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A study to assess the relationship between parental involvement and academic performance of school age children in schools of Pune city

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Abstract

Aim: The Study is to assess the Relationship between Parental involvement and Academic performance of School age children in schools of Pune city.

Methods: A quantitative approach was adopted to conduct this study and the design used was non experimental exploratory research design. A non-probability convenient sampling technique was used for generating necessary data a self-structured questionnaire was developed which consisted of 30 questions on a 5-point scale. Questionnaire was confined to the areas of Epstein's six different types of involvement which included parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making and collaborating with community and Parental involvement opinionative was developed and referring to the 'No child left behind Act' (NCLB). A final study was carried out on 300 parents of school age children (8-12 years of age) studying between classes III to class VII. Based on the objectives, the data was analyzed by using various statistical tests such as percentage, mean, standard deviation, Mann Whitney and ANOVA.

Results: Findings of this study revealed that out of 300 samples, 295 parents have shown full parental involvement in academic performance of their child, 5 of them showed partial involvement and no one showed any involvement in academic performance of their child. Findings of distribution of children according to academic performance shows that, 178 children were having good academic performance and 118 were having average academic performance and 4 of them shown poor academic performance and needs supervision. The association between parental involvement and children's academic performance in study group is that there is no association between parental involvement and academic performance in study group as 'p' value is greater than 0.05. The association between parental involvement and children's academic performance with the selected demographic variables shows that there is highly significant difference of parental involvement of child according to child age, in study group i.e. p<0.005 and no significant difference of academic performance of child according to child ape, in study group i.e. p<0.05. There is no significant difference of parental involvement and academic performance of child according to birth order, class in study group i.e. p<0.05 and significant difference of academic performance according to class in study group i.e. p<0.05.

Interpretation and Conclusion: After the detailed analysis, the study leads to the conclusion that there is no significant difference between the parental involvement and academic performance of the child. This indicated that other than parental involvement, factors such as nutrition, socio-economic status, role of teachers, School environment etc. will be responsible for the good academic performance of the child in the school.

Keywords: Parental involvement, academic performance, *Epstein's* framework of six types of involvement, no child left behind Act (NCLB)

Introduction

Educational achievement is said to one of the major achievement in life. Academic performance is considered as the basis for selection for higher education and jobs. It is supposed to bring about and contribute towards the prosperity, happiness, satisfaction and well-being of the individual. Researchers and policy makers have long known that family background is an important determinant of success in school. A well-rounded family and stable environment is most likely to give a child a positive future and influence. Parental involvement is an awareness of schoolwork, understanding of the interaction between parenting skills and student's success in schooling.

Corresponding Author: Smita Thomas Associate Professor, Department of Paediatrics Nursing, Dhanwantari Nursing College, Bangalore, Karnataka, India According to the research of Epstein (2001) children learn and develop through three overlapping "spheres of influence" family, school, and community. Students who have support from their parents at home show better performance at school, while students lacking support are struggling. Getting parents involved in the education of their children appears to be a crucial factor for the continuing educational development and success of children in school.

Need of the study

A child's learning is enhanced when schools encourage stimulate their children's intellectual to development. Parental involvement may be an essential factor in the development of the foundation in children's education. In spite of this, many parents do not appear to be getting involved in their children's education. This lack of involvement may have a negative impact on student performance in and out of the classroom and ultimately affect their continuing educational development and success. A parent actively involves in their child's development, growth, feeding and overall health concerns. The same involvement should be applied to their child's academic development. Parent's involvement can be an accelerating factor for a child's development. His / her academic performance will improve and so would be his/her confidence in various other aspects of life. The purpose of this research project is to gather more information on parental involvement in education. This information will

enable to observe the dynamics of their own classroom, while investigating how to develop parental involvement in their students' education.

Objectives of the study

- To assess the parental involvement in their child's academic performance.
- To assess the children's academic performance in school.
- To assess the relationship between parental involvement and children's academic performance.
- To associate parental involvement and children's academic performance with the selected demographic variables.

Assumptions

The study assumes that Parental involvement may influence academic performance of child in the school.

Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework represents a less formal attempt for organizing phenomena. It deals with abstractions (concepts) that assemble by virtue of their relevance to a common theme. The present study aims at assessing the relationship between parental involvement and academic performance of the child in school. The conceptualization of this study is based on general system theory.

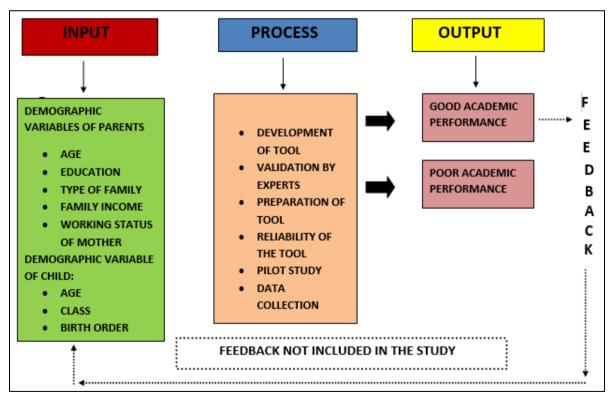


Fig 1: Conceptual framework of the study based on the system model

Research Design

The design adopted for the present study was non experimental, exploratory research design. It identifies and explores the relationship between parent involvement and academic performance of the school age children.

