



RESEARCH PAPER

Students' Achievement at Primary Level and Parents' Interest in their Children's Education: A Correlational Study

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PAPER INFO ABSTRACT

Received:
March 20, 2021

Accepted:
June 05, 2021

Online:
June 10, 2021

Keywords:
Academic
Achievement,
Parental Interest,
Primary School
Level

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This study was conducted to find out the relationship between parents' interest in their children's education and its effects on their overall academic achievement. To find the relationship between the two variables as mentioned above, a research 25 items self-developed questionnaire was used for the data collection. Students' academic achievement was assessed by the scores they obtained in 5th grade Punjab Examination commission held in 2017. It was found that students' academic achievement is dependent to great extent on the level of interest, the parents take in their children's studies. The higher degree of relationship is manifested through the calculated correlation coefficient. This study was delimited to the students of Government Primary schools of Tehsil Zafarwal, District Narowal and their parents respectively. On the basis of the findings of this study, it is strongly recommended that the parents of the students should be motivated for taking deep interest in their children's educational activities to ensure success and overall performance of the students.

Introduction

The topic of parental interest in the educational activities of their children was discussed in the Handbook of the National Congress in 1924 for the first time and in 1926 for the second time. In 1996, the issue of parental involvement was discussed in detail in the National Educational goals of the U.S. Department of Education. It was felt that students' academic achievement and overall performance may be increased with increasing their parents' interest in their educational activities. There was a need to conduct a study at primary school level to see the

nature and extent of relationship between parents' interest and their children's overall academic performance. The educationists today believe in the significance of parents' interest in the studies of their children. Student's academic achievement and well-being mostly depends on the level of interest which parents take in their educational matters. So, the researcher intended to explore the degree of relationship between parents' interest and their children's academic performance who are studying in primary schools of the Punjab province.

Literature Review

According to Fan et.al (2001) parental involvement includes their participation in student's formal activities or assisting them as a tutor. Parents consider "involvement" as taking interest in children's informal activities i.e. to check their homework, listening their readings, tutoring them, nurturing them, teaching them the cultural values, taking care of their food, clothes, cleanliness and sleep etc. According to Singh et.al, (1995) there are four main ingredients of parental involvement i.e. parent's aspirations for their child's education, their participation in school-related activities, communication among parents their children about their school and the home structure etc. Santrock, (1998) describes that "achievement is a desire to complete something to reach a standard of excellence". Academic achievement refers to the enhancement of knowledge and to succeed in the examination in good position. Parents take interest in their children's' educational affairs if they oversee their child's homework, help them in homework, limit their time for spending with peers or watching T.V. support their teachers in making the education system better, attend P.T.M (parent-Teacher Meetings) etc. According to Ballen and Moles, (1994) parental involvement is beneficial for student's achievement. Keith et.al, (1986) concluded that parents' interest had a positive, strong and significant impact on overall academic performance of secondary school students. Hoover et.al, (1995) stated that at home, a child's school-related activities have a significant impact on his academic achievement. Fan et.al, (2001) concluded that parent's expectations have strong relationship with their child's academic achievement. Learning is the lifelong process of desirable changes in the right direction. This process goes on throughout our life to our death. If the parents show interest and get involved in the learning activities of their children, it can be a successful experience. Parents are the first teachers of their children and they help their children socialize and train them to adjust properly in society (Delgado-Gaitan, 2014). Educated people are the assets in any society. If the citizens are educated properly, society will become more civilized and disciplined. According to Epstein,(2020) this is the responsibility of a family to train in a way that they may become more productive members of society (Epstein, 2020). There are a number of factors that affect the overall academic achievement and social adjustment skills of the learners. A prominent factor is their relations with family, friends, peers, neighbors and other people. The students who get attention of their parents for their studies related activities, there a greater chance for being successful in their studies as well as in their social life.(Rafiq, Fatima, Sohail, Saleem, & Khan, 2013).It is a

