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ABSTRACT

The results of research on the effectiveness of four alternative instructional media are reviewed: traditional classroom instruction, instructional radio, instructional television, programed instruction, and computer-assisted instruction (CAI). It was concluded that students learn effectively from all these media; relatively few studies indicate significant differences between media in effectiveness. Future research should focus on four areas: 1) determine if programed instruction and CAI can be shown to save instructional time over a longer period and with a higher percentage of students; 2) investigate long-term effects of instructional technologies on students' motivations; 3) investigate the long-term effects of the individualization and privacy made possible by some of the technologies; and 4) future investigations should consider more imaginative uses of new technologies instead of using technology to provide a simulation of some traditional method. (RH)

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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA: A SURVEY

by

Dean Jamison, Patrick Suppes, and Stuart Wells

February 1973

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THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA: A SURVEY

This survey provides an overview of research on the effectiveness of alternative instructional media. The media discussed are traditional classroom instruction (TI), instructional radio (IR), instructional television (ITV), programmed instruction (PI), and computer-assisted instruction (CAI). The effectiveness of these media is examined from a reasonably macroscopic point of view; the psychology of pupil-teacher interaction or the 'content variables' of ITV, to take two examples, are at a micro-level not considered. Achievement test scores constitute the measure of effectiveness most frequently used in this survey though, where available, results concerning the affective impact of the various media of instruction are included. Achievement test data, in most cases, were collected only on an annual basis, so they reveal no fine-grained detail about the learning process.

Since this survey is relatively brief and its scope broad, a few caveats are in order. First, where literature surveys are available, their results have been cited to the extent possible and, frequently, original sources remain unchecked. Second, available knowledge of the effectiveness of the various methods varies considerably; much more is known about TI and ITV than about the others. For this reason a survey such as this is inherently spotty in its conclusions. The third warning, related to the second, is that many of the evaluations fall short of (or lack entirely) scientific standards of analysis and reporting. For this reason, it was sometimes necessary to attempt to cull conclusions from essentially journalistic accounts of projects. Fourth, it should be noted that this survey is limited to instruction within a school setting. Finally, the survey excludes information on costs.

Before beginning the literature survey, we present an 'ideal' paradigm for measurement of effectiveness and then discuss several less desirable alternatives that have actually been employed. In the surveys of the individual methods where adequate prior surveys are unavailable,

results from a representative sample of individual evaluations are discussed. Where adequate surveys are available, their conclusions are presented with a description of one or a few specific project evaluations. In addition to a number of medium specific surveys there exist several reviews -- Allen [1960], Chu and Schramm [1967], and Schramm [to appear] -- that cover more than one of the topics dealt with in this review. Our objective is to attempt to bring together the overall results for all the principal media; other of the reviews mentioned here and elsewhere in our review sometimes have more detailed and specific references to the literature in some particular area than we are able to provide. The media are discussed in approximately the temporal order in which they were introduced; individuals with a particular interest in one medium are urged to skip directly to the appropriate section.

I. ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF ALTERNATIVE INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA

An ideal study of the cognitive effectiveness of alternative instructional media would relate a vector of output measures relevant to a subject matter, including criterion-referenced measures of achievement, to the time pattern of instructional inputs. This function would include as independent variables factors not under the control of the school system so that, in its allocation of resources, the system could provide, to the extent desirable, different patterns of resource inputs to different categories of students. In order to assess the effects of different mixes of media and total amounts of time spent in learning a subject matter, we would need an experiment of vast magnitude; present survey methods are inadequate because of the current lack of substantial variation in methods of instruction. Since these methods are now virtually 100 percent TI, survey methods, as reported in the next section, can be used to assess the effect of different types of TI.

If it were to be possible to conduct an ideal experiment, the resulting function relating the educational system's outputs to its inputs would be of great value in efficient allocation of resources to and within school systems. This is primarily because the effect on output of more or less of any one input would be known as a function of the levels of all the inputs. Even with much less ambitious experimentation it is possible to obtain some idea of how output varies with input through simple multivariate regression models. For example, to assess the impact of CAI drill and practice in arithmetic (assuming CAI as an addition to and not a substitute for TI in arithmetic), let us postulate a model of the following form:

$$A_k = b_0 + b_1 A_{k-1} + b_2 C_{k-1},$$

where A_k is arithmetic achievement at the beginning of year k , C_k is the number of CAI sessions the student has in year k , and b_0 ,

This paper reports, then, on evaluations of varying degrees of adequacy and attempts to draw some general conclusions about the relative effectiveness of alternative instructional media. Schramm [1971] stressed the difficulties involved in making scientifically valid cross-media comparisons, and we share many of his reservations.² Yet a number of reasonably clear patterns do emerge from the data and these are what we report.

