and teachers

**Study Questions:**

The study problem is determined by the following questions:

- 1- What is the impact of the size of the semester on the achievement of English students in the State of Kuwait from the point of view of teachers?
- 2- What is the impact of the size of the semester on the achievement of English students in the State of Kuwait from the perspective of students?
- 3- What are the problems that result in the size of the semester from the perspective of teachers?
- 4- What are the problems that result in the size of the semester from the perspective of students?
- 5- What is the effect of the number of students in the class on the achievement in the English language in the students of the State of Kuwait schools?

**Objectives of the study:**

The study aims to identify the following:

- 1- Identifying the degree of influence of the size of the semester on the achievement of English students in Kuwait from the point of view of teachers.
- 2- Identifying the degree of influence of the size of the semester on the achievement of English students in the State of Kuwait from the perspective of students.
- 3- Knowing the problems that result in the size of the classroom from the point of view of teachers.
- 4- Know the problems that result in the size of the semester from the point of view of students.
- 5- Access to the number of students in the classroom on achievement in the English language students in the State of Kuwait.

**the importance of the study:**

The need to know the effect of the size of the classroom and the accumulation of students in the classroom are higher than the usual rate of achievement. This is an attempt to reach some of the aspects that may cause a low level of achievement in the English language.

Therefore, the importance of the study can be summarized as follows:

- 1- It shows the impact of the size of the class and the accumulation of students in the classroom on achievement in the English language.
- 2- The results of this study benefit the operators of the educational process
- 3- This study opens the door to studies and other scientific research addressing another aspect that may lead to a low level of achievement of students in English and other subjects.

### **The limits of the study**

- 1- This study was conducted in some students in Kuwait
- 2- This study was carried out in the second semester of 2019 e.
- 3- The sample of the study was limited to post-secondary students in Kuwait

### **Definition of the study:**

**Classroom:** Classroom in which all students in a particular grade (or in a division of a grade) meet at certain times under the supervision of a teacher who takes attendance and does other administrative business. lecture room. the classroom where lectures are given

### **Theoretical framework and literature review**

#### **Reduce the row size**

The broader goal of reducing classroom size as a form of education reform is to increase the number of individual interactions between students and teachers aimed at improving student learning. This reform has been theoretically attractive for a long time to many groups (Hattie, J. 2005). Some have argued that educational reform by reducing numbers within the classroom is the most form of reform studied in the last century. (Biddle, B. J. & Berliner, D. C. 2002) Until recently, analyses of these studies have been the subject of controversy among educational groups such as the American Federation of Teachers and the National Association of Education on reducing classroom sizes, but those who argue that reducing classroom size has little impact on student achievement were interested in costs. (Eric Hanushek, 1999).

"In fact, there are significant impacts on student achievement and these effects are related to reduced classroom sizes, but the same effort on this side does not guarantee success without further attention," says Elizabeth Garage, principal teacher, the increase in funding, the availability of facilities, and the faith of the community or individuals in the region. " (Graue, M. E., Hatch, 2007) Studies show that when students are presented and enrolled in a class of suitable size and wide scope, they enjoy a good educational process and will increase their academic achievement due to the good organization of the institution and attention to the size of the semester. (Biddle, B. J. & Berliner, D. C., 2002)

that all students benefited from lower classes due to greater teacher attention while lower achievers benefited more when reaching secondary school level. Pupils in large classes are too lazy to perform their tasks because of the teacher's many instructions, which guide them to the entire classroom instead of caring for each individual. This is where the greatest impact is on low-achieving students. Students later take advantage of later classes in the few classes in the first grades. Spending longer periods in a few classrooms

results in more achievement in later grades for all students. Low-achieving students benefit more than they do in classrooms with few reading and science numbers. Classes with few numbers of gaps in student achievement in reading and science are reduced in later grades.

