

**The Influence of Parents Educational level on Secondary School Students' Academic
Achievements in District Rajanpur**

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to focus the influence and impact of parents' educational level on students' academic achievement at secondary level of education. The study utilizes the students results of the 9th class in secondary school certificate examination taken by the Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education Dera Ghazi Khan. Oral interview, observation and a questionnaire were used for this study. This article tries to find out the impact of parental education status at students' academic achievements of secondary school level. Research population was the students of different public and private high schools of District Rajanpur, South Punjab. 200 students of Grade 10th were taken as a sample randomly. Null hypothesis was formulated and tested using independent Z-test analysis. Descriptive study based on empirical data was tested to correlate the described variables. After analysis of the data the research finds significant positive relationship between parents' education level and academic achievements of students.

KEYWORDS: Parent's education level, secondary schools, academic achievements.

Introduction

Education has a pivotal role in nation as well as individual character building. It is a life line for any society and nation. Education of a child needs multidimensional efforts. Students, teachers, institute and parents all have their importance in their process of learning. Parents education is such a motivating force for a child which paves the way for his/her future. It is an admitted fact that the children of educated parents are more confident, resourceful and experienced than the children whose parents lack education. Jencks (1972) says that the family plays an important role in formal and informal education. Family characteristics represent a

number of variables like education, income, beliefs, occupation, size of family also have implication on the performance of children. Significant reliable research studies have told that socio-economic status of parent is the best predictor of student academic achievement (Coleman et al.,1966). And parental education is considered the most stable (permanent) aspect of socio-economic status. It has been well defined that family plays a vital role in a child's academic achievement and development (Cornell & Gross, 1987). And Thompson et al (1988) says mother's level of education influences adolescents' educational outcomes expectancy beliefs. A study by (Campbell, et al., 1999) using NAEP data indicated that students who reported higher parental education levels tended to have higher average score.

Although there is a lot of research on this particular phenomenon of parental education and its effects in different regions of the world. The particular region District Rajan Pur where lack of education is more than any other district of Punjab. Literacy rate of this area is very poor near about 21% by Statistical Bureau of Pakistan (1998 Census). The area under present study is considered backward area. The present research focuses the backwardness and lackness of education resources. This may prove the otherwise results.

Objectives of the study

- i. To explore factors affecting secondary school level students' academic performance.
- ii. To investigate the effect of parental education level on the academic achievements of students of the District Rajanpur.
- iii. To give way to the planner of education department for the betterment of education level in District Rajanpur.

Hypothesis:

Ho - There is no significant influence of parent's education level on student academic achievements at secondary school level.

H1 - There is impact of significant influence of parents' education level on student academic achievements at secondary school level.

Literature Review

A characteristic that may affect the value of parental involvement in students' academic achievement is parental educational level. The literary review on students' academic achievements has reviewed the importance of parents' education. Many studies describe parents' education level plays an important role in the amount of parent involvement and the most of these research have been with secondary school students (Sui-chu & Williams 1996). More findings describe that the higher education level of the parents, the students more likely will have better academic achievement. This research is only with the secondary school students (Sandefur, et al.,1999). Jacquelyn, (2005) have pointed out the relationship of parents' education level to their children academic achievements. A mother's education has a more influence than father, so mother's education is more important. Karshen (2003) says that students whose parents are well educated get higher positions than those whose parents are not educated. Educated parents help their children in school work activities. Dave and Dave (1971) found that high achievers belong to homes with parents' higher education level. The failed students belong

to those who have lower parents' education level. Williams (1980) and Teach man (1987) found that more educated parents create environment that facilitate learning. They involve themselves in children's school activities and school environment. Okagaki and French (1978) studied that parents' education is a distal indicator indirectly correlated with children education achievements. Good and Brophy (1997) say that educated parents show interest in their children's academic performances they meet and co-operate with educational administrators to ensure children seriousness in their studies. On the other hand, Hawkes (1995) says that student performance donot necessarily depend on parents' professional competency or educational attainments.

The literature review indicates a positive and significant relationship between parents' education level and students' academic achievements. The researcher of this study tries to find the relationship between parental education level and students' academic achievements in this particular backward and less educated region District Rajanpur.

Methodology

This study covered the area of district Rajanpur, south Punjab, Pakistan. The population of this study is the students of private and public secondary schools in District Rajanpur. 200 students of 10th grade/level were randomly selected as a sample. The data were collected by questionnaire, interviews and direct observation. Documentary analysis of the result of 9th grade students by Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Dera Ghazi Khan was done. The questionnaire was assessed by experts in educational psychology and educational administration.

The reliability is high enough which indicates a high level of internal consistency. Interviews and personal observation were also used to collect data to confirm the information gathered through the questionnaire done by the students independently under the researcher's close supervision and assistance where needed. Learning performance of the students was also observed through their responses in the interview. Independent Z-test analysis was used to confirm the impact or influence of parents' education level on the students' academic achievements. The Z-test was used to compare the mean score of students' performance with high and low level of parental education. 3.87 was the observed Z-value. This value was tested for significance by comparing it with the critical value at 0.05 level. The obtained value was greater than the critical value. The result shows that there is significant positive influence of parents' academic background on secondary school students academic learning. The study investigated the influence of parents' educational level on secondary school students' performance in District Rajanpur. The study observed that parent's education level has a positive significant influence on the academic achievements of secondary school children. This study also confirms the work of Watson (1986). The result of his study was that the high level educated parents are often interested and influential on the academic performance of their children. Children of educated parents are provided with better learning environment at home. Parents teach their children themselves. To achieve their objectives facilities are provided to the children at home. The parents who do not go beyond elementary or secondary schools are not able to give proper help to their children in the educational problems. Some researcher has however not agreed with this. They argue that children's academic achievements in most case do not necessarily depend on parents' education level. For example, Hawkes (1995) in his research study of parents' educational attainments concluded that it does not affect students' academic achievements.

Conclusion

This research study concludes that high level educated parents to an extent, have more influence on their children to achieve and perform well in their studies at secondary school level. This assertion has been supported that high level educated parents usually show interest and care in their children's academic performance or achievements and their choice of subject and career while in secondary school. This undoubtedly leads to better performance and achievements in studies.

Recommendation

The following recommendations are made on the basis of conclusion:

1. At secondary school level there should be qualified and competent teachers who have knowledge and mastery on subject matter and teaching strategies.
2. Parents should ensure to give learning facilities and opportunities to their children at home in discipline.
3. Government should give training to the teachers through Directorate of Staff Development. It should organize induction training, courses, seminars, workshops on new teaching methods and their implementation in schools.
4. The study recommends further research on this issue.
5. Government should give proper focus on reduction of poverty.
6. Government should ensure that students complete their studies from primary to higher education.
7. Government should try to educate the people.

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