²Schramm also discussed how best to design experiments to make these comparisons. The central problem is that the number of potentially relevant variables to be controlled, or orthogonally varied, is so large that 'experiments' become substantial real-world projects over which the experimenter may end up having little control.

II. TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION

This section reviews the determinants of a student's scholastic achievement in a traditional classroom setting. Much of the work reviewed uses multiple regression analysis to relate a student's achievement test scores to attributes of his school environment (including the composition of the student body), his background and socioeconomic status, and his teachers. Many of the studies utilize the extensive data base provided by the Equality of Educational Opportunity (EEO) survey and first analyzed in Coleman, Campbell, Hobson, McPartland, Mood, Weinfeld, and York [1966]. Coleman et al. concluded that variation in school inputs accounts for at best a very small fraction of the variation in student achievement; socioeconomic variables, they concluded, are much more central. Other analyses, some of them also based on the EEO survey data, are summarized later in this section and a number of them find more evidence for the efficacy of the things schools provide than Coleman et al. do. However, the findings are often inconsistent and a recent thorough review of this literature [Averch, Carroll, Donaldson, Kiesling, and Pincus, 1972] listed as a basic conclusion:

"Proposition 1: Research has not identified a variant of the existing system that is consistently related to students' educational outcomes."

In a recent reanalysis of much of the data used in the studies Averch, et al. surveyed, Jencks et al. [1972] reached much the same conclusion: "We see no evidence that either school administrators or educational experts know how to raise test scores. Certainly we do not know how to do so [p. 95]."

The reason is not that no studies have found significant input variables. Rather, Averch et al. [1972] state: "The literature contains numerous examples of educational practices that do seem to have significantly affected student outcomes. The problem is that other studies, similar in approach and method, find the same educational practices to be ineffective; and we have no clear idea why

this discrepancy exists [pp. x-xi]." The present survey accepts this basic conclusion, with only minor reservations that are stated later.

This section first presents a summary of 17 studies in a readily usable, tabular form;³ it then provides a brief verbal summary of some of the more significant findings. After the summary of studies based on survey data, this review examines more closely the literature on what is perhaps the most economically significant variable under the control of a school system -- class size or student-to-teacher ratio. The significance of this variable lies in the observation that increasing the aggregate student-to-teacher ratio by either enlarging class size or reducing the number of periods the student spends with the classroom teacher constitutes the principal available way of substituting capital for labor in the educational system. It is thus important to ascertain what negative effects would need to be compensated for (or more than compensated for) by introducing a technology. Some of the studies we discuss are based on experimental, as well as survey data, and others report affective impact. As indicated at the outset, the present survey does not deal with relatively micro-level variables relating, for example, to the psychology of pupil-teacher interaction.⁴

³ Earlier surveys of parts of this literature appear in Guthrie [1970] and Katzman [1971]; more up-to-date surveys are included in Averch et al., [1972] and Anderson and Greenberg [1972]. The studies reviewed in this literature were undertaken primarily in the United States; international data and comparisons are more difficult to find. An exception is the International Study of Achievement in Mathematics edited by Husen [1967]. This study suggests that the pattern of results found in the United States is more generally applicable.

⁴ For a review of much of this literature see Rosenshine [1971]; he reviewed 51 studies of the relation between specific teacher behaviors and student achievement, and observed that studies of this sort have had a better history of finding significant influences on student achievement than have the studies of the effect of teacher personality and background variables that are the focus of the present review. Clarity of the instructor's presentational style was one of the most important variables he found.

