Homework 7

The author of the issue recommends that the high schools in the city should be opened one hour later in the morning and be ended an hour later; however, this recommendation cannot be accepted as it stands, since it rests on number of assumptions all of which can be challenged in one way or another.

The first problem with this argument is that the author refers to two studies but does not mention how many people took part in these studies reported. As you know, in research studies the greater the number of the people in the sample, the more reliable and valid the findings are. Maybe in this studies only ten people participate; hence, the findings of such studies are neither valid nor reliable. Even if it is assumed that enough people took part in these studies, there is still another problem with the sample. In research studies, the findings can be generalized to the target population if the sample used is representative of the concerned population in terms of age, sex, social class, culture, etc. However, in this argument there is no evidence to show whether the sampleS used wasWERE representative of the target population. It follows that the findings of these studies cannot be applied to the members of the population without reservations.

Even assuming that there is no problem with the sampleS, the author combines the results of two different surveys for his recommendation; however, there is no evidence that sleep deprivation, which is mentioned in the first study, is responsible for low performance of high school students in the second study. Maybe students do not satisfy with their academic performance, since they do not have professional teachers. Or maybe their field of study is practical and they need equipped laboratory, but they have not access to such a laboratory in their school. The writer fails to substantiate the relationship between two studies. Accordingly, the writer cannot draw any firm conclusion by combating these two surveys.

Even assuming that sleep deprivation is the main factor for low performance of high school students, the writer relies on the additional assumption that if schools begin their classes one hour later, it will solve the problem. However, there is no evidence to definitely prove that this is a case. Maybe, students do not sleep in their extra hour and hang around with their friends instead of sleeping. Or maybe, since 8.30 is a peak hour of traffic jam, it takes much more hours to get to school than before. On the amount of this fact, students should leave their home as usual and they cannot be able to sleep more.

In the final analysis, the writer’s recommendation cannot be taken to be true because, as it was shown in the body paragraphs above, it depends on a number of assumptions each of which is questionable. The recommendation can only be accepted if the weaknesses already referred to are all removed.

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