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RESEARCH ARTICLE

TO IDENTIFY THE FACTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR DROPOUT OF STUDENTS AT PRIMARY LEVEL IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF GULSHAN –E-IQBAL KARACHI

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ABSTRACT

Primary education provides the fundamental of all formal learning. Primary schools have special responsibility for the intellectual and social development of children. It is a responsibility shared with the family and community but the school is generally hold accountable. The high dropout rate that is experienced in primary school is largely attributed to the drab experience of building, inadequate facilities and an overall repulsive physical environment. This study has been conducted on 60 teachers of government school at primary level in Gulshan –e-Iqbal Karachi. The main purpose of the study was to identify the different factors responsible for the dropout of student at primary level. A comprehensive structured questionnaire was used as a tool to collect the data. The collected data was processed then its analysis was made through simple frequency and percentage distribution tables. The finding suggests that there is a great need for guidance and counseling program in school as well as in home.

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INTRODUCTION

Children are the best pillars of nation and the development of any country depends on the future of children and all in the phenomena education is very necessary.

"Education is the most significant component in nation buildings as it helps, create an enlightened society. It shapes attitudes and beliefs to enable a nation to resolve interpersonal differences and empower people to use the nation resources more efficiently."

Primary education is the first stage of compulsory education .It is preceded by preschool or nursery education and is followed by secondary education. It is very essential and necessary because this is the initial stage of child growth and development.

By Karen:

"Primary school education is most of the often referred to as elementary schools which is usually composed of grade 1-6. The main purpose of primary education is to give children a strong foundation in the basics of a general curriculum, with an emphasis on reading and math"

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Elementary education is difficult to provide or to define because of the extreme variety of practices in its organization, administration and curriculums. In term of children ages, it is the educational institution for pupils from approximately six to twelve or fourteen years of early includes grades 1 to 6. The common subdivision of elementary schools are usually grouped as followed. Primary grades 1 to 13, Intermediate grades 4 to 6, and upper grades 7 to 8. Kindergartens may be included in the primary level.

(Hashim Abro) (Dawn Wednesday 16, 2011)
[Karen Hallowell, www.ehow.contributer]

"A primary school is an institution in which children receive the first stage of compulsory education known as primary or elementary education"

Primary education or elementary education, as it is known as in the U.S fulfills the special needs of students during the first few years of their schooling life. The primary education of a child canmake orbreak his or her educational career. It is important to master the foundation in core subjects should also be exposed to the arts and languages and skills. Primary education set the foundation for learning more efficient academic material: try to think a child educational career as a building. The first four years, kindergarten through third grades, are the foundation and each year after that in another floor. The strength and security of the building depend on how strong that foundation is and conversely if the foundation is

weak, it will not be able to support the more floors. The primary stage of education is of prime importance for the edifice of career. Soundness and tidiness of this stage enable a child to raise a standard of his personality. Unfortunately the importance of this stage is ignored to a large extent in our country.

“Education is human fundamental right. In Pakistan, free education is the responsibilities of the state under article 2-AB of the constitution, but unfortunately it has never been a national policy. The biggest issues that education in Pakistan will be as low enrollment, high dropout rates, inadequate facilities and lack of skilled man power and lack of creativity in management system” (Abbass 2006)

“A person who has discontinued his study from one level of education to another is called a dropout”

The education system in Pakistan because of high dropout rate in primary school, characterized in that the lack of capacity both medium and high and lack of access to education for women (Shah, 2005). Factors of dropout at primary level are identified as external and internal factors. Those reasons which are belonging from the schools are called as internal factors. These factors are economical background, lack of consciousness, lack of facilities, teacher behavior, and lack of guidance, continuous failure and due to illness. Poor parents cannot bear to afford burden of their child's education and do not fulfill their high expenses of children studies. That is why the most of the children dropout from the school. In Pakistan there are uncountable people who are not aware about the significance of education. They take education as useless, unprofitable and unproductive activity.

“Illiteracy is the darkest and ugly aspect of illiterate people as well as child labors sadly it's on rise. The cultivation of child labor in the country is mainly due to poverty. The parents are compelled to engage their children in petty works for some income.”

Lack of well-balanced buildings, lack of teaching aids and lack of physical facilities are the main reasons of leaving schools. The behavior of teacher is very countable in increasing or decreasing the dropout rate from the school.

(D.R .Veena, Education system (problem and prospect), (M.A. Ansari) Dawn, 2011

In primary school, there is no program of guidance and counselling for the students. When children obsessed by any psychological problem so the student try to leave their children and drop out from the school. At a time children are continuous falls in their one class and due to this reason children dropout from their schools. In our primary school children dropout due to their ill health in which pupil ill by heretically or due to serious illness. Those reasons which are related from the society and the family known as the external factors which include family backgrounds, financial problems and overpopulation. Parents are the first people that a child comes into contact .The way them role and handle the child may foster dropout characteristics.