Survey Data Studies of School Effectiveness

The review of these studies is summarized in Table 1 which is subdivided by variable. Table 1 includes mainly variables under the

Insert Table 1 about here

control of school systems though Burkhead, Fox, and Holland [1967] and Coleman et al. [1966] both stressed the primary importance of the socioeconomic variables and used step-wise regressions to enter these variables first. Due to the multicollinearity problem⁵ between socioeconomic group and school variables, this procedure biases the regression results in these reports in the direction of concluding that school resource variation does little to predict achievement score variation. Many studies that followed the Coleman report and used data

⁵The multicollinearity problem arises because, in general, higher income districts have more money to purchase higher quality resources. For example, Guthrie, Kleindorfer, Levin, and Stout [1971] examined the relationship between socioeconomic status and quality of school resources and found a positive relationship on individual, school, and district bases. The effect of entering socioeconomic variables in the regression first, as did Coleman et al. [1966] and Burkhead [1967], is that the reduction in variance attributable to socioeconomic status includes a joint effect with school resources. When school resources are entered into the equation, their importance is diminished, since only the unique contribution for school resources is measured. Mayeske [1970] evaluated the unique contributions of each set of inputs and the joint contribution of the two sets using analysis of variance. He concluded that out of the total amount of variance accounted for when both background and school variables were in the equation, 12 percent were uniquely identified with background variables, 6 percent with school variables, and 82 percent jointly. Clearly, with school resources entered second, background accounted for 94 percent and school for 6 percent of the total variance. Stratification by social class [Benson, Schmelze, Gustafson and Lange, 1965; Guthrie, et al., 1971; Hanushek, 1970; Kiesling, 1967; Michelson, 1970] is one possible method of dealing with these multicollinearity problems. In each of these studies there were some school variables which were significant.

TABLE 1 (continued)

School- resource variable	Conclusions of studies finding selected school-resource variable significant				Studies finding selected school- resource variable insignificant
	Author (s) of study	Coefficient of variable in final equation	Units of output variable	Units of school-resource variable	
Teacher experience (cont.)	Carnoy [1971] 1. 3rd grade urban, Spanish reading. 2. 3rd grade rural, Spanish reading. 3. 6th grade rural, reading. 4. 3rd grade urban, general ability.	b = .384	Raw score, points.	Number of years of experience.	Carnoy [1971] 3rd and 6th grade rural for reading and 6th grade ur- ban for reading and general abili- ty (also strati- fied by SES, but those results are not included here).
		b = .491	Raw score, points.	Number of years of experience.	
		b = .37	Raw score, points.	Number of years of experience.	
		b = .109	Raw score, points.	Number of years of experience.	
	Hanushek [1968] Whites, blacks.	$\sigma = .02$ $\sigma = .045$	Verbal score units not reported.	Avg. years of exp.: m = 11.9, m = 11.3.	Guthrie [1970] Hanushek [1970] All groups.
		b = 1.36 $\sigma = .184$	6th grade score - 2nd grade score in grade equivalents.	% teachers > 10 years experience.	Katzman [1971] Other 5 outputs.
	Levin [1970]	b = .694	Raw score in points.	Number of years of full-time experience.	Kiesling [1969]
	Michelson [1970]	b = .6 b = .63	Verbal score, raw points.	Average years of experience.	Michelson [1970b] Black, single equa- tion; white, simul- taneous, attitude and grade aspira- tion.
			18 different test scores.	m = 4.46, s.d. = 1.06.	

TABLE 1 (continued)

School-resource variable	Conclusions of studies finding selected school-resource variable significant				Studies finding selected school-resource variable insignificant
	Author(s) of study	Coefficient of variable in final equation	Units of output variable	Units of school-resource variable	
Teacher salary	Benson et al. [1965] 1. All district sizes for upper quartile salary. 2. Small district for mean salary.		5th grade median reading.	% in upper salary quartile. Mean salary.	
	Bowles & Levin [1968b]	$b = 1.78$	Verbal score, raw score.	Average teacher salary.	Bowles [1970]
	Burkhead et al. [1967] 1. Atlanta, dropout rate. 2. Small community, 12th grade reading.	$\beta = -.5$ $\beta = .26$	% male dropouts. School mean score.	Average teacher salary. Beginning salary, male teachers; 10-point scale, 0-1000 to \$5000+.	Burkhead et al. [1967] Atlanta, all other outputs; small community, all other outputs.
	Cohn [1968]	$b = .00019$ $c = .047$	12th grade score - 10th grade score.	Median salary of high school teachers.	
	Kiesling [1969]	$b = -.0097$	Gain from 4th to 6th in standard grade equivalents.	% in top salary decile.	Kiesling [1969] Median teacher salary.

