

IMPACT OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF THE STUDENTS AT SECONDARY LEVEL

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ABSTRACT: *The aim of present study was to find out the impact of parental involvement in the academic achievement of their children at secondary level. The first objective of the study was to find out parental involvement in educational activities of their children studying at secondary level. Second was to explore the level of academic achievement of students studying at secondary level. Third was to find the relationship between the parental involvement and the academic achievement level of secondary students. The present study was conducted in district Rawalpindi. The respondents of 120 students of 10th (who passed 9th class exams) Grade of secondary schools were taken as sample of the study. Through simple random sampling technique, four schools were selected as sample of the study. A close ended questionnaire for parental involvement was used as a tool of study. To determine student's achievement level, their 9th class result was used. For statistical analysis, correlation was applied to find out the relationship between parental involvement and students' achievement. Regression analysis was applied to find out the impact of parental involvement on students' academic achievement. It was concluded that parental involvement has a significant impact on secondary student's achievement level. Hence, it was proved from the results of study that parental involvement plays a vital role in their children academic achievements.*

Key words: parents, parental involvement, academic achievements

INTRODUCTION

Learning is a desirable change towards the right direction. It is a lifelong process. It is very important process that starts from birth and continues till death. This process can be a successful experience if parents show their interest and involvement in learning activities of their children. Parents are considered first teacher of their child who make their children socialize and train them for the adjustment in society [1]. The educated people are assets of any society. The society will be more civilized and disciplined with its educated citizens. Commonly, it is considered a family responsibility to make their children more productive for their society. Students' achievements and social adjustment is influenced by many factors. These factors are their relationship with parents, neighborhoods and peer groups.

All the above, parental involvement is very important element. Those students who get involvement and attention from their parents can be more successful in their educational career and more productive for the society. It is common perceived assumption that academic achievements of students cannot be achieved by only providing them with good school and learning environment until parents play their positive role towards their studies.

Parents involvement in their children education and its impact on their children educational progress is remained a topic of worth investigated for many researchers. As a result there is plenty of work in shape of articles, reports, and studies. All sorts are very informative and useful because parental involvement is a topic of interest from last few decades. There are many researches that provide evidences that parental involvement has a positive and strong effect on students' achievement and wellbeing [11-13].

It is a common perception that parental involvement with their children in early age plays a positive role towards their personality building and social adjustment. At early stage of life parents of every child are their role model and they try to copy them in every way of life and this is a good opportunity for their parents to shape up their habits in a desired way. Parental involvement is very influential for their children achievement level [2].

When parents are involved in their children's education, their children's attitude towards their school and education becomes more positive. As a result, students get promotion from elementary level and experience a new stage of learning and change, even at that stage parent play a vital role in their success. The parents, who remain in close contact with the teacher, seek them in every matter through which they can enhance their child learning. These parents show a great concern towards their children and try to provide as much resources as they can to enhance their children literacy and learning [3]. Parental involvement is very essential especially for school based activities. There are many school based activities that demand parental involvement such as having contact with their child school teacher, having a check and balance over their child attendance in school, regular monitoring of learning activities provided by school. These entire factors contribute a lot in academic achievement of students at secondary level. It is a fact that mostly students become more concern about learning activities provided by their school. As students get promotion from middle to secondary level the parental expectations also increased [9].

A study in which researchers used a sample of minority families, have very low income. They concluded that those mothers that are highly qualified also have higher expectations and dreams about academic achievements of their children. Mothers' positive expectations and beliefs matter a lot in student's academic achievements. Different researches favor this fact that parents education contribute towards the social atmosphere of home [10].

Mothers' education and family income are very important elements that contribute in physical and learning environment. [6]. It was found that parent's education and their income have a positive relation with student's academic achievements. Most of parents that are sample of this study are highly involved in educational activities of their children and expressed their desires for educational excellence of their children. During this study parents freely expressed their expectation which they have about their children. They are found fully aware of the significance of staying involve in educational activities of their children. All parents express a

common wish that they always want to be aware of that how their children spend their time outside the house. Majority of parents claim that they have good relation with their children and their teachers [5].

Academic achievements indicate to which extent a student has achieved aims and goals of an instructional environment. At school level, mostly academic achievement is considered as cognitive objectives achievement but it is a misconception. Academic achievements means achievement of many constructs that cover the different domains of learning. Achievement field is very broad and mostly it depends on its indicators on the basis of which it is measured and evaluated. Parental involvement is very important component of educational achievements but there is need of a clear vision of different dimensions of parental participation and their contribution towards academic achievement of their children. It was concluded that parents and child communication and parent's expectation about their excellence in educational field have a positive impact on academic achievements. But on other side parents' strict rules and monitoring have most of times shown negative impact [7].

