
Parental Involvement in Education

R.T. JEGATHEESWARI

Assistant Professor,
Department of English
Marthandam College of Engineering & Technology, Kuttakuzhi

This study examines the influence of parental involvement on the education. It describes that parental involvement in their children's learning positively affects the child's academic performance. Parental involvement provides a support network for children, which is particularly important when they face academic hurdles or other challenges with friendships or extra-curricular activities. As a result, children whose parents stay involved are more likely to have higher self-esteem, be disciplined, have more self-motivation and tend to achieve better grades, regardless of their ethnic, social or racial backgrounds.

Keywords: Communication, Parent, Community, Barriers and Education.

Introduction

Parental involvement is a combination of commitment and active participation on the part of the parent to the school and to the student. There are many problems concerned with involvement. Parent involvement includes several different forms of participation in education and schools. Parents can support their children's schooling by attending school functions and parent-teacher conferences. They can also involve in helping their children improve their schoolwork--providing encouragement, arranging for appropriate study time and space, modeling desired behavior such as reading for pleasure, monitoring homework, and actively tutoring their children at home. They can volunteer to help out with school activities or work in the classroom. Parental involvement is often seen as a cornerstone in a child's education.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement can be defined as the active, ongoing participation of a parent or primary caregiver in the education of his or her child. Parents can demonstrate involvement at home-by reading with their children, helping with homework and discussing school events-or at school, by attending functions or volunteering in classrooms. Schools with involved parents engage those parents, communicate with them regularly, and incorporate them into the learning process.

Barriers to parent involvement

Schools often don't engage parents because they don't think they can. "A lot of it is perception. According to Karen Salinas, "Teachers perceive that families don't want to be involved when, in fact, families don't know how to be involved. "Some important barriers are mentioned below Parents are sometimes hesitant to become involved in school because they don't have extra time or because they don't speak fluent English. But "the biggest problem is the disconnect between

the school and the families. “Parents believe that they had a less-than-satisfactory experience with their own schooling, and so they don't feel to be a good experience. “Communication barriers, both schools and parents want the relationship to improve, if only for the benefit of students.

Improve Communication

Effective communication requires a two-way flow of information. Some schools, improving communication involves technology such as e-mail messages and interactive phone systems. Parents can use the system, called Parent Link, to hear messages from teachers about what is happening in their children's classes and access their children's grades and attendance records.

Schools try to view parent involvement through the parents' eyes. Parent meetings and workshops are not at the school but in a Family Center that operates in the neighborhood where many of their bilingual families live. A phone message in English won't communicate much to parents who speak only Tamil/Malayalam etc. The bottom line for schools is to communicate using strategies that convey what is important in a way that can be heard by parents and families and invites them to respond.

Teach both Parents and Teachers

Schools with a commitment to parent involvement take an active role in helping parents learn a variety of ways to be involved. Many schools use workshops and other school-based programs to help parents learn about what goes on in classrooms. Parents go to the elementary school and read with their children as well as speak with teachers about reading and reading strategies.

Benefits

According to Gelfer, (1991) the parents are able to “increase their understanding of child development in areas of physical, social, emotional and cognitive development”. This helps to provide a bond between home experiences and the educational program.

Children

Teachers believe parental involvement in education results in better performance in school. Children tend to achieve better grades and tend to be more motivated when parents are involved.

Parental involvement helps children’s attention and praise

- Children tend to model adult behaviors, when parents are actively involved with their schooling, children will learn the importance of education.
- Team approach can motivate them to work hard and produce positive results.
- It also boosts the mental health of children.
- It encourages communication between children and parents, which can foster higher self-esteem and confidence.
- It can also help children interact better with their peers and advance their social skills.

Parents

- Motivation and providing discipline for children gives benefits for the parent.
- Related to education, parents are more likely to be sensitive to their child's emotional and social needs.
- Parental involvement creates ties and strengthens bonds with children and can boost our (parents) confidence in parenting and any decision-making when it comes to your child's education.
- It leads to the building of stronger relationships within the school, leading to clearer communication between teachers, parents and children.
- Schools that have high levels of engagement with parents tend to experience better community support and positive reputations.

Educators

- Schools have a high percentage of involved parents in and out of schools, teachers and principals are more likely to experience higher morale.
- Teachers and principals often earn greater respect for their profession from the parents.
- Consistent parent involvement leads to improved communication and relations between parents, teachers, and administrators.
- Teachers and principals acquire a better understanding of families' cultures and diversity, and they form deeper respect for parents' abilities and time.
- Teachers and principals report an increase in job satisfaction.

School

- Successful parent involvement improves not only student behavior and attendance but also positively affects student achievement.
- Schools that actively involve parents and the community tend to establish better reputations in the community.
- Schools also experience better community support.
- School programs that encourage and involve parents usually do better and have higher quality programs than programs that do not involve parents. Setting goals with children and fostering achievement of those goals.
- Accessing and using children's academic scores to ensure they're on track. Frequently viewing the parent portal.
- Developing a relationship with children's teachers and keeping in touch with them often.

Importance of Parental Involvement

- Students with parents who are involved in their school tend to have fewer behavioral problems and better academic performance.
- Parental involvement in school life was more strongly associated with high academic performance for middle school learners than helping with homework.
- Involvement allows parents to monitor school and classroom activities.

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- Teachers of students with highly involved parents tend to give greater attention to those students.
 - Parental involvements in school, and positive parent-teacher interactions, have also been found to positively affect teachers' self-perception and job satisfaction.
 - Students perform better in school if their fathers as well as their mothers are involved, regardless of whether the father lives with the student or not.

Suggestions

- Communicate to parents that their involvement and support make a great deal of difference in their children's school performance, and that they need not be highly educated or have large amounts of free time for their involvement to be beneficial.
- Encourage parent involvement from the time children first enter school
- Teach parents that activities such as modeling reading behavior and reading to their children increase children's interest in learning.
- Develop parent involvement programs that include a focus on parent involvement in instruction-conducting learning activities with children in the home.
- Provide orientation and training for parents, but remember that intensive, long-lasting training is neither necessary nor feasible
- Make a special effort to engage the involvement of parents of disadvantaged students, who stand to benefit the most from parent participation in their learning, but whose parents are often initially reluctant to become involved. Continue to emphasize that parents are partners of the school and that their involvement is needed and valued.

Conclusion

Parents are the most important partner in a child's education and schools can reap large dividends by capitalizing on their support. To be sure, such relationships require a lot of work by both educators and parents. Although success will not come easy, the rewards are too great for a school not to try. So, Parents should always accompany with their children for their great success.

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