TABLE 1 (continued)

School-resource variable	Conclusions of studies finding selected school-resource variable significant				Studies finding selected school-resource variable insignificant
	Author(s) of study	Coefficient of variable in final equation	Units of output variable	Units of school-resource variable	
Per-pupil expenditure (cont.)	Kiesling [1967] 4, 5 and 6 for all occupations.	$b = 4.36$ for total sample.	Basic subjects, standard grade equivalent.	Per-pupil expenditure.	Kiesling [1967] Higher grade levels.
	Kiesling [1969] Urban schools, math gain.	$-.028 \leq b \leq -.0027$, range over occupations; $b = -.0051$, total sample.	Gain in standard grade equivalent.	Per-pupil expenditure.	
Class size	Thomas [1962]		18 different test scores.	$m = \$334$, $s.d. = 144$.	Raymond [1968] Current expenditure.
	Adelman & Partl [unpublished]	$-.02$ multiplier through recursive equations.	Verbal score scaled with mean = 27.8, $s.d. = 7.2$.	Number of students in class: $m = 30.3$, $s.d. = 6.3$.	
	Carnoy [1971] 6th grade, urban, reading, general ability.	$b = -.555$ $b = -.284$	Raw score. Raw score.	Average class size by school.	Carnoy [1971] Other 6 stratifications.

TABLE 1 (continued)

School-resource variable	Conclusions of studies finding selected school-resource variable significant				Studies finding selected school-resource variable insignificant
	Author(s) of study	Coefficient of variable in final equation	Units of output variable	Units of school-resource variable	
Class size (cont.)	Thomas [1962]		18 different test scores.	m = 8.09, s.d. = 1.40.	Cohn [1968]
Pupil-teacher ratio					Benson et al. [1965] Bowles [1968] Burkhead et al. [1967] Atlanta, Chicago Katzman [1971] Kiesling [1969] Raymond [1968]
ADA (average daily attendance in the school district)	Benson et al. [1965] Medium-size district.		5th grade median reading.	Average daily attendance.	Benson et al. [1965] Small and large district. Burkhead et al. [1967] Cohn [1968] Katzman [1971] Kiesling [1967] Kiesling [1969]

TABLE 1 (continued)

School-resource variable	Conclusions of studies finding selected school-resource variable significant				Studies finding selected school-resource variable insignificant
	Author(s) of study	Coefficient of variable in final equation	Units of output variable	Units of school-resource variable	
Teacher attitude	Guthrie et al. [1971] Would you be a teacher again? Do you like the school you're teaching in? 23 of 30 regressions.		No units reported.		
	Levin [1970] Grade aspiration (Do you like the school you're teaching in?).	b = .693	Grade level student wishes to complete.	3-point scale for aspiration.	Levin [1970] Verbal score, student attitude.
	Michelson [1970a] 1. White, single equation (race preference of teacher). 2. White, simultaneous, grade aspiration (Do you like the school you're teaching in?).	b = 1.5 b = .701	Verbal raw score. Grade level student wishes to complete.	Desired % of white students. No units reported.	Michelson [1970a] White, simultaneous, verbal score, student attitude; Black, single equation.

TABLE 1 (continued)

School-resource variable	Conclusions of studies finding selected school-resource variable significant				Units of school-resource variable	Studies finding selected school-resource variable insignificant
	Author(s) of study	Coefficient of variables in final equation	Units of output variable	Units of school-resource variable		
Teacher years since most recent attendance at educ. institution	Hanushek [1970] 1. White, manual, 2nd grade teacher. 2. White, manual, 3rd grade teacher. 3. White, non-manual, 2nd grade teacher. 4. White, non-manual, 3rd grade teacher.	b = -.68	Verbal score, points: m = 55.7, s.d. = 19.1.	Number of years: m = 2.04, s.d. = 2.6.	Hanushek [1970] Mexican-American, manual.	
		b = .57	m = 55.7, s.d. = 19.1.	m = 1.91, s.d. = 1.6.		
		b = -.66	m = 64.8, s.d. = 16.8.	m = 1.88, s.d. = 1.7.		
		b = -.79	m = 64.8, s.d. = 16.8.	m = 2.02, s.d. = 1.7.		
Teacher experience with SES class	Hanushek [1970] 1. White, non-manual, 2nd grade teacher. 2. White, non-manual, 3rd grade teacher.	b = .20	Raw score, verbal test: m = 64.8, s.d. = 16.8.	Number of years: m = 7.94, s.d. = 6.1.	Hanushek [1970] White, manual; Mexican-American, non-manual.	
		b = .10	m = 64.8, s.d. = 16.8.	m = 7.85, s.d. = 8.1.		
Teacher tenure	Michelson [1970a] Blacks, verbal.	b = -1.1	Verbal, raw score.	No units reported.		
Teacher undergrad. institution	Michelson [1970a] White, simultaneous verbal score.	b = 6.457	Verbal, raw score.	No units reported.	Michelson [1970a] Grade aspiration, student attitude. Levin [1970]	

