

# EFFICACY OF A SAFE LEARNING SPACE ON THE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF GRADE 11 HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES STUDENTS

## ABSTRACT

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Bullying and related issues are among the key hindrances that cause students to feel unsafe and insecure within the school environment. In response, the Department of Education issued Regional Memorandum No. 210, S. 2024, which outlines the implementation of the Safe Spaces Act in Basic Education. This directive promotes learners' well-being, inclusive education, and a positive learning environment. A key approach is fostering respect for individual differences among students. Guided by Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, this study examines how fulfilling students' basic needs within a safe space contributes to their academic development. The researchers formulated statements and questions to identify gaps related to safe learning environments and their effect on students' academic performance. This study utilizes an exploratory-quantitative research design to gain insights into the impact of a safe learning space. The respondents consist of Grade 11 Humanities and Social Sciences students. A quota sampling technique was employed to ensure balanced representation and minimize sampling bias. Data were collected through survey questionnaires and analyzed using various statistical tools to determine trends and identify significant factors affecting students' academic experience. The study revealed that the primary hindrances to establishing a safe learning environment were noise (28.6%), judgment (21.8%), peer pressure (21.1%), bullying (15.3%), and indifference (13.1%). These factors significantly influenced students' comfort and ability to focus in class. In response, the researchers formulated an action plan aimed at fostering a safer and more inclusive classroom environment. This plan is intended to help students feel secure and supported, thus encouraging greater academic engagement and participation. The findings demonstrated that the presence or absence of a safe learning environment directly affects student academic performance. The variables identified—noise, judgment, peer pressure, bullying, and indifference—serve as obstacles to student engagement and success. The proposed action plan outlines measures to improve classroom safety and support systems. The researchers recommend that both teachers and students actively participate in promoting a safe and inclusive environment to enhance academic outcomes. Ultimately, the study underscores the importance of cultivating a safe learning space as a foundation for meaningful student involvement in academic activities.

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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