



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT AND ACADEMIC SUCCESS

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ABSTRACT :

Education is thought to be the social process accompanied by various social agencies. Many social factors affect it directly and indirectly. Family and home environment affect the education much more than any other factor because the child spend lot of its time with his family members. Parents play a key role in his educational success. They are the role model as well as guide in his life. Many responsibilities depend upon the parents. Here the paper discusses about the main features of parental involvement in the life of children and benefits of the involvement.

KEYWORDS : Parental Involvement, Academic Achievement, Parenting Style.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Academic achievement is the most important feature of a students' success in his future. It reflects the whole personality structure of one's, skills, competencies and abilities. It also helps to attain the better occupational possibilities in his or her future. There are many factors which effects the academic achievement of the students at different levels. Some of these are intelligence, motivation, school environment, teacher' teaching methods etc. Academic achievement and school climate are highly correlated to each other (A. Saraswat, 1987). Similarly study habits are also impacts the academic achievement significantly (Lekhi & Kaur, 1995). Cohesiveness, speed, environment, goal direction, democratic attitude, competitiveness and satisfaction positively and significantly contribute to pupils' academic achievement (Zaidi, 1988). In the lack of proper attention over these variables we cannot decide about the reasons of low academic performance of the students. One of the important reason of students' good or bad academic performance is that his or her parental involvement in his education. Parental involvement has significant affect in better academic performance of their children (Rafiq, H.M.W. et al., 2013). In the present paper, the researcher focuses on the parental involvement and how it impacts the academic achievement of students at different levels. It is generally observed that the thinking of parents was that the school of high fees, large infrastructure, qualified teachers and others other staffs is the only guarantee of good academic success. But it's a half truth because all these things help the students but they cannot help them in their individual learning. Individual learning creates a large difference among the students. Those children whose parents are conscious about their child's study, have the great chances of high scores in their examinations. Several studies reveal that those students whose parents actively involve in their child's learning, they have the chance to secure very good percentages in their examinations.

Academic achievement is the measurement of success in a particular exam or pre decided educational goals. The Dictionary of Education (1973), defines Academic Achievement as accomplished or proficiency in a given skill or body of knowledge. Achievement is effected by many factors of

students' environment. First of all it is directly related to the level of intelligence of the children. Beyond this many factors like level of aspiration, socio economic conditions, school environment, learning habits etc also impacts the child's achievement. Parental involvement is one of the factors that relate the child's academic success. Parental aspiration and socio economic status significantly contributed to academic achievement (Devi & Mayuri, 2003). Psychological pressure of home and other social problems also effects child's academic achievement. Special care, interest and coaching facilitate higher achievement in the board examinations (Shankar & Rachel, 2005). Achievement in some particular subjects like English, Mathematics and science is generally influenced more than in other subjects. High parental involvement takes the higher achievement in Maths, Science and English as compare to that lower involvement in the learning of adolescents (Ahuja & Goyal, 2006). Types of family do not influence academic achievement much more. The achievement of secondary level students is independent of the influence of the type of family background (Fatima,2003; Khanam, 2006).

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents are the very first teachers of the children. They transact the necessary moral values into the child which help him to live and survive in the society. Apart from this they are also responsible for the child's educational future and his career. They teach them in homes before going to schools. They also make all the arrangements and the teachers for their children. Teachers and parents both are the responsible for child's morality, culture, knowledge and learning. In the past time parents put the responsibility of their children to the gurus in the gurukuls and became satisfied. But now a days the trend has changed. Now parents and teachers share the responsibilities of child's future and work collaboratively (Hill&Taylor, 2004). In the sense parental involvement can be defined as the participation in the various activities such as negotiation with teachers and other school staffs, being a volunteer in school activities, helping in homework and attending school meetings, conferences and events (B. William, J. Williams and Ullmann 2001; Hill and Taylor, 2004; Park and Holloway, 2013). In general parental involvement is considered to be the active participation of parents in all aspects of their child's social, emotional and academic development. Parental involvement can also be defined as any interaction between parents and children or with the school to ensure that everything in the school related to child is going on harmoniously. Feurtein (2000) defined parental involvement as activity encompassing a wide range of behaviors discussing school activities with children to attending parent teacher conference. But it is not only mean but has a broader area. It include home as well as school interaction. Holloway et.al. (2008) defined parental involvement as the initiation of home based behaviors like monitoring homework as well as school based activities such as attending school events and communication with teachers. In a more constructive way Ralph Mcneal Jr. (2001) gives four elements regarding parental involvement. Out of the most important one is parent child discussion about the educational activities in the school. Other are attending PTO (parent teacher organization), direct involvement in school activities and involvement in monitoring the child's performance.

