

The Effect of per Pupil Expenditure on Student Academic Achievement: A Meta-Analysis of Correlation Research

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Abstract : Whether resource matters to school has been a topic of intense debate since 1960s. Educational researchers and policy makers have been particularly interested in knowing the return or payoff of Per-Pupil Expenditure (PPE) on improving students' achievement. However, the evidence on the effect of PPE has been mixed and the size of the effect is also unknown. With regard to the methods, it is well-known that meta-analysis study is superior to individual study and it is also preferred to vote counting method in terms of scientifically weighting the evidence by the sample size. This meta-analysis study aims to provide a synthesized evidence on the correlation between PPE and student academic achievement using recent study data from 1990s to 2010s. Meta-analytical approach of fixed- and random-effects models will be utilized in addition to a meta regression with predictors of year, location, region and school type. A preliminary result indicates that by and large there is no statistically significant relationship between per pupil expenditure and student achievement, but location seems to have a mediating effect.

Keywords : per pupil expenditure, student academic achievement, multilevel model, meta-analysis

Conference Title : ICETE 2017 : International Conference on Education, Teaching and E-learning

Conference Location : Venice, Italy

Conference Dates : June 21-22, 2017