### **Problems Created by Overcrowded Classrooms**

Teaching in an overcrowded classroom can be frustrating, overwhelming, and stressful. An overcrowded classroom presents challenges that can feel nearly impossible to overcome, even to the most effective teachers. Increasing class sizes is a sacrifice many schools have to make in order to keep their doors open in an era where schools are underfunded.

- There is not enough of the teacher to go around. Students perform better when the teacher is able to give one on one or small group instruction on a regular basis. As classroom size increases, this becomes increasingly difficult to do.
- Overcrowding increases classroom discipline issues. More students provide more opportunities for personality conflicts, tension, and general disruptive behavior. Even the best teachers find it difficult to manage an overcrowded classroom successfully and can find themselves spending more time managing their classroom than they do teaching.
- Struggling students fall further behind. Average and below average students will struggle all the more to advance in an overcrowded classroom. These students need more direct instruction, one-on-one instructional time, and minimal distractions to maximize their learning potential.
- Standardized test scores suffer. While many teachers would argue that there is an overemphasis placed on test scores especially in America's public schools, the chance of successfully proving proficiency on a standardized test decreases as the number of students in the classroom increases.
- The overall noise level is increased. This is an expected result when you increase the number of students in the classroom. Louder classrooms translate to distractions making it more difficult for students to learn and for teachers to teach.
- Teacher stress is increased often leading to teacher burnout. More students translate to more stress. Many excellent teachers are opting to leave the profession because it is not worth the stresses they deal with on a daily basis.
- Overcrowding leads to less access to equipment and technology. Space is already at a premium for many schools and there often is not enough room to accommodate specialties such as science or a computer lab.

- Lack of personal connections. Most of us have certain teachers who always stand out in our minds as having made a difference in us. Now imagine if you had been in that class with thirty-nine other students. You likely would not have gotten to know each other as well, and the time they were able to invest you individually would have decreased. (Hoxby, C. M., 2000).

#### **District Level Solutions to Overcrowded Classrooms.**

- Make it a last resort. Increasing class sizes should be the last resort for any school district. It should never be a starting point. There are many other ways to trim a budget. If all other options are exhausted, then schools may be forced to RIF (Reduction in Force) teachers and increase class sizes. However, they should immediately be looking for solutions to reduce class sizes back to twenty or fewer students.
- Take advantage of ability grouping. Schools should use benchmark assessments to determine student placement. Class sizes should be kept relatively small for those who perform unsatisfactorily. Students who are strong academically have less to lose in an overcrowded classroom.
- Provide teachers with an aide. Providing a teacher with an aide can help decrease the burden on the teacher. Aides receive a lower salary, so by placing them in overcrowded classrooms, you improve the student/teacher ratios and reduce cost.
- Lobby for more funding. Schools administrators and teachers should regularly lobby their state and local representatives for more funding. They should keep them apprised of issues overcrowding is causing. Administrators can also invite them to spend time at their school so that they can see the impact that overcrowding has.
- Solicit local donations. Private schools are able to keep their doors open due to tuition and to a large extent by soliciting donations. In tough financial times, public school administrators should not be afraid to solicit donations either. Every dollar counts and even garnering enough donations to hire an extra teacher or two each year can make a significant difference.
- Apply for grants. There are thousands of grant opportunities made available to schools each year. Grants exist for almost everything including technology, supplies, professional development, and even teachers themselves. (Dobbelsteen, & Oosterbeek, 2002)

#### **Negative effects of chapter size.**

That there are bad psychological effects caused by overcrowding; because these students can not move or even highlight their efforts in partnership with the teacher, who will not give the student's right to education of (50) students in grade, pointing out that the educational aspect will be a burden on the teacher

and student guide ; Because the numbers accumulated in classes do not allow the large numbers, explaining that all the effects are negative, and sits above that health that will be worse, in light of the spread of infectious viruses very quickly among students.