from it (such as Adelman and Parti, unpublished, Bowles, 1970; Levin, 1970; Michelson, 1970) do, however, show a significant relationship between various school resources and student achievement. To the education administrator or policy maker, the existence or extent of the effect of socioeconomic variables is far less important than a finding that school resources have a differential effect on children, depending on their background. Such an effect is evident in results of Carnoy [1971], Hanushek [1970], and Michelson [1970], as well as in Coleman et al. [1966].

Coleman et al. based their results on the amount of variation explained by a group of variables after socioeconomic variables were entered in the regression. Four groups of variables were used: socioeconomic, teacher, school and student body variables. For ninth and twelfth graders, the teacher characteristics added 8 percent to the explanatory power, or raised R^2 by .08 in the equation for Southern blacks, .03 for Northern blacks, .022 for Southern whites, and .015 for Northern whites. These variations might have been higher if the teacher verbal score, which according to the report bears the highest relationship with student achievement, had been included in the group of teacher characteristics. The importance of the above results is that there is a differential impact on achievement depending upon the student's race and geographic region.

Hanushek [1970] used the EEO survey data for sixth graders in the Northeast and Great Lakes region and stratified by race. He used a multiplicative model, and the regression coefficients were output elasticities (σ), that is, the percentage change in output for a 1 percent change in input. For teacher experience and teacher score on a 30-point verbal test, the results differed for blacks and whites. For teacher score, $\sigma = .117$ for whites, and .178 for blacks; for teacher experience, $\sigma = .02$ for whites, and .045 for blacks. For both teacher variables, there was a higher impact on the black achievement than on white achievement. If there were a correlation between race and socioeconomic group (with whites being from a higher socioeconomic group than blacks), these results would contrast with those of Carnoy

[1971] where teacher experience had a greater impact on high socioeconomic students than on low socioeconomic students.

In the same paper Hanushek analyzed data for third graders in one school district in California. As opposed to the EEO survey data, where average teacher characteristics by school were applied to each student or to average student achievement, Hanushek was able to match students with their second- and third-grade teachers. The students were then stratified by ethnic background (with or without Spanish surname) and by the occupation of the head of the household (manual or nonmanual labor). There are only three groups since in his sample there were no Spanish-surnamed children from a home in which the head of the household had a nonmanual job. The teacher characteristics analyzed are teacher experience, teacher verbal score (on a 100-point test), number of graduate units, teacher experience with socioeconomic class and number of years since teacher's most recent educational experience. Teacher experience and education were not significant in explaining achievement for any of the groups, and there was no teacher characteristic which explains achievement of Spanish-surnamed children. This differs from his other result that school resources have a larger effect on minority children, perhaps because of the language difficulties of Spanish-surnamed students for whom English was a second language. Hanushek [1972] provides an extensive discussion of these results.

The studies just discussed provide a sample of the type of analysis that the studies summarized in Table 1 represent. What does emerge from those studies, and from the tabular summary, is a striking lack of uniformity concerning the significance of various variables. Further, more targeted research will be required to ascertain more exactly the nature of the conditions that make significant a particular factor of instruction.

Table 1 included only studies at the elementary and secondary level; Dubin and Taveggia [1968] surveyed the results of 74 studies that compared various teaching methods at the higher education level. In most of the studies students were randomly assigned to one of two methods of teaching; the results do not give, then, regression

coefficients that could be used to examine the magnitude of the effect on output of various levels of change in input. Though individual studies may have concluded one method of teaching superior to another, Dubin and Taveggia concluded from all of the studies taken together that there was no evidence for the superior effectiveness of one teaching method over another at the college level. The methods included in their survey included lecture sections, discussion, and supervised and unsupervised independent study.

