Classroom Wall Color Selection at Public Elementary School in Salatiga

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**Abstract**

Indonesian elementary students spent 7-8 hours learning in schools. Mostly, they spent their time inside the classroom do their activities. Learning process needs ideal condition. This condition provides an atmosphere that makes learners feel comfortable and happy to follow the teaching and learning process. Conditions where students can learn comfortably and happily. Learning in inevitably related to the environment. The intended environment is the class and social conditions (interaction) when the learning process happen. Classes have structures that can be manipulated to give students learning facilities in the classroom, namely the color of the wall. Wall’s color can be simulated according to the condition of the students. Color has effect on visual and psychology for students. The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of color that suit to the wall and can be applied to public schools in Salatiga.

**Keywords**: wall color, classroom, environment, elementary school

**INTRODUCTION**

Students in elementary schools in Indonesia spend around 8 hours in school studying and most of them are spent in the classroom. Most interactions occur in the classroom (the process of learning and interaction with friends and teachers). Classroom is a place for children to find and gain knowledge and expertise that will help them later to become good individuals and ready to live their lives. In this case the physical environment in the classroom acts as a silent curriculum, which has the understanding that class design can simplify and enhance the learning process such as an open curriculum (Taylor & Enggass, 2009). The visual environment can affect students' ability to feel visual stimuli and affect mentally (Philips, 1992). There are several factors about environment, they are 1) Ambience factor; temperature, noise, smell, music and lighting, 2) Design Factor; architecture, color, material, interior, texture, and room layout, 3) Social factor; ages, gender, customer, and personnel (Baker & Cameron, 1996)

In addition, children have different need in classroom than adult. Children needs environment that help them feel convenient to study in the classroom. There are things must be considered in designing the class, including lighting, room acoustics, air quality, access, temperature, and class settings. Conventional class structures do not support children to interact with one another but only focus on completing their personal tasks (Grubaugh & Houston, 1990). One of the easiest and often the center of attention is the physical form of the class itself, namely the color of the classroom walls. In designing the classroom, there must be several considerations including considerations regarding: Nature; light, sound, temperature, air quality, relationship with nature, individualization; ownership, flexibility, and connection, stimulation; complexity and color (Barrett et al., 2015). Color in educational context can be divided into personal preferences and functional learning processes.

Color is an impression obtained by the eye from light reflected by objects affected by the light (Nugraha, 2008). Color is also an element that is able to give an impression on the eye towards a form that is psychologically capable of influencing feelings. This is also in accordance with the opinion that colors can affect human emotions and describe moods (Darmaprawira, 2002). Color has a role in helping channel perceptions of an object. Color differences can increase differences in motivation which can later affect performance on cognitive tasks (Mehta and Zhu, 2009). Color with positive associations can lead to increased motivation and color with negative associations can increase motivation aversion (Elliot et al., 2007). Color also affects the emotions and physiology that causes mood swings that also affect their performance (Küller et al., 2009). Furthermore, color also influences human life physically, psychologically, and socially (Jalil et al., 2012).

Colors based on their nature can be divided into two types, namely warm colors and cold colors. The warm color group is the red / orange family that has the nature and influence of warm, fresh, fun, stimulating, and passionate. Cold color groups including those from the blue / green family that have quiet, calm, darker and older properties, the colors are getting sinking and depressed (Darmaprawira, 2002 : 33). The nature of color also has an influence on individual behavior. Hot colors stimulate children, simple primitive people, and are extroverted. Cold colors are calm, introverted, mature, and mature (Darmaprawira, 2002: 34).

**METHOD**

This research is quantitative research. Data obtained using questionnaires distributed in four public elementary schools in Salatiga. The subject of this study consisted of students from grade 1 to class 6 students. The discussion will be divided into 2 parts, namely small classes and large classes. The number of students involved in this study amounted to 441 which was divided into 235 small class students and 206 large class students. Students are asked to sort the color choices of their favorite class. There are 7 choices of class wall colors that are selected in the questionnaire.

Picture 1. Red Wall Classroom Design Picture 2. Purple Wall Classroom Design

Picture 3. Yellow Wall Classroom Design Picture 4. Light Green Wall Classroom Design

Picture 5. Orange Wall Classroom Design Picture 6. Light Blue Wall Classroom Design

Picture 7. Beige Wall Classroom Design



**RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

The class color selection questionnaire that has been distributed to 441 students related to their preferences regarding the color of the classroom walls gives the following results:

**Result**

Graph 1. Rank 1 Lower Class Color Preference Graph 1. Rank 7 Lower Class Color Preference

Graph 3. Rank 1 Higher Class Color Preference Graph 4. Rank 7 Higher Class Color Preference

**Discussion**

The application of color to the classroom wall must be in accordance with the characteristics of the child. The colors will be channeled through the eyes and can affect feelings, mental clarity, and energy levels. Based on his age, small children prefer bright colors (Engelbrecht, 2003) and also warm colors are recommended for small children (Pile, 2009). In addition, the colors suggested for the school to give the impression of warm and bright are soft yellow (K.9 / 4), coral color (M.8 / 4), peach color (J.8 / 4). (Darmaprawira, 2002). This is also reinforced by (Nuhfer, n.d.) which states that the colors suitable for class are bright yellow-orange, cream, pale green, green, and blue-green. More active children will prefer cool colors and children who passively prefer warm colors (Gaines & Curry, 2011)

From the results of these studies we can find out that for small classes (classes 1 to 3) the favorite color for their class walls is the color of the purple wall. The purple color was chosen by as many as 68 students or 29% of the total small class students 235 students. This shows that low-class students also like cold colors, namely purple. Meanwhile, the first color choice for class walls for large classes is light blue. Light blue color was chosen by 71 students or 35% of the total large class students namely 206 students. This is in accordance with the opinion of some experts who state that large class students will prefer cold colors to warm colors. On the other hand, related to the color that is the last or 7th is beige. There are similarities in the results of research in small and large classes. The beige color is the color that is the least chosen by students with 98 students or 42% of the total students as many as 235 students while for the large class there are 103 students or 50% students from a total of 206 students.

As quoted in Gale (in Daggett, 2008) children, especially young children, are interested and like warm and bright colors. As we age, color preferences change from pastel colors (elementary school) to bright cold colors like green, blue, and blue-green (middle school) to darker colors (middle school) such as burgundy, gray-gray, navy blue, dark green, and purple.

Color in the context of education, the choice can be seen in terms of personal preferences (preferences) or functional learning perspectives. In terms of preference, children prefer bright colors (Heinrich, 1980). In addition, the environmental needs between children and adults are different, children need a creative environment that later makes them comfortable in that environment. Children's needs in space are gaining a sense of freedom, safety, excitement, comfort and warmth (Eillen, 1988).

**CONCLUSION**

The choice of wall classroom colors in order to help children feel safe and comfortable does require a lot of consideration. Within the learning technology area itself also provides an opportunity to develop this. This is supported by the understanding of 2008 learning technology, namely the study and ethical practice of facilitating learning and improving performance through creating, using, and managing appropriate technological processes and resources (Januszewski et al., 2008). Likewise with the understanding of 1994 learning technology, namely theory and practice of designing, developing, utilizing, managing, and evaluating processes and sources for learning (Seels & Richey, 2012)

When compared with the results of the researcher's research, there will be differences in the colors chosen by low-grade students. It turns out that purple is the favorite color of low-class students even though purple is a cool color. Meanwhile, beige colors that are warm colors are not a favorite choice of all students, both low and high class. There is still a need for further research related to the color of the classroom walls. Is the color to be used or chosen is the color that the child likes or the child fits in theory.

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