

THE EFFECTS OF FURNITURE ARRANGEMENTS
ON SOCIAL INTERACTION AMONG OFFICE WORKERS

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Thesis

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
I. Introduction	
A) Background of the Study	1
B) Statement of the Problem	5
C) Hypotheses	5
D) Scope and Delimitations	7
E) Importance of the Study	10
II. Methodology	
A) Sampling	13
B) Instruments	15
C) Dependent and Independent Variables	17
D) Procedure	18
E) Statistical Tests	20
III. Review of Related Literature	21
IV. Results	36
V. Discussion	40
VI. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation	49
APPENDICES	
REFERENCES	

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The primary aim of this study is to find out how furniture arrangements affect social interaction among office employees. To facilitate descriptions of office arrangements, the researchers divided this variable into three types: rows, rows and columns, and cubicles. Questionnaires were distributed among the respondents and the answers were ranked according to the degree of interaction. The highest level of interaction was given a score of five and the lowest, one.

The ANOVA test was used to compare the levels of interaction among the respondents belonging to any of the three furniture arrangements. Results of the tests prompted the researchers to accept the following null hypotheses:

1. Females do not interact significantly more than males.
2. Persons from the personnel department do not interact significantly more than persons from the sales and accounting departments.
3. Persons from the sales department do not interact significantly more than persons from the accounting department.
4. Persons from the row and column arrangement do not interact significantly more than those in the row and cubicle arrangements.

5. Persons from the row arrangement do not interact significantly more than those in the cubicle arrangement.

Inspite of the failure to show how furniture arrangements affect interaction, it was shown in the responses that most of the subjects speak more often with the person beside them. It was also observed that in most offices, the desks that were beside each other were closer together. This shows that space does affect social interaction.

The authors of this study have concluded that based on the sample size and instrument of this study, furniture arrangement does not affect social interaction among office employees. However, they have verified various theories that space affects social interaction and influences the choice one takes as to who they should interact and communicate with.

The authors of this study feel that if there are those who want to pursue research in this field, a new instrument must be constructed that could measure the different degrees in the levels of interaction. Perhaps, the same questionnaire may still be used, but there must be deeper questions that could probe into or bring out their true motives for social interaction or questions that could categorize the different levels of interaction.

Aside from this, the researchers should administer these questions to a greater sample all over Metro-Manila.

A greater sample would consist of more than two hundred respondents or more than twenty-four offices.

The authors agree that a study on this field would be a great help to the business sector. If successful, it could prompt top management to make the necessary adjustments to encourage healthy relations among co-workers. With these, it is the hope of the authors that such a study be pursued and to fall into the hands of management for a clearer understanding of the need for adequate "humane" relations within the office.