The educational process will be successful only for the distinguished, because they are ready and prepared for information, the house with the help of their parents, the average and the weak will have an impact on it is clear and clear, as it is supposed to not exceed the number of 25 students in any case in one semester; The student and the teacher to perform his duties. (Grissmer, D., 1999)

The fact that the number of students and students in the classrooms is a problem must be paid attention to the pioneers of education, where their educational impact is characterized by poor concentration and dispersion of efforts. It takes time to understand the importance of the classroom, And the educational impact is undoubtedly the main axis, the teacher cannot develop the skills of students and not take into account individual differences, especially the initial stages, noting that the success of the Educational Maly is relative decreases with the presence of large numbers in the classroom, where the focus of the teacher's focus on the participant or initiator without the other student, who needs help to show his abilities; making it difficult for the teacher to discover the educational, psychological and social problems when the student to force change with time constraints. (Haberman, M. & Larson, R., 1968).

### **literature review**

In a study by Spitzer and Herreth (2014) on the impact of classroom size on achievement in primary schools, in 1904 some research examined the hypothesis of higher behavior outcomes in small classes for the primary stage, including reading tests and language skills, as well as skills Account.

The large classes included 20 or more students and small classes with 29 students and less. To determine the relationship between these classes and their behavior, the averages for both small and large classes were compared. The results showed that the collection of small classes was very small for the large classes, but the difference was statistically insignificant.

Anderson and Frank et al. (2011) also conducted a full-time secondary school experience by a team of mathematics teachers to identify the effect of the magnitude of the act on achievement under special circumstances in terms of the educational level of students in both small and large classes on the basis of choice The student with the high ability in both the large and the small classroom with the same degree, and after the necessary tests in algebra for both the small and large groups, which included 80 students of the large class and 40 students of the small class, the results showed the absence of a statistical team between the small groups and For great.

## **Research plan and procedures**

### **Methodology:**

In this study, the researcher relied on the descriptive approach, which provides an understanding of the study. This method examines the variables of the research as they are in the sample without the researcher having a role in controlling variables.

### **Study Society:**

The study population consists of 3765 students in the State of Kuwait

### **The research sample:**

The research sample included (50) students of post-secondary students in the State of Kuwait and was randomly selected

### **Study variables:**

Independent variable: The independent variable in this study is the size of the semester

The dependent variable in this study is student achievement.

## **Results:**

Reducing the size of the classroom increases the overall achievement of English students, especially those with language difficulties.

Below are some of the benefits of fewer students in the classroom.

- English students receive more individual attention and interact more with the teacher.
- Teachers have more flexibility to use different teaching methods in language proficiency.
- Fewer students are less distracted to each other than a large group of students.
- Teachers have more time to teach English because of fewer discipline problems.
- English students are likely to participate in class and become more involved.
- Teachers have more time to cover additional materials and to use additional texts and enrichment activities.

## **Conclusion**

The problem of overcrowding of students and students is one of the main reasons that harm the educational process, and the general harm to everyone, whether student or teacher, where the density as an



important handicap prevails the ability of teachers and teachers to perform the roles assigned to them as educators, and students in a way that makes it more difficult to receive information and take (45) minutes. This overcrowding comes despite the fact that the High Commissioner has determined the number of students in each semester at a maximum of (30) students for government buildings and (20) students in the rented buildings, budgets allocated for the treatment of z The number of students in large schools and overcrowded neighborhoods is high, but what we see is that one class exceeded 35 students and may reach 40 students. This indicates that there is a disruption in the geographical distribution of schools and the lack of extrapolating the future in the development of new buildings Meet the growing and growing population needs.

### **Recommendations of the study**

- 1- Care to reduce the size of the chapter commensurate with the age and nature of the size of the chapter.
- 2- Be careful to know the impact of the size of the classroom on the educational environment of students.
- 3- Strengthening the role of the family in the selection of schools concerned with the size and potential of the chapter.
- 4- Intensifying the efforts of the state to find alternative schools suitable for the educational environment.

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