

PARENTAL INVOLMENT IN IMPROVING STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS

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ABSTRACT

I investigated this study to know the parental involvement in improving students' achievements. This study applied quantitative reseach by giving questionnaire to 20 nine-year-old elementary students. The findings are parents need to be cooperative, communicative, and caring to their children by giving plenty attention and caring, parents could make the children grow healthily and have a good mental, social life, and school grade as well. Students who have the parents characteristics mentioned before tend to have a good achievement, it proves by students' grades than the students who do not have ones. Then, Most parents care about their children materials completeness for school as they think that by working on it, it will enhance student's learning process at school. While, parents generally do not really care about their children behaviour at school due to parents' thinking that there are teachers at school and it is normal for children to be a little mischievous as long as they don't make any serious problem at school.

Keywords: Parents' involvement, students' achievement, improving.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Teachers and parents play the important role in student's success in school field. Family involment in learning helps students to improve their performance in their education (Garcia and Thornton, 2014). The good or bad of students' achievement can be influenced by lots of factors. One of the crucial factors is the parents' involvement. Parents, who take care of us, play a very big role in their children's lives, especially the one who are still young and go to school. Parents'

involvement could affect the children's behaviour, mental, social life and academic grade/achievement.

Parental involvements have been by being active in checking homework, attending school meetings and events, discussing school activities at home — has a more powerful influence on students' academic performance than anything about the school the students attend (Paul, 2012). Parents' monitoring motivates student to learn more when they do not understand a particular topic (Mante, 2015). Nowadays, parents have little responsibility to their children in providing children need, such as food, clothing, and shelter. While, Parents focus on financial need. This study investigated how big the parental involvement in improving students' achievement by 20 nine-year-old elementary students in Medan Perjuangan sub-regency.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the study above, the problem of the study is how is the parental involvement in improving students' achievement.

1.3 The Objective of the Study

This study investigated parental involvement in improving students' achievement.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Parental Involvement in Improving Students' Achievement

2.1.1 Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is the participation of parents in children's lives specifically in academic life. There are some various types of measures in parental involvement, they are; parents' educational aspiration for their children, helping with homework, encouraging good study habits, parents' participation in school activities, teaching appropriate behavior for academic success, and communication between home and school (Dumont et al, 2014).

2.1.2 Students' Achievement

Student achievement measures the amount of academic content a student learns in a determined amount of time. It refers to the students' grade.

RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Research Design

This study applied quantitative research.

3.2 The Data

The instrument of data collection is questionnaire. The questions were statements of how parents' involvement in the student's life. To answer the questions, participants needed to write A, F, S, or N in the space given in the questionnaire (A stands for "Always", F stands for "Frequently", S stands for "Seldom", and N stands for "Never"). For the scoring, A is counted 4, F is counted

3, S is counted 2, and N is counted 1. For the range of final score, 3.1-4 are counted as A, 2.1-3 are counted as F, 1.1-2 are counted as S, and 1 is counted as N. To evaluate the score, researcher counts average of each question score to find out which parental involvement is the most often done by parents and counts the average score of each students' questionnaire and compare it with their grades in school.

3.3 Population and Sample

The population of the study are nine-year-old elementary students in Medan Perjuangan sub-district. The sample of the study are 20 nine-year-old elementary students in Medan Perjuangan sub-district by using random sampling.

DATA ANALYSIS AND FINDING

4.1 Data Analysis

The result of data analysis is seen below;

4.1 Table of data analysis

My parents spend time and relate with me when:	Average Score	Category
1. I am doing my homework.	2.15	F
2. I have difficulties in school.	2.45	F
3. I have personal problems.	2.7	F
4. I am studying difficult lessons at home.	3.0	F
5. I need tutoring.	2.515	F
6. I buy materials needed for school and tasks.	3.55	A

7. I have failing grades.	2.15	F
8. I misbehave in class.	2.05	S
9. I need advices.	2.85	F
10. I have activities in school that need their presence.	2.515	F

As shown in the table above, “**My parents spend time and relate with me when I buy materials needed for school and tasks**” gets the higher score, which is **3.55** and is categorized as **Always**. This means that most parents are concerned whether their children buy and bring proper school materials to school. It is because parents in common think that proper and complete materials will enhance their children learning process in school.

On the other hand, “**I misbehave in class**” gets **2.05**, which is the lowest score and is categorized as **Seldom**. This means that parents generally do not really care about their children behaviour at school. It is possible that parents think that there are teachers in school who will handle it as it happens in school. Parents could also think that it’s normal for children to be a little mischievous when they play along with their friends at school. As long as they are not making any big and serious problem at school, their misbehaviour is not really seemed important to the parents.

4.2 Table of data analysis result

No.	Name of Participant	Questionnaire Score	Score Category	School Grade
1.	Kent	3.4	A	95.4

2.	Michael L. Kwok	3.3	A	93.35
3.	Roselyn	3.3	A	89.7
4.	Cavalli	3.0	F	86.45
5.	Kennedy	2.9	F	93.9
6.	Gladys	2.8	F	86.85
7.	Claire	2.8	F	96.8
8.	Cherin	2.7	F	83.65
9.	Jeferson	2.7	F	78.5
10.	Reagan	2.7	F	90.75
11.	Cherish	2.7	F	69.9
12.	Matthew	2.7	F	90.85
13.	Gricelia	2.6	F	87.75
14.	Steven	2.5	F	84.25
15.	Michael Christian	2.4	F	93.55
16.	Varren	2.4	F	92.7
17.	Jessie	2.3	F	80.95
18.	Aveiro	2.2	F	86
19.	Kaelyn	1.7	S	76.4
20.	Victoria	1.5	S	92.2

As shown above, 3 out of 20 participants are categorized as ‘Always’, 15 out of 20 participants are categorized as ‘Frequently’, and 2 out of 20 participants are categorized as ‘Seldom’. After counting the average of each category student’s grade, the final result obtained is:

Category	Student's grade average
Always	92.8
Frequently	86.8
Seldom	84.3

From the table above, researcher obtains a result that the students, whose parents 'always' involved themselves in their children's school lives, have the highest grades in school. And on the other hand, the students, whose parents 'seldom' involved themselves, have the lowest grade. To conclude, parents' involvement has a great effect in influencing student's grade.

4.2 Finding

From the data analysis above, it is seen that parents' involvement give a great impact to the improvement of students' achievement.

CONCLUSION

5.1 Conclusion

It is shown that the students, who have communicative and caring parents, have a better grade than the students who do not have ones. This is a proof that parental involvement has a great effect in improving student's achievement. This is because parents play a very big role in their children's lives. By giving plenty attention and caring, children could grow healthily and have a good mental, social life, and school grade as well.

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