A study was conducted to explore the relationship between parental involvement in activities of reading and comprehension of English and achievement of six grade students in the subject of English. There were 125 students of six grade and their parents were part of this study. It was concluded on the bases of results of a survey questionnaire that significant correlation is found between parental involvement and students' achievement. Significant impact was found on students' English reading and comprehension [4].

Secondary education is very important stage of learning that contributes a lot towards the social adjustment of students. After promotion from elementary to secondary level, students experience different types of changes which are both contextual and personal changes. Sometimes these rapid changes confuse students and it is high time for their parents and family to support the student to overcome these hurdles. Secondary school environment mostly seems more complex in the context of achievement of academic goals. At this stage parents and family support the students to improve their behavior.

The main focus of present study was to find a connection and association between parent's engagement in their children educational activities and academic achievement level of their children. Many studies were conducted to find out parents involvement and its connection with their children educational excellence. After reviewing different studies on parental involvement most of the researchers concluded that parental involvement begin to decrease as children step in their adolescent and become more independent in their studies. At this level parental involvement takes a different path. Now its focus is also extracurricular along with academic achievements. It is found that parental participation has a vital and important part in literacy development of their children. Even such involvement gives an increase to communication skill and self-esteem of students. There is positive correlation found between students' learning outcomes and parental involvement at elementary level [8].

No doubt there are some researches who have found the parental involvement and its effect on different achievement levels and domains. Most of the researches are conducted to find parental involvement at elementary and higher level but still there is need of an in-depth study to point out many other aspects which need consideration at university level.

Objectives of the Study

1. To find out parental involvement in academic activities of their children studying in secondary level classes.
2. To find out of academic achievement of children studying in secondary level classes.
3. To see the relationship, if any between the parental involvement in the academic activities of their children and academic achievement of their children.
4. To find out the impact of parental involvement in students' achievement.

Hypotheses of the study

Ho₁: There is no significant relationship between parental involvements in academic activities of their children studying in secondary level classes.

Ho₂: There is no significant impact of parental involvement on students' achievement level at secondary level.

METHODS AND MATERIALS

Research Design

A correlation study was conducted to determine to which extent parental involvement is playing role in student's achievement level. It was quantitative survey that aimed at finding out the impact of parental participation on educational success level of the student. The present study provided the possible existing relationship between parental involvement and academic achievement of the students at secondary level.

Population

All students studying at secondary level in 9th Grade of Rawalpindi schools constituted the population of study.

Sampling Procedure

The sampling was made in two stages. In first stage four public and four private schools were selected. In second stage 120 students of 9th class from four public and four private secondary schools were selected randomly. It was made possible that there should be participation of both categories from public and private schools. Boys and girls both were selected as sample of the study.

Instrument of Study

Close ended questionnaire was used as an instrument of parental involvement. Instrument was designed after literature review. Seven questions were included to get demographic information of respondents. There were twenty questions about different roles and engagements of parents in their children educational activities, which were supposed to have an impact on secondary student's achievement level. To determine the academic achievement of 9th class, results of respondents were got from school.

Data Collection

The self-report questionnaire was administered to the sample students. The researcher visited the sample schools to collect the data.

DATA ANALYSIS

For analysis of the data, correlation was applied to find out the relationship between parental involvement and students' achievement. Regression analysis was applied to find out the impact of parental involvement on students' achievement.

RESULTS

Boys and girls of 9th class studying in public and private school were selected as sample of study. In first part of questionnaire students were asked about different demographic aspects. In first question they were asked about the category of their schools in which they were studying. Majority of respondents (65%) were student of private school and remaining (35%) respondents were studying in public schools. Gender data indicated that (62%) respondents were boys and (38%) were girls. Parents' education is very important element so to get information about respondent's parent's education they were asked about the last level of their mother and father education. It was found that 53% mother's level of education was intermediate. 30.7% mother's education level was masters while 19.3 % had completed middle level. It was indicated by the data that 65% of respondent's fathers' level was masters'. 20.8% was fall in bachelor level while remaining 15.5% were Matric. In other question they were asked about number of sibling. The data indicated that majority of students belonged to small families of two to four brothers and sisters.