Setting of the study

The setting for this particular study was proposed to

various schools of Pune city

- Pune Cambridge Public school, Bharathi Vihar, Katraj (Marathi medium).
- St. Hildas Marathi medium school, Swargate.
- Abha Saheb Atre English medium school, Rasta peth.
- Eon Gyankar English medium school, Kharadi.
- Bharathi Vidyapeeth English medium school, Katraj.

Population

Population is a group whose members possess specific characteristics that the researcher is interested in studying. In this study the population will be all the parents of the school children of class III to class VII.

Sample and sampling technique

The sampling technique used in this study was non probability convenient method of sampling.

Sample size

Sample size of this study was 300 parents (father or mother) of school children of class 3rd to 7th STD.

Inclusion criteria

- This study was confined to the parents who are willing to participate in this study.
- This study will include parents of school age children of class III to VII STD.
- This study was confined to the parents whose children are from Marathi or English medium.
- Study was confined to the parents, to those who can read and understand English or Marathi.

Exclusion criteria

Parents who are not staying with their children.

Data collection techniques and instrument

The technique of questionnaire design is used to assess the parental involvement in the academic performance of their school children. Questionnaire was considered to be the most efficient and objective method. The samples were selected; the investigator approached the concerned authority of schools and discusses the purpose and objectives of study. A self-structured questionnaire was administered by the investigator herself. The duration of data collection was 20 to 30 minutes per sample.

Results

Major Findings of the Study

Section I: Socio-demographic data of parent and child

Frequency and percentage distribution of selected demographic characteristics of parent and child: Informers were both father and mother were included, from that total number of father were 177 i.e. 59% and mothers were 123 i.e. 41% out of 300 samples. 65.67% of Mothers between age group of 31-40 yrs. were involved than other age group and 72% of fathers between age group of 31-40 yrs. were involved in the academic performance of their child at school. Majority of the parents were from nuclear type of family i.e. 74% and 26% were from joint families and most of them family income ranges from 5001 to 10,000 Rs per month. In the demographic data of the children majority of them were between age group of 11-12 yrs. Majority of the children were from class IV and according to birth order most of them were 2nd or the youngest child.

Section II: Parental involvement in academic performance of school age children

The data shows that maximum of 98.33% parents were having full parental involvement and 1.67% were having partial parental involvement respectively. No parents were seen who are not involved in the academic performance of the child. Mothers who completed their secondary education

were more involved in the academic performance of the child where as father who completed their graduates were more involved.

Section III: Distribution of children according to academic performance

59.33% of children were having good academic performance in the school where as 39.33% were average and 1.33% children needs supervision in the academic performance respectively.

Section IV: Association between parental involvement and children's academic performance in study group

177 numbers of children were having good academic performance as there was full parental involvement and 114 were having average. This association was calculated by using chi-square, which came to be 3.53, p>0.05. As p value is greater than 0.05, there is no association between parental involvement and academic performance in study group.

Section V: Association between parental involvement and children's academic performance with the selected demographic variables

This was tested by using Mann Whitney test and ANOVA. There is no significant difference of parental involvement and academic performance of child according to informer i.e. p>0.05 as Parental involvement 'z' value is 3.37 and for academic performance, 'z' value is 0.25, p>0.05. There is no significant difference of parental involvement and academic performance of child according to mother age and fathers age i.e. p>0.05. There is no significant difference of parental involvement of child according to mother education i.e. p>0.05 and significant difference of academic performance of child according to mother education i.e. p<0.05. There is no significant difference of parental involvement and academic performance of child according to father education i.e. p>0.05. There is no significant difference of parental involvement and academic performance of child according to working mother i.e. p>0.05 There is no significant difference of parental involvement and academic performance of child according to type of family i.e. p>0.05 and no significant difference of parental involvement and academic performance of child according to family income i.e. p>0.05.

Conclusion

After the detailed analysis, the study leads to the conclusion that there is no significant difference between the parental involvement and academic performance of the child. This indicates that other than parental involvement, factors such as nutrition, socio economic status, role of teachers, school environment, and role of peers, parenting approach, family size, parental attitudes, positive interpersonal support and self-motivation strategies will be also responsible for the good academic performance of the child in school.

Nursing Implications

Nursing Practice: Parental involvement and support has become a central part in paediatric nursing. Familycentered care is currently one of paediatric nursing's most dynamic and challenging philosophies. Presence of "parental warm, sensitivity, and responsiveness, and support for a child's autonomy and emerging selfcontrol are highly predictive of children's socio-

- emotional and cognitive development".
- Nursing education: School efforts to promote health among students have been shown to be more successful when parents are involved. Offer or collaborate with community organizations to provide parent education classes on the following topics: Understanding child and adolescent development; Praising and rewarding desirable health behaviours; Setting expectations for appropriate healthy behaviour and academic performance.
- Nursing research: Research on attempts to intervene to enhance parental involvement reveals a number of approaches ranging from parent training programmes to promote the psycho-social health necessary for good parenting, through initiatives to enhance home-school links and on in scale to programmes of family or community education aimed to increase levels of human and social capital.

Conflict of Interest

Not available

Financial Support

Not available

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