“A lot of children come from broken home or home where there is no respect and love between husband and wife, or are regular witness to fight between parent, even demonstrate violence with mother battered in front of the door souls”

Financial problem are also cause of dropout .65 percent of these cases of dropout are of economic origin. After the age of 9 most of the children work at home or outside the family and adds to family income directly or indirectly. Pakistan had witnessed a steadily rise in population after independence. Pakistan has been experiencing high and accelerating population growth rates. Hence overpopulation is another factor related to the dropout from school. Keeping in views all these factors, this study is conducted to examine the factors responsible for the dropout of student at primary level in a metropolitan city of Pakistan (Karachi)

[Ebrahim] Dawn Newspaper, 1999]

METHODOLOGY

The questionnaire is used in this research 60 teachers from primary school 1-5 were selected through random sampling technique .In this way the sampling of this study was based on sixty teacher in total. The objective is to study the impact of economic factors, illiteracy of parents and non-conducive environment behind high dropout rate at primary level. Descriptive research refers to method used in exploring a query or subject where the methods measure descriptive research methods include survey, analyses, and case studies. observation and review of the published reports or results. According to the above description it is necessary to know that our research is description research according to our goals and objectives. It is an admitted fact that in a sample survey research questionnaire and interview ranks the top in the list of collecting data techniques. Reconstructed structured questionnaire was used for the purpose of collecting data regarding opinion of teachers toward factors responsible for the dropout of children at primary level. To avoid ambiguity, the questions were constructed in simple and clear words. The teachers were required to tick mark the relevant one .it was finalized after a detailed discussion, consideration and arrangement and after checking the relevance to the topic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The table shows that 66.67% were of the opinion that children dropout due to financial problems while 13.33% did not agreed with the statement and almost 20% were to some extent, 70% agreed that poor parents are unable to fulfill the education of their children, where as 16.66% did not agreed with the statement and 13.33% were to some extent, 66.67% were in the favor that child labor is a Major cause of high dropout rate while 10% disagreed and almost 23.33% were to some extent, 73.33% agreed with the statement that poverty is the major cause of high dropout rate, while 21.67% disagreed and almost 5% were to some extent, 68.33% agreed with the statement that low salary package of parents affect the children studies whereas 23.33% disagreed with the statement and almost 8.33% were to some extent. Hence it becomes clear that the majority of the teacher felt that the economical factor is one of the factors behind the high dropout rate. This table shows that 60% are of the opinion that illiteracy of parents is the major cause of dropout while 33.33% did not agreed with the statement and almost 6.667% were to some extent. 63.33% agreed that illiterate parents force their children to work, while 30% disagreed and almost 6.67% were to some extent. 46.67% were of the opinion that children dropout due to communication gap between parents while 36.67% disagreed and almost 16.66% were to some extent.

Table 1. Opinion of the teachers regarding economic factors that may result in high dropout rate of students at primary level

S. No.	Statement	Yes	No	Undecided	Total
1.	Do children dropout at primary level due to financial problem?	40	08	12	60
2.	Do the poor parents unable to fulfill the education of their children?	42	10	08	60
3.	Is child labor a major cause of high dropout rate?	40	06	14	60
4.	Is poverty the major cause of high dropout rate?	44	13	03	60
5.	Does the low salary package of parents affect the children studies?	41	14	05	60

Table 2. Opinion of the teachers regarding the illiteracy of parents that may be responsible for high dropout rate of students at primary level

S. No.	Statement	Yes	No	Undecided	Total
1.	Is the illiteracy of parents the major cause of high dropout rate?	36	20	04	60
2.	Do the illiterate parents force their children to work?	38	18	04	60
3.	Do children dropout due to Communication gap between parents?	28	22	10	60

Table 3. Opinion of the teachers regarding the non-conducive school environment may be the reason behind the high dropout rate at primary level

S. No.	Statement	Yes	No	Undecided	Total
1.	Do students dropout due to continuous failure in the class?	37	19	04	60
2.	Do students dropout due to lack of physical facilities in the school?	29	23	08	60
3.	Do students dropout due to lack of performance in their class?	40	16	04	60
4.	Ineffective climate of the school is a main cause of high dropout rate?	36	14	10	60

Hence, it become clear that majority of teachers felt that illiteracy of parents is a major factor behind the high dropout rate. This table shows that 61.66% were of the opinion that students dropout due to continuous failure in the class where as 31.66% disagreed and almost 6.66% were to some extent. 48.33% were of the opinion that students dropout due to lack of physical facilities in the school, whereas 38.33% were against and almost 13.33% were to some extent. 66.66% agreed with the statement that students dropout due to lack of performance in their class, while 26.66% disagreed with the statement and almost 6.66% were to some extent. 60% were of the opinion that ineffective climate of the school is a main cause of high dropout rate, whereas 23.33% disagreed with the statement and almost 16.66% were to some extent. Hence, majority of the teachers felt the need and importance of conducive environment for better academic success of students at primary level.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Data collected from the school teachers indicates that primary education plays an important role not only in education system but also essential for child growth and development. The high dropout rate that is experienced in primary school is largely influenced by the students own characteristics but also various factors (Internal and external) are involved in it. Primary education is playing a crucial role in laying the foundation for the further education. Therefore, it is right to say that if a good foundation is laid at this basic level then students come up with the challenges of life and profession quite easily. There are some of the major issues we are confronting with like economic factors, illiteracy of parents, and nonconductive environment behind the high dropout rate at primary level. Besides the internal and external factors which are responsible for dropout of students at primary level, proper guidance and counselling must be provided to decrease the rate of dropout. Following are our recommendations in order to solve this problem of dropout at primary level.

1. There should be effective schooling practice, it also help to lay the foundation for keeping student in school by creating the overall education environment necessary for them to be successful.

2. There must be teacher-parents relationship more strong to inquire about children behavior at home and school.
3. Teacher and parent's behavior must be well treated for students regarding their educational problems.
4. There should be guidance and counseling program in school for the better development of student's academic and psychological problem.
5. Government should take steps for the reduction of poverty, reduction of illiteracy and financial problem of parents.
6. Government must provide educational facilities to those students whom are intelligent.
7. Government should provide funds to improve the quality of primary schools of government.
8. Teaching method must be used according to the psychology of students.

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