

## **ABSTRACT**

The main purpose of the study was to investigate the perceptions of the staff and the students regarding the effectiveness of the school in relation to seven effective schools correlates. These correlates were clear school mission, frequent monitoring of student progress, safe and orderly environment, high expectations, opportunity to learn, instructional leadership, and home-school relations.

It was also hoped that the study would examine the relationships among these correlates, as well as the relationships between these correlates and the independent variables of sex, occupation, and age.

Finally, the study would also attempt to establish a continuum of effective schools, and explored the status of the school as an effective school.

A questionnaire comprising the seven correlates as constructs was used to gather the perceptions of the teachers and students in the school. Each construct contained six items. The total number of items in the questionnaire was 42. Each item was a statement which require the respondent to state the degree of agreement/disagreement to the statement according to a Likert-scale ranging from 1 to 5.

The sampled respondents comprised 127 Form Five students and 112 full-time teachers. The completed questionnaires were collected and processed by using SPSS 7.5 for Windows. Only the means and standard deviations were used to interpret the findings of the study. The means of the correlates were used to rank the seven correlates from the most effective to the least effective.

The findings of the study indicated that the school was neither effective nor ineffective. All the seven correlates had a mean above the value 3 (neutral) but less than 4 (effective). Among the seven correlates, the correlate which had the lowest mean was safe and orderly environment, and the correlate which secured the highest mean was clear school mission.

Two indicators of school effectiveness were used. They were the school performance in the Lower Secondary Assessment and the Malaysian Certificate of Education, as well as the rate of attendance of the Form Three and Form Five students for the years, 1995 to 1998. The findings of this study were consistent with the two indicators of school effectiveness.