commonly perceived truth that the role of parents is very important for the success of their children in all walks of life especially in their educational matters. The topic of parents' involvement in their children's studies and its impacts has remained a topic worth investigating for many researchers. As a result, there are many articles, reports, and studies on this topic. Parental involvement has been a topic of interest for the last few decades and many types of research provide evidence that parental involvement has a positive and strong effect on the wellbeing and achievements of students (Burke, Mulvey, Schubert, & Garbin, 2014). It is commonly perceived that the involvement of parents with their children at an early age plays a positive role in their social adjustment and personality building. Parents are the role model for every child at an early age and the child tries to copy every aspect of them. This is a good opportunity for the parents to shape the personality of their children. Parents' involvement is very influential for their children's achievement level (Kocayörük, 2016). The attitude of a child becomes more positive to their school and education if the parents are involved in it properly (Naheed, Dahar, & Lateef, 2016). Even when the learners get promoted to the higher classes and begin experiencing advanced stage of learning, the involvement of parents plays a mandatory role in their success. If parents and teachers make a combined effort, there is a great possibility for the students to become better learners and successful citizens (Ross, 2015). Such parents try their best to enhance the learning ability of their children and show a great level of concern towards their studies (Roshan, Jacobs, Dye, & DiSalvo, 2014). School-based activities are especially dependent upon the involvement of parents. There are many activities in which the parents are to take deep interest. They have to remain in touch with the school teachers of their children. Moreover, they have to keep an eye on their children's attendance etc (Reynolds et al. 2017). All these factors have a great contribution to the academic achievement of students at the secondary level. As the students get promoted from the middle to the secondary level, the expectations of parents are increased as well (Ma, Siu, & Tse, 2018). The positive expectations and beliefs of a mother also play an important role in the academic achievements of students. Some researchers also favor the fact that the education of parents contributes to the social atmosphere of home (Lapuerta, Baizán, & González, 2011). The important factor involved in the success of children is parents' educational status. If a mother is educated, she can educate her children in a better way. Family income is important tool in this regard (Abuya, Oketch, Mutisya, Ngware, & Ciera, 2013). A common desire expressed by all the parents is for them to be aware of what their child does outside the house. Most of the parents claim that they always try to have a relationship that can be considered to be good with their children and their teachers (Erlendsdóttir, 2010). The achieved aims and goals of an instructional environment of a student can be determined by the academic achievements. A common misconception is that most academic achievement is considered as cognitive objectives achievements at the school level (Huang, 2012). Academic achievements cover many different learning domains. The achievement field on the other hand is really broad and it mostly depends upon the development of parents' involvement. There is still a need for the parents to clear their vision and contribute towards the academic achievement of their children. In conclusion, the

parents and child communication and the expectations of parents about the excellence of their children in the academic field have a positive impact on academic achievements. On the other hand, if the rules are too strict and the child is monitored too strictly, it might have a negative impact on the child's studies. (Naheed et. al. 2016). Both the variables under this study are strongly correlated (Hassan, Khalid, & Hussain, 2011). Secondary education is also a very important stage of learning and it contributes a great deal to the students' social adjustment (Verdugo & Sánchez-Sandoval, 2020). When students are promoted from elementary school to secondary level, they undergo many kinds of changes which include contextual as well as personal changes (Vaz, Parsons, Falkmer, Passmore, & Falkmer, 2014). Sometimes these fast changes confuse the student and it is a time where the support of parents and family is extremely needed to overcome the hurdles of these changes. The secondary school environment is a lot more complicated in the case of achievement of educational objectives. This is the level on which both parents and other family members improve the behavior of children by supporting them (Tuominen, Niemivirta, Lonka, & Salmela-Aro, 2020).

Hypotheses

H0: There is no significant relationship between the parents' interest and their children's academic achievement at primary school level.

H1: There is a significant relationship between the parents' interest and their children's academic achievement at primary school level.

Material and Methods

Population

The first population for this study consisted of 907,992 students of Punjab who have recently passed in 5th class annual standard examination-2017 of the Punjab Examination Commission (PEC). The second population consisted of the parents of the 907,992 students of Punjab who have recently passed in 5th class annual standard examination-2017 of the Punjab Examination Commission (PEC).

Sample

The sample of this study consisted of 200 students (100male+100 female) studying in 6th class in Government Elementary and secondary schools who have recently passed the annual standard examination of 5th class held under the Punjab Examination Commission (PEC). Their result was announced on 31st March, 2017. Moreover, 200 parents of students belonging to Tehsil Zafarwal, District Narowal, whose children have recently passed the examination of 5th class, were also selected as the sample of this study. Justify the 200 student with reference

Sampling Procedure

200 students and their parents were selected randomly from Tehsil Zafarwal from the gazette book of the PEC, 2017.

