



Evidence in Action

A K20 Center Research Brief

Active Student Participation in Whole-School Interventions in Secondary School: A Systematic Literature Review

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2023

Introduction

The study systematically reviews whole-school interventions aimed at improving the overall school environment by fostering active student participation (ASP) in secondary schools. The authors highlight the importance of a supportive school context for student well-being and academic achievement. They emphasize that active student involvement in decision-making processes and school activities can significantly enhance the learning environment and reduce negative outcomes such as bullying and substance use.

Methodology

Research Design:

The study is a systematic literature review conducted according to the PRISMA 2020 guidelines. It focuses on whole-school interventions that solicit active student participation in secondary schools.

Sample:

The review includes 22 reports referring to 16 studies and 13 different whole-school programs. These studies were conducted in various countries, including the USA, Australia, the UK, India, and China.

Data Analysis:

The authors used a qualitative analysis to categorize the levels of active student participation in the interventions. They assessed the methodological quality of the included studies using indicators from the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) standards.

Results

The review identified a variety of activities promoting different levels of active student participation, ranging from very high to very low. Key findings include:

- Very High ASP: Activities where students were involved in decision-making processes and the formation of school action teams.
- High ASP: Activities where students organized school events and led activities for peers and adults.



- **Moderate ASP:** Activities where students expressed their views through platforms, interactive assemblies, and data collection.
- **Low ASP:** Activities involving training for peer leaders and interactive group activities.
- **Very Low ASP:** Activities where students were passive recipients of content delivered by adults, such as lectures and video viewings.

The study found that interventions with higher levels of ASP were more effective in improving the overall school environment.

Application into Practice

To replicate these interventions in a school context, the following steps can be taken:

1. **Form School Action Teams:** Include students in decision-making processes and the development of school policies.
2. **Organize Student-Led Events:** Encourage students to lead activities and presentations for their peers and the school community.
3. **Provide Platforms for Student Voices:** Create opportunities for students to express their views and participate in interactive assemblies.
4. **Implement Peer Leader Training:** Offer training programs for student leaders to develop their skills in leading and supporting their peers.
5. **Engage Students in Interactive Activities:** Incorporate group activities and discussions that promote active participation and collaboration.

Work Cited

Berti, S., Grazia, V., & Molinari, L. (2023). Active student participation in whole-school interventions in secondary school: A systematic literature review. *Educational Psychology Review*, 35, 52. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10648-023-09773-x>