A recent regression analysis of the determinants of economics achievement, based on extensive survey data, is perhaps the best study to date of input effectiveness at the university level. Attiyeh and Lumsden [1972] summarized this long term study in a recent paper; more detailed analyses are referred to there. The output measure used was the score of the student at the end of the year on an objective examination stressing the student's ability to apply fundamental economic principles to the solution of real-life situations or problems. The independent variables included pretest score, student background variables (age, sex, year at university, general aptitude, attitudes, and field of specialization), faculty characteristics (age, experience and rank of lecturers and tutors), and course characteristics (class size, hours devoted to microeconomics, hours devoted to macroeconomics, and course materials in both lectures and tutorials). The student's attitudes toward the course and lecturer were not significantly related to posttest score⁶ but the student's opinion of the "usefulness" of economics was. Of the controllable variables tutorial size was significant while lecture size (with a range of 30 to 400 students) was insignificant; rank, age, and years of experience were significant for lecturers and insignificant for tutors. The number of class hours was significant.

⁶In another study of student evaluations Rodin and Rodin [1977] found that "Students rate most highly instructors from whom they learn least." These findings of the invalidity of student ratings are not supported in a review paper by Costin, Greenough, and Menges [1971].

students in the smaller class scored better at a significance level of .001. The difference in grade placement was, however, slight; for the small classes it was 1.75 and, for the large, 1.62. Though there were no controls for the many other possible factors, physical handicaps and teacher differences were checked and were not found significantly different in the two groups.

In another study at the primary (K-3) level, Balow [1969] found small classes superior to large ones; the difference was statistically significant at the .01 level, but not large in absolute terms. The classes were assigned to conditions randomly. A more detailed analysis showed that the difference was due to learning among boys. In the subsequent two years the students who had been in the small classes continued to gain more than those who were assigned to small classes after having been in a large class for the first grade; in the second year, however, the difference was not statistically significant. Balow's interpretation of the results was that small classes are important the first year; after that the difference is not significant.

In Sweden, Marklund [1963] found that in a large sample of sixth-grade classes, those with 26 to 30 students learned the most. After that came the 16-20 group (smallest) and the 31-35 group (largest). Among classes that had sixth-grade students combined with other grades, the smallest classes were favored. In comparisons among students divided into groups according to socioeconomic status, IQ, homogeneity, etc., 22 comparisons favored smaller classes, 37 favored larger, and 222 were not significantly different.

Johnson and Scriven [1967] used data from the New York Quality Measurement Program to examine the effects of class size. From the total sample only those classes within 0.3 of the mean of the class in terms of grade level on the pretest were examined. English and mathematics classes in grades 7 and 8 were the subjects of the study. Random sampling was used to derive equal numbers in cells for an analysis of variance. The results favored larger classes in 10 out of 16 comparisons. The small classes did relatively better for the seventh-grade students and for students above the mean on their pretest scores.

Table 2 summarizes a number of studies on the cognitive effects

Insert Table 2 about here

of class size that were undertaken since the time of Blake's 1954 survey. Not included in Table 2 are the extensive results of the international survey reported in Husen [1967]; volume II of that study (pp. 79-85) reports on numerous comparisons of different sized mathematics classes. The results were usually no significant difference and, where significant differences were found, they were more likely to be for older students.

While the relationship between class size and achievement is generally weak, some researchers believe that the interpersonal aspects of the classroom suffer with increased class size. Olson [1971] found an advantage for smaller classes in terms of individualism, interpersonal regard, group activity, and creativity. This survey obtained data from almost 10,000 classrooms at the elementary level and 8,600 at the secondary level. Smaller classes were favored at all levels. Using the same sample, Vincent [1968] found inconsistent relationships between class size and achievement.

In a smaller study, Cannon [1966] reported that in two kindergarten classes (one with 34-39 students, the other with 23-28 students), the smaller class was favored in terms of fewer aggressive acts, better peer relationships, more and better child-teacher contacts, more creative activities, and better feelings on the part of the teacher. The differences were not large, however.

Thus at the elementary level the quality of interaction appears to be inversely related to class size. At the secondary level the matter is not so clear. Olson [1971] reported that observational data supported less attractive styles of interaction as class size increases. Anderson, Bedford, Clark, and Schipper [1963], Ed. W. Clark High School [1968], and Williams and Koelsche [1967] reported no difference in

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