Instrumentation

1. A 25 items self-developed 4 point Likert Scale was developed for conducting this research.
2. Results of the standard examination, 2017 of the PEC were noted down and used for this study.

Level of parents' interest and their children's' academic achievement was checked on a four point Likert scales as following:

Level of parents' interest	High involvement	Normal involvement	Low involvement	No involvement
	4	3	2	1

Level of student's achievement	Very High achievement	High achievement	Average achievement	Low achievement
	4 (90% or above marks)	4 (70% to 80% marks)	3 (50% to 70%)	2 (33% to 50% marks)

Results and Discussion

Findings

Parents' interest was studied in the following three domains

1. School related parental involvement
2. Parental involvement related to teachers and head teachers
3. Parental involvement related to Children's work

It was found that:

School related Parents' Interest

1. Most of the parents choose better schools for their children's admission.
2. Today, many of the parents do not merely depend on schools for their children's education. Either they help them in their studies at home or they arrange for tuitions or academies.
3. Most of the parents here, like to offer their voluntarily services for the betterment of their children's schools.

4. A majority of parents becomes ready to provide any financial assistance to the schools if required.

Parents' Interest related to Teachers and Head Teachers

1. Many parents prefer to meet the teachers of their children for the sake of improving the quality of education.
2. Today, many parents give importance to the Parent-Teacher meetings (PTMs)
3. Most of the parents think that teachers work harder when they visit their schools.
4. Parents think that teachers feel pleasure if they visit their schools.
5. In Punjab, teachers do not consider it interference in their work if parents visit them.
6. Parents think that Parent-teacher relationship becomes stronger if they visit the schools.
7. A vast majority of parents considers PTM's important for the character building of their children.
8. Most of the parents think that meetings with head-teachers are important for creating a better learning environment in schools.
9. Parents visit is not considered to be an interference with official work by the headmasters of Govt. Primary schools in Punjab.
10. Many parents are of the view that in government primary schools of Punjab, headmasters are proving themselves to be good administrators.
11. Meetings of parents with headmasters result in making them more responsible than previous.

Parents' Interest related to Children's Work

1. A vast majority of parents help their children in their studies, now a day. It means that they are much interested in educational matters of their children now rather than they used to be in past.
2. Parents are of the view that the self-confidence of their children improves when they meet their teachers.

Parents' Interest related to the Quality of Education

1. A majority of parents agrees that, In Punjab, more educational facilities are available now a day than they were in the past.
2. Most of the parents remain anxious about the standard of their children's education, now a day.
3. Many parents believe that education is bringing a positive change in the attitudes of their children.
4. Many of the parents are satisfied with the current learning environment of the Government Primary schools in Punjab.
5. A few parents agree to the statement that their opinions have brought a positive change in the school environment. It means that parental opinions are not given much importance in government primary schools of the Punjab.

6. Parents feel pride if their children receive better education.

Table No 1

Number of students	Level of student's achievement	Level of parents' interest	$(\sum X)^2$	$(\sum Y)^2$	$\sum XY$
N=200	$\sum X=12102$	$\sum Y=9702$	903044	658784	8484266
$r=0.62$					

The correlation coefficient 0.62 shows a strong relationship between the parents' interest and the academic achievement of their children studying in Government Primary Schools of the Punjab province.

Conclusions:

Student's academic achievement depends largely on their parental involvement. Strong parent-teachers relationship is very important in this regard. It was concluded that:

1. In Punjab, parents are highly involved their children's education.
2. Student's overall achievement is directly affected by their parent's involvement.
3. Quality of primary education improves if parents are deeply interested in educational activities of their children.
4. For creating a conducive and stimulating educational environment in schools, parental involvement is of great value.

Recommendations: In the light of the findings and results of this study, it is recommended that:

1. Parents should take a deep interest in their children's educational activities.
2. To improve the parent-teacher interaction, some programs may be developed by the School Education Department (SED), Government of the Punjab.

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Web Link

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