In spite of all this we cannot come to general consideration that parental involvement surely enhance the academic success of the child. Some research studies explore the unexpected findings. Keith et. al. 1986 and Tokac & Kacayoruk 2012 reported about the negative effect of parental involvement on academic achievement. Keeping all these views, this paper tries to finds the effects of parenting involvement in focusing of academic success of secondary and senior secondary level students.

PARENTING STYLES OF SECONDARY AND SENIOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

Parents with higher level of education will have children who are better educated (Black, Devereux and Salvanes, 2003; Orepolous, Page and Stevens, 2003). Parenting at different levels effects child's grow. In early days of child's life, parents try to give more and more time to his physical growth and when he reaches in adolescence age, expectation and responsibilities changes. They need their opportunities, chances, autonomously and self expression to prove themselves (Roesser, Eccles &

Sameroff, 2000). In a nutshell we can say that parenting involvement in learning of child is also very important in adolescences period too.

Warm, responsive parenting is related to school success and positive social and emotional outcomes (Mandara, 2006). All youths wants to share their problems and needs to their parents. Those parents who take the keen interest in their children's academic and social problems, their children will not be misguided. Different parenting styles impacts various patterns of development on the children. Many studies shows that democratic style with a collaborative feeling, is associated with more positive and expected educational outcomes than an authoritarian styles (Stienberg, Bradford & Dornbusch, 1996). The benefits of good parenting styles not only limited to school success or academic achievement but also for a harmonious social and emotional development too.

For learning betterment:

At senior and senior secondary level, parents are less likely involvement in their children's academic activities as compare to early or middle ages. When they help them in secondary levels and supports in learning and helping in completion of their homework assignment and project works, their conflicts and fears are reduces and chances of attaining higher grades increases (Toney, Kelley & Lanclos, 2003).

For Educational Expectations

Research shows that high parental expectations also improve students outcomes (Catambis, 2001; Jaynes & Trusty, 2003). It is quite observed that when students perceive that their parents have high educational goals for them, they have more interest in school, greater academic self regulation, high goals (Spera, 2006).

Encouragement for Higher Education

One of the important feature of parenting of youths is to motivate them for higher education. Parents' continuous encouragement for higher education also promotes students' college aspirations and preparation (Catsambis, 2001; McCarron & Inkelas, 2006). When parents encourage students for the enrollment in higher educational institutions and discussions about the upcoming courses for them, than they try to achieve the highest goals and make big aspirations for them (Swail, Cabrera & Lee, 2004).

Types of Parental Involvement

Generally there are two types of involvement have observed - Involvement at home and Involvement at school.

Parental involvement at home

Home based parental involvement includes strategies like communication between parents and children, creating a learning environment at home, monitoring and helping in homework. In a study on secondary school students, Zakaria (2013) found that interaction and communication, parenting practices, leisure, openness and acceptance were the predictive factors of parental involvement and had a positive relationship with student's achievement. Students feel more comfortable and less anxious if their parents are involvement in their home assignments. Katz et.al. (2011) concluded those parents' behaviors such as competence, beliefs and positive attitude towards the task of homework supports the children's psychological needs and these needs positively related to children's autonomous motivation for doing homework. Cooper et.al. (1998) found that parents' attitudes toward homework were positively associated with students' higher grades in elementary school. In another study Hill and Craft (2003) found that parents' engagement in child's home activities was a significant predictor of math achievement score among elementary school students. Regnar(2009) found that parents academic monitoring positively predicted mastery goal of middle school students. Cark(1993) found a positive

relationship between a parental involvement in homework checking and students' academic performance.

Involvement at school

According to Epstein's framework model there are six types of parental involvement exists at home- parenting (helping families with childrearing and parenting skills), communicating (developing home school communication), volunteering (creating ways that families can become involved in activities at the school), learning at home (supporting learning activities in the home that reinforce school curriculae), decision making (including families as decision makers through school sites councils and committees) and collaborating with the community.

Research studies show that the benefit of parents involvement varies according to students' school level (Regner, 2009; Seginer, 2006 & Jeynes, 2007).

Parents participation in the school meetings make the students positive and active about the school assignments and other activities because he has no chance of any excuses if parent has already know about the tasks. Involvement in the school as like a guests in the school program also makes the parents more actively member of the society. Teachers have some queries and suggestions for the parents for the child. So when the parents come in the school teachers can also give them the necessary suggestions. In this way he plays the role of communicator of the teacher to the child.

Another type of involvement is volunteering in school activities. In this way teacher can motivate and encourage the parents to participate in school functions and grow the healthy and familiar relations with the parents. They help them in individual talents of parents on the school platforms. So students can also learn from their parents too. According to Epstein (1995), three types of activities are designed to enhance students' skills in communicating with adults; provide them with exposure to wide range of adult skills, occupations and help them to develop their own skills.

