

Parental Influence on Academic Performance of Higher Secondary School Students of District, Dehradun

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated the influence of parents on the academic performance of students of English medium schools in Dehradun. The study examined and investigated the influence of hereditary factors of parents on the performance of students. The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised all the 200 students who were randomly selected from 4 randomly selected higher secondary schools in Dehradun. The instrument used to collect data for the study is a questionnaire titled "Parental Influence and Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in Mathematics Questionnaire" (PIAPSSMQ). The questionnaire has two sections: Sections A and B. Section A was designed to elicit demographic information from the respondents. Section B was used to gather information on parental influence and academic performance variables. Split half reliability method was used in order to ensure the reliability of the instrument. The reliability coefficient of $r = 0.88$ was obtained. The study showed that parents have a significant influence on the academic performance of secondary school students.

Keywords: Parental influence, Academic performance, Higher secondary school, Students.

Journal of Teacher Education and Research (2024). DOI: 10.36268/JTER/19207

INTRODUCTION

In any society, parenthood has the major responsibility for child-rearing. The various activities of the child, starting from birth to the schooling age, are controlled and monitored by the parent, especially the mother (Murray, 1992). It has been stated elsewhere that: "when children start learning, it must be treated as a complex process beginning at birth which involves the learner with a teacher in an educational institution, such as school and also with his socio-economic background at home." From the above assertion, it can be inferred that a child's education begins at home and not in school. From their birth until their first day at school, they would be under their parent's care. During this period, a lot is learned through the process of socialization. Parent refers to one who has begotten offspring or occupies the role of mother or father as parenthood. In Western society, parenthood, with its several obligations, rests strongly on biological relatedness, that is, sexual reproduction. This is not the case in all societies. In some, a distinction is made between a biological parent and a social parent, with the former producing the child and later raising the child and acting as a mother or father in as effective or legal sense as biological parents are expected to do in Western society. This distinction is common in the case of fathers and anthropologists have developed appropriate terms; a "genitor" is a biological father and a "pater" is a social one (The New Encyclopedia Britannica, 1990). The most important thing is that a child should have good experience mainly through observation and play. Unfortunately, the child does not get enough of those experiences at home.

Parental influence

The parents have a great influence on the performance of the students. Parents who pay proper attention to their children perform much better than those who don't pay attention to their wards.

Academic Achievement

"Educational or academic achievement is a specific level of attainment or proficiency in academic work as evaluated by

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How to cite this article: Malhotra, B. K. (2024). Parental Influence on Academic Performance of Higher Secondary School Students of District, Dehradun. *Journal of Teacher Education and Research*, 19(2):41-43.

Source of support: Nil

Conflict of interest: None

teachers, by standardized tests or by a combination of both." (Dictionary of Psychology – J Atkinson).

Higher Secondary students

Higher Secondary students are the students who are studying in class XII of various English and Hindi medium schools of Dehradun. English medium schools:

Statement of the Problem

As a result of the social, political, and economic changes taking place in our society, many parents ignore the age long responsibility of impacting early childhood education to their children at home. These parents have shifted their parts of these responsibilities to the school. Most parents who are government workers have for differing reasons, little time for their children. With this observation, it is clear that parents have a great influence on the academic performance of their wards, especially in academics. Hence, the need to examine the parental influence on the academic performance of higher secondary school students is of utmost importance.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of the study is to investigate the parental influence on the academic performance of higher secondary school students in the English medium of district Dehradun.

The specific objectives of the study are :

- To investigate the influence of parents on the academic performance of students.

Table 1: School-wise Mean comparison of scores on the parental influence scale and its dimension

Variables	St. Joseph's Academy	St.Thomas School	GGIC	KV	F
Parental influence total	98.67	116.87	114.71	112.39	12.34
Parental pressure	18.05	021.98	021.60	013.45	08.10
Parental support	24.29	028.70	018.00	027.35	08.23
Parental expectation	13.90	17.32	025.00	25.58	06.24
Parent-child interaction	22.30	023.40	025.80	25.87	07.51

Note: *** $p < .001$, ** $p < .01$, * $p < .05$

- To examine the influence of the educational standard of parents on the performance of students.
- To examine the influence of family background on the performance of students.
- To investigate the influence of hereditary factors of parents on the performance of students.
- Hypothesis:
 - There is no significant influence of parents on the academic performance of students.
 - There is no significant influence educational standard of parents on the performance of students.
 - There is no significant influence of family background on the performance of students.
 - There is no significant influence of hereditary factors of parents on the performance of students.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a descriptive survey research design. The population of the study comprised 200 secondary school students of Dehradun. The sample of the study consisted of secondary schools in the local area. The instrument used to collect data for the study is a questionnaire titled "Parental Influence and Academic Performance of Secondary School Students in Mathematics Questionnaire" (PIAPSSMQ). The questionnaire has two sections: Section A and section B. Section A was designed to elicit demographic information from the respondents. Section B was used to gather information on parental influence and academic performance variables. Split half reliability method was used in order to ensure the reliability of the instrument. The questionnaire was trial-tested on a few students within the population but outside the sampled respondents. The reliability coefficient of $r = 0.88$ was obtained. This reliability coefficient is considered high enough. Therefore, the instrument was found to be reliable. The questionnaire was administered to all the teachers (who are parents) in all the secondary schools selected in Dehradun Government schools. All the copies of the questionnaire administered by the researchers through personal contact were returned.

RESULTS

Where

GGIC-Government girls inter college
KV-Kendra vidhalaya

The results show mean computation of the influence of parents on the academic performance of students. On an individual group basis, the principals agreed that the financial ability and status of the parents do affect the performance of their children. On the other hand, the teachers agreed that parental monitoring helps the performance of the students in mathematics. They also agreed that

the students from the rich home perform better than the students from poor homes.

On an individual group basis, the principals agreed that the intelligence quotient of the parents does influence the performance of the students in mathematics. They disagreed that the higher the education of the parents, the higher the performance of the children and also observed that the educational background of the parents was positive.

The teachers on the other hand, agreed that students from illiterate parents but were developed by educated people perform better in mathematics. They disagreed that the level of education of their parents may not influence the performance of students in mathematics.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The study investigated the parental effect on the academic performance of students in mathematics. In doing this, four research questions were raised and one null hypothesis was formulated. It was discovered that the failure of most students in school, especially in mathematics, is due to the influence of the parents and not only from the teachers or school authorities. The parental status in procuring the necessary materials in mathematics for their children determined, to a very large extent, the performance of such children in the subject. The level of educational standard and background of the parent also determined the performance of such children in the subject. In addition, the hereditary factors of the parents and many other variables determine the level of success of the students in mathematics. The findings corroborate the findings of Odeyemi (1985), Akinsola (1994), Olosunde (2002), Esan (1992), Fabunmi (1980) and Murray (1980).

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