Table: 1 Correlation between parental involvement and Students' achievement level

Sr.	Statements	P	Sig.
1	Do your parents advise you for doing home work?	.143	.060
2	Do your parents monitor your home work?	.109	.117
3	Do your parents help you in doing home work?	.197	.016
4	Do your parents monitor your television viewing habit?	.130	.078
5	Do your parents support you to follow school discipline?	.345	.000
6	Are your parents strict about your sleep time?	.133	.073
7	Do your parents help you to complete your assignments?	.322	.000
8	Have your parents arranged tuition for you at home?	.071	.220
9	Are your parents strict about your attendance?	.159	.042
10	Do your parents monitor your regular attendance?	-.116	.104
11	Do your parents contact your teacher for checking attendance?	.305	.000
12	Do your parents asked you about your teachers' method of teaching?	.425	.000
13	Have your parents any contact with your teacher?	.409	.000
14	Do your parents consult teachers about your progress in studies?	.397	.000
15	Do your parents check your marks in class tests?	.484	.000
16	Do your parents contact with your teachers for not doing home work?	.318	.000
17	Do your parents encourage your good academic performance?	.055	.277
18	Do your parents attend your school functions?	.420	.000

19	Do your parents encourage you to use the library?	.507	.000
20	Do your parents celebrate your academic achievements to motivate you?	.530	.000

Table 1 indicates the relationship between independent variable parental involvement and dependant variable that is students' academic achievement. It indicates to which extent two variables correlate with each other. Results show that at 0.05 level of significance, there are some variables that are significantly related to the student's achievement level. The result also indicates that few variables that have no direct impact on students' achievement level when they are measured at 0.05 level of significance such as parents' advice for doing home work, arrangement of tuition instead of personal attention, regular monitoring of attendance and encouragement on their achievement are parental involvement activities that according to result have no significant impact on achievement level.

Table2: Impact of parental involvement on students' achievement level

Sr.	Statements	t	Sig.
1	Do your parents advise you for doing home work?	-1.104	.272
2	Do your parents monitor your home work?	1.040	.301
3	Do your parents monitor your television viewing habit?	-.304	.762
4	Do your parents help you to complete your assignments?	-.067	.947
5	Have your parents arranged tuition for you at home?	-.777	.439
6	Are your parents strict about your attendance?	-.690	.491
7	Do your parents monitor your regular attendance?	.745	.458
8	Do your parents consult teachers about your progress in studies?	-.637	.526
9	Do your parents check your marks in class test?	1.137	.258
10	Do your parents encourage your good academic performance?	.551	.583
11	Do your parents encourage you to use the library?	1.217	.226
12	Do your parents celebrate your academic achievements to motivate you?	.329	.742

Table 2 indicates impact of parental involvement on students' achievement level at secondary level. Results show that individually there is very low and insignificant impact of parental involvement on dependent variable student's achievement level when it is measured at 0.05 significance level. It indicates that parent's advice for doing homework, their monitoring of homework and television watching, providing help in completing assignments and arranging tuition, all these activities have low correlation with achievement level of students that's why results also indicate that these activities have no direct and strong impact on students' achievement level. Consultations with their teacher and motivation and encouragement from parents also have significant impact on students' achievement at secondary level.

Table 3: Analysis of variance

Model	F	Sig.
Regression	5.096	.000

These are excluded variables with no or much low impact on students' achievement level.

The ANOVA showed both a strong F test score of 5.096 and a significance of .000 ($p < .05$) which reflects that all variables of parental involvement have overall strong impact on academic achievement of students at secondary level.

DISCUSSION

In this study after statistical manipulation, it is proved that there is a significant relationship between parental involvement and students' achievement level. The overall data indicated that there is significant relationship between two variables and hypotheses were accepted in the light of above data. It is proved after many years research that parental involvement plays a significant role in achievement of learning outcomes of their children. Though with passage of time there is significant change also occurred in parent's duties and family structure but still impact of parental involvement is unavoidable [14]. There is a positive relationship found between parent's involvements and children educational excellence [16]. No doubt, parental involvement is a key element of academic betterment of the secondary students [18]

On the other hand it is also a fact that all parents do not have equal knowledge how to be involved in their children educational activities. In that case their involvement does not give desirable outcomes of parental involvement [15]. Parental involvement is a significant aspect in predicting academic achievement of student but it is also dependent on students' insight about these activities of parental involvement [19]. Parental involvement and academic achievement have consistent and positive correlation however strength of this relation sometimes influence by different factors such as the assessment technique which are used to measure achievement level of students or may be some other external factors that have indirect impact on students' achievement [17]. This may be the one reason for the low impact of individual items of parental involvement on students' achievement level in the present study.

CONCLUSIONS

On the basis of statistical results we have been able to conclude that there is significant relationship between parents' participation in educational activities and achievement level of their children studying in secondary schools. As a whole by taking all variables of parental involvement tool into consideration there is significant impact of parental involvement on students' achievement as well. However, this study did not provide the strong impact of parental involvement on academic achievement of students on individual variables.

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