Another type of parent involvement in school is that involving them in decision making bodies and in strategies. By involving parents in such activities school can make better relationship with the students as well as society. Parents realize the role and their accountability towards their children and schools as well.

From the previous time it is observed that the role of parents towards the society is also very important. School is also the miniature of the society. So parents play the important role in collaborating with school and they also the representatives of the community. Children outcomes are greater when parents, schools and community work together. So it is quite essential for the parents that they participate and associate the necessary resources for the schools and for the children. Parents also know the resources of the community so they can aware the children to learn about the things which have more importance to their career. In this way child may know about their future possibilities and more conscious about their goals. Obviously the learning and performance of the students can also increase in this way.

Parental Involvement and its Impact over Academic Success of Students

It is generally seen that those students who have very good academic records have a positive or negative impact of their family and community environment and the role of their parents is also very important. They are the most positive motivators for the children to do well in his school. Parental involvement is central to improving educational outcomes of children (Choi, 2003; Gereen & Tichenor, 2003; Tillman, 2003). Each parent's wants that their children could get the best educational and remarkable success in his academic life. Mellon and Montavelis (2009) mentioned that parents have interested to help in students' self confidence, self perception and general sense of psychological well being. Students whose parents support and motivate tend to have great sense of facing academic challenges (Fan and William, 2010). Children whose parents are actively involved have very good chance to complete their home works and other assignment work during their primary and middle school levels regularly (Hill and Tylor, 2004). Chen and Gregory argue that if parents have good positive attitudes toward teachers, it may beneficially affect student teacher relationships as well as academic

excellence. Involvement of parents may improve children's behavior, social abilities, relationship to society in general (Regner, Loose and Dumas 2009, Treng and Ducreus 2013).

Benefits of Parental Involvement

- One of the most beneficiary things is that parents can be aware of the academic activeness of the children and can be have positive expentancees.
- It is also quite helpful for the students because they can share their problems regarding academic and social life in school.
- There is no chance to have negative thinking about the curriculum activities in the school in the parents and also in the school staffs.
- Overall personality development of the student can be possible with the cooperation of parents along with teachers.
- Parent school involvement positively affects school environment and classroom teaching (Pena, 2000).
- Parental school involvement not only enhances the teaching efficiency but establishes a good school community relationship also (Hnaderson, 1987; Pena, 2000).
- Parental visits and interaction also increases the parents' knowledge about the curriculum, enhance mutual understanding and increase the effectiveness of parental involvement at home (Comor, 1995; Epstien,2001; Hill and taylor,2004).
- Parental involvement also increases the knowledge about the particular task or a topic of children which has been allotted to him so that parents do the maximum help in that task.
- Parental involvement also reduces the rate of drop out children because can motivate them to do well in the school.
- Parental involvement can also resolve many academic and non academic problems regarding the children in early ages of the schools.

Impact of less parental involvement

One of the most serious cause of low academic performance is the unpleasant home environment or we can say less parental involvement in his child' educational process. Apart from this, teacher also faces many problems on behalf of the less involvement of the parents because parents do not present before the teachers due to their busy schedules or less interest. It can be said here that the differences in the way the parents and the school view each other limits the parental involvement in their child's education (Smrekar and Cohenvogel, 2001).

British cohort study and national child development studies found that children whose parents do not spend enough time on broadening of children's knowledge seen to have difficulties during elementary school as well as middle schools. It is also observed that parent's involvement in early years is quite more than their older counterparts (Hang et al., 2010).

Another aspect of parental involvement is the economic level of parents. Hill & Taylor (2004) highlighted that those families who have low income are less likely to engage in the education of their children that wealthier family. Although social class and size of family have also a slight affect on child's educational involvement of parents. According to Furstenberg et. al. (1999), environment of the society also affects parental involvement such as neighborhood of the family, rate of poverty, housing conditions etc.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion we may conclude that parental involvement at home as well as school plays a key role in child's academic success. Parental involvement at home motivates and helps in doing all the school based assignments, projects, home works and various activities. In the same way in school, parents also play the important role in fostering the academic problems of the students. Because in schools, parents can get the chance to share and improvise their problems and so they can

aware of child's performance in school activities. By knowing these facts they may help their children in improving the performance in school.

Another thing is that parents may resolve their children's issues regarding the adjustment in school's environment so that they can provide emotional and social security to their children outside the home as well.

Some of the basic needs that every child wants from their parents are love, affection, reinforcement, praise and reward. They can also play the major role in the academic success of the child. Parents can also escape their children from the negativity, academic anxieties and pressures of the competitions of the school by involving and guiding in their learning process. But all this can only be happen if the parents aware and positively attributed towards their children. So it is the responsibility of teachers and society to make sure that parents are aware about their children and could help